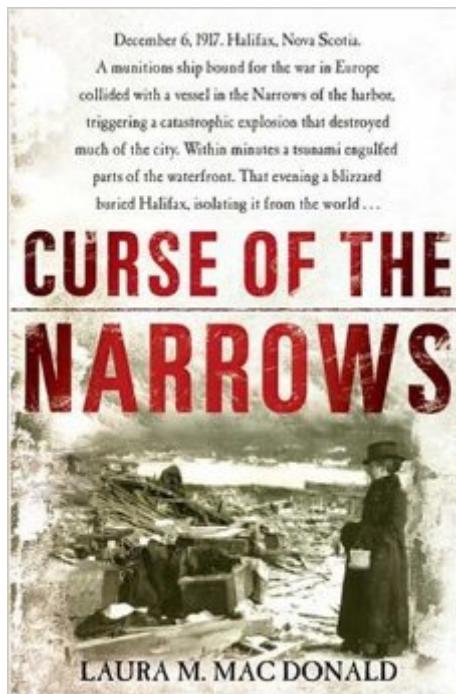


The book was found

Curse Of The Narrows: The Halifax Disaster Of 1917



Synopsis

The dramatic story of one of the greatest disasters in historyIn 1917, the port of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was crowded with ships leaving for war-torn Europe. On December 6th, two of themâ "the Mont Blanc and the Imoâ "collided in the Narrows, a hard-to-navigate stretch of the harbor. Ablaze, and with explosions on her deck filling the sky, the Mont Blanc grounded against the cityâ ™s docks. As thousands rushed to their windows and into the streets to watch, she exploded with such force that the 3,121 tons of her iron hull vaporized in a cloud that shot up more than 2,000 feet; the explosion was so unusual that Robert Oppenheimer would study its effects to predict the devastation of an atomic bomb. The blast caused a giant wave that swept over parts of the city, followed by a slick, black rain that fell for ten minutes. Much of the city was flattened, and not one in 12,000 buildings within a 16-mile radius left undamaged. More than 1,600 Haligonians were killed and 6,000 injured; and within twenty-four hours, a blizzard had isolated Halifax from the world. Set vividly against the background of World War I, Curse of the Narrows is the first major account of the worldâ ™s largest pre-atomic explosion, the epic relief mission from Boston, and the riveting trial of the Mont Blancâ ™s captain and pilot. Laura M. Mac Donald is as adept at describing the dynamics of a chain reaction explosion as she is at chronicling unforgettable human dramas of miraculous survival, unfathomable loss, and the medical breakthroughs in pediatrics and eye surgery that followed the disaster. Using primary sources--many of which havenâ ™t been read in decades and--with a wonderful feel for narrative history, Mac Donald chronicles one of the most compelling and dramatic events of the 20th century.

Book Information

Hardcover: 350 pages

Publisher: Walker & Company; 1 edition (October 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802714587

ASIN: B001G7R9PK

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.3 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (98 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,286,325 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #156 inÂ Books > History > Americas > Canada > 20th Century #2308 inÂ Books > History > Military > World War I #8537 inÂ Books > Deals in Books

Customer Reviews

I won't recap the story - there's enough of that in the other reviews to give folks a glimpse to the storyline. What I will do is perhaps justify the "goriness" of this book mentioned in other reviews. In 1917, pediatric medicine and emergency preparedness were in their infancy. The Red Cross had developed a pamphlet for disasters (after the SF earthquake), but it was very limited in scope. After the Halifax Disaster, the Red Cross realized how much they hadn't included and how important it was to provide for emergency leadership (rather than counting on the existing leadership to be fully functioning). Very few children survived surgery - dosing children and babies with anesthesia and other drugs was hit and miss - the babies pretty much all died. The children's doctor who came to Halifax with the relief discovered the secret to drugs and children which the book explains (it's not a simple "cut the dosage according to the weight" as had been practiced up to this point). The stories of the children and babies who died in this tragic event brought home just how far we've come in medical treatment and how much of that advancement was due to those children and the doctors who tried to save them. When I first read this book, while visiting Halifax for the first time, I was hesitant due to the reported goriness of the book. However, as I sat on the Pier looking across the Narrows, the book transported me back. I found it hard not to cry as I wandered the streets where the events took place. I felt a connection to the people in the story that I don't think I would have if I had read the book at home by my fire. The immensity of the simplest events became apparent as I walked in the footsteps of these people.

