

# The Blizzard of Glass

By: Kingston Mullan

I'm researching the Halifax explosion. I did it because it shaped the Canadian blind schools. It developed a lot of people through their suffering. It is also one of the biggest man made explosions until the nuclear bomb.

## Collision

At 9:00am on December 6, the French freighter steamship (ss) Mont-Blanc, arrived in Halifax from New York. The boat was filled top to bottom with explosives up to eight million tons of dynamite and a flammable chemical called benzene. As the Mont-Blanc moved through the channel called Thenarrows, another ship suddenly appeared in front of it. It was the SS IMO and the ship tried to stop but it was empty so it flew forward and hit Mont-Blanc and started the benzene on fire. It drifted for seventeen minutes and then blew up!

## Devastation

About 250 eyes were removed and 37 people were left completely blind. The explosion killed almost 2000 people, many of whom had stopped to watch the burning ship which had drifted for seventeen minutes before exploding.

## Relief Effort

After the explosion perkin director Edward. E Allen worked with Sir Frederick Fraser and others to organize the American Red Cross committee on eye victims. They provided free

eye clinics on people who had lost their sight or suffered eye injuries with nurses visiting known cases and specialists clinics lead visiting and local outlists help hundreds of survivors receive follow-up care. While sight saving and household classes were through the Halifax school for the blind. The team faced some initial resistance from local doctors, but ultimately collaborated to develop ongoing care strategies including reporting and planning for long term recommendation on support for those newly blind.

## Legacy

In the months of devastation Edward E Allen worked hard with Sir Fredrick Fraser to keep the city alive it took 3 years to get Halifax Harbour and help everything else that had been destroyed but in 1950 Mr. Allen died and his name saved Halifax.

This was about the Halifax explosion. Remember how that topic helped Canada blindness. You'll learn about the collision, devastation, relief effort, and the legacy. Why it's important to steer right. That's all folks.