

THE GREAT EXPLOSION OF HALIFAX

As we toured the Pleasant View Cemetery in Halifax Nova Scotia, viewing rows and rows of victims from the Titanic disaster of 1915, another singular memorial honoring the entire crew of the S.S. Curaca, stood out. The entire crew was lost and there were no bodies to bury, just a stone to remember them by. Our tour guide had mentioned the Great Explosion of Halifax several times, and I wasn't sure if it was just me or if this was this a big secret, so I asked...

Halifax is an important deep-water port for vessels sailing to and from Europe. During WWI this Canadian port was especially busy as air travel was in its infancy. In one moment Dec. 6, 1917, Halifax was nearly erased from the map. The explosion was the greatest man-made explosive disaster on earth until Hiroshima. The Canadian Navy; in order to secure their busy port from submarine attack would nightly, drop a huge net at the entrance of the port keeping those ships in the port safe. A French munitions ship, the Mont Blanc, was loaded with 2,900 tons of TNT, picric acid, gun cotton, and many barrels of Benzole and had to spend the night outside the protection of the port. Not to draw attention to its volatile cargo, the black flag of danger was not hoisted.

Morning brought up the net and ships scurried to come in for fuel and supplies and those loaded and ready to sail headed for the open sea. The Norwegian ship—the SS Imo left the port and headed into the path of the SS Mont Blanc. Warnings by Mont Blanc's horn went unheeded and a horn argument of right-of-way ensued. The two ships came to rest against each other, which toppled a few drums of Benzole, which leaked into the hull where the engines ignited the fuel and the fire grew quickly. Sailors from the munition ship, knowing what was down below, jumped in their life rafts and headed for safety. Twenty minutes after the encounter, the thing blew up and over 3,000 people died and 9,000 were injured. Tsunamis, fires, backdrafts, and explosive force caused damage unspeakable. Pieces of the Mont Blanc were blown for miles; volumes of description are left for us to research, but the reason I share this amazing event is because since our visit 1 ½ years ago I have polled many whom I talk with and I have yet to find one who has ever heard of it, most don't even know where Halifax is. That seems odd to me since it wasn't a minor event and since information is so available to us today. I can only wonder why our history books have no mention of this event and no movies have been made of it.

What will you carry away from the knowledge of this disaster? For me—it's the glaring absence of the black flag, the signal to all others that down below in the hull lies death and destruction. Imo's captain wouldn't have been so bold and arrogant had he seen a warning flag. Mont Blanc's captain also would have yielded if perhaps he himself wouldn't have been so hypocritically deceived by the false pretense of his cargo!

Knowing the danger that is afoot, I often inquire of other ship captains, what is down below, deep in the hull of their being. Rarely do I see a black flag hoisted, but mostly that of pretense, "Oh, I believe in God," or "Yeah, I pray to the man upstairs." The waters are full of ships sailing under flags of false registry, but when that day comes, "***Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.***" Matt. 7:22, 23.

The waters we chart today are full of danger, consider your flag, to what Master you owe, and the cargo deep in your hull.

How to have Peace

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience. That experience is the test of our lives. Our spirit lived before this test and will continue after. We entered this life in sin, called “original sin,” as our original parents (Adam and Eve) sinned against God and the test began. People can forgive us of things we do against them, but no one can forgive us for the sin we were born into and since commit. The only fix for that sin is to become reborn. God provided the Blood payment for sin, but it is up to us to accept it as His Gift. When we believe that Jesus died in our place and behold that in our heart, then we become “reborn.” We repent (turn from sin) and surrender all we are and all we have to Him as our Master. To hold back anything is rebellion and that is sin. Jesus died that we might live. He overcame death that we too might have victory over sin and death as well.

The purpose of this test that we are living out today, is so that those of the spirit world would be divided into two groups often referred to in the Bible as “The Sheep and the Goats,” the sheep being meek and compliant, the goats combative and non-compliant. At the Coming of Christ on the Last Day, that division takes place as those who belong to the Lord are raised to Eternal Life and the rest to Eternal Contempt.