I had never heard of the Halifax disaster before, and even going into this book, I had no sense of the unparalleled destruction it caused. The explosion was massive, bigger than any explosion before it. The description of the damage it caused is now permanently etched into my mind. The physics of the explosion alone are mind-boggling - huge volumes of ocean water vaporizing, people being thrown a mile away from the air pressure, window shattering, buildings collapsing, etc. This book gives you pretty much everything you need to know about the disaster: the climate in Halifax leading up to the explosion, the actual cause of the explosion, the immediate effects of the explosion, the large-scale, urgent need for medical treatment, the administrative fortitude required to mobilize resources after the disaster, the significant involvement from the people of Boston (and an explanation of how Boston gets its big Boston Common Christmas tree each year) the clean-up, the restoration, and the inevitable legal backlash. The book also follows a few specific individuals and families, all of whom had very different stories and experiences. It is a great book and an excellent history lesson. A few notes on the book: First, you should not go into this if you are squeamish about

medical trauma. The book follows an eye surgeon who came to Halifax to treat survivors who suffered eye injuries. Read this next sentence with caution: if you cannot read about eye removal and buckets of eyeballs, you should NOT read this book. Bear in mind that this explosion took place before the use and availability of ether was widespread. The description of the two ships that collided to cause the explosion is arguably the worst part of the book.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Curse of The Narrows: The Halifax Disaster of 1917 Curse of The Narrows The Curse: Touch of Eternity (The Curse Series Book 1) The Halifax Explosion: Surviving the Blast that Shook a Nation (Amazing Stories) A Beautiful Wedding: A Beautiful Disaster Novella (Beautiful Disaster Series) Military helicopters of the world: Military rotary-wing aircraft since 1917 Canadian Corps Soldier vs Royal Bavarian Soldier: Vimy Ridge to Passchendaele 1917 (Combat) No Women Jump Out!: Gender Exclusion, Labour Organization and Political Leadership in Antigua 1917-1970 (Trade Unions. Past, Present and Future) The Anime Encyclopedia: A Guide to Japanese Animation since 1917 Revolutionary Days: Recollections Of Romanoffs And Bolsheviks 1914-1917 In Flanders Fields: The 1917 Campaign Finland History: Origins of the Finns, The Era of Swedish Rule, 1150-1809, Independence and the Interwar Era, 1917-39, Society, Economy, Government and Politics Le Tombeau de Couperin by Maurice Ravel for Solo Piano (1917) M.68 VerklÄrte Nacht, Op.4 (Revised version (1917)): Full Score [A7905] King's African Rifles Soldier vs Schutztruppe Soldier: East Africa 1917-18 (Combat) The Specter of Communism: The United States and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917-1953 (Hill and Wang Critical Issues) The American Field Service Archives of World War I, 1914-1917 (Bibliographies and Indexes in World History) Tanakh (Tanach) Jewish Bible (1917 Jewish Publication Society Translation) Adult Swear Word Coloring Book : Fuck You & Other Irreverent Notes To Annoying People: 40 Sweary Rude Curse Word Coloring Pages To Calm You The F*ck Down (Adult Swear Word Coloring Books) (Volume 1) The Demotivational Book: Just F*cking Color - Part 2 - The Adult Book of Hidden Swear Words, Curse Words & Demotivational Thoughts! (Adult Books, Swear ... your anger) (Shut the F*ck Up and Color 6)

[Dmca](#)