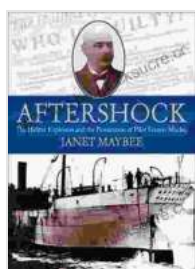


# The Halifax Explosion and the Persecution of Pilot Francis Mackey

On the morning of December 6, 1917, a munitions ship exploded in the harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia, killing nearly 2,000 people and injuring thousands more. The explosion was one of the deadliest disasters in Canadian history, and it had a profound impact on the city of Halifax.



## Aftershock: The Halifax Explosion and the Persecution of Pilot Francis Mackey

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 23511 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 223 pages



The explosion occurred when the SS Mont-Blanc, a French munitions ship, collided with the SS Imo, a Norwegian steamship, in the Narrows, a narrow channel in the harbor. The Mont-Blanc was carrying a cargo of high explosives, and the collision caused the ship to explode. The explosion was so powerful that it leveled entire blocks of the city, and it caused a tsunami that swept through the harbor.

In the aftermath of the explosion, there was a great deal of public anger and frustration, and many people were looking for someone to blame. One

of the people who was blamed was Pilot Francis Mackey, who was the pilot of the Mont-Blanc. Mackey was accused of negligence, and he was eventually charged with manslaughter.

Mackey's trial was a miscarriage of justice. The prosecution's case was based on the testimony of a single witness, who claimed that Mackey had been drinking on the day of the explosion. However, Mackey's own testimony, as well as the testimony of other witnesses, contradicted this claim. The jury eventually acquitted Mackey, but the damage had been done.

Mackey was never able to fully recover from the trauma of the explosion and the persecution that followed. He lost his job, his home, and his reputation. He died in poverty in 1966.

The Halifax Explosion is a tragedy that should never be forgotten. It is a reminder of the dangers of war and the importance of peace. It is also a reminder of the importance of justice, and the dangers of scapegoating.

## **The Explosion**

The SS Mont-Blanc was a French munitions ship that was carrying a cargo of high explosives to Europe. The ship was bound for Bordeaux, France, but it stopped in Halifax to refuel. On the morning of December 6, 1917, the Mont-Blanc was leaving Halifax Harbor when it collided with the SS Imo, a Norwegian steamship. The collision caused the Mont-Blanc to explode.

The explosion was so powerful that it leveled entire blocks of the city. It caused a tsunami that swept through the harbor, and it destroyed ships and buildings. The explosion also caused a fire that burned for days.

The explosion killed nearly 2,000 people and injured thousands more. It was one of the deadliest disasters in Canadian history.

## **The Aftermath**

In the aftermath of the explosion, there was a great deal of public anger and frustration. People were looking for someone to blame, and one of the people who was blamed was Pilot Francis Mackey.

Mackey was the pilot of the Mont-Blanc, and he was accused of negligence. He was eventually charged with manslaughter.

Mackey's trial was a miscarriage of justice. The prosecution's case was based on the testimony of a single witness, who claimed that Mackey had been drinking on the day of the explosion. However, Mackey's own testimony, as well as the testimony of other witnesses, contradicted this claim.

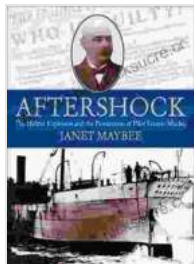
The jury eventually acquitted Mackey, but the damage had been done. Mackey lost his job, his home, and his reputation. He died in poverty in 1966.

## **The Legacy**

The Halifax Explosion is a tragedy that should never be forgotten. It is a reminder of the dangers of war and the importance of peace. It is also a reminder of the importance of justice, and the dangers of scapegoating.

The Halifax Explosion also had a profound impact on the city of Halifax. The explosion destroyed much of the city, and it took years to rebuild. However, the city eventually recovered, and it is now a thriving metropolis.

The Halifax Explosion is a reminder that even the most devastating tragedies can be overcome. It is a story of hope and resilience, and it is a story that should be told and retold for generations to come.



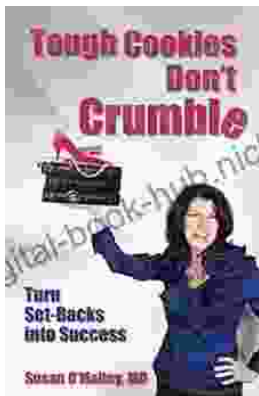
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