

House of Commons Canada

Ottawa, May 10th, 1946.

His Worship Mayor J.E. Ahern, City Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Mayor:-

This will acknowledge your telegram received today presented on behalf of the parishioners of St. Mark's Church in respect to the settlement of their Explosion claim.

As requested by you, I will take immediate action to place this before proper party with a view of expediting settlement.

With kind regards.

Yours truly,

Dict'd May 9th GBI/EW

Fordon B. Isnor, M.P., for Halifax, N.S.

June 17, 1946

Rev. W. W. Clarkson, St. Mark's Rectory, Russell Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr Clarkson:

Several weeks ago, at the request of the members of your parish, I wrote Gordon B. Isnor, M. P. concerning the tardiness of payment of your explosion claim.

No doubt you have now received the long overdue cheque, and I thought perhaps the enclosed would be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

J. E. AHERN M A Y O R

JEA/MGV

July 25, 1945.

Regina Terrace, Halifax, N. S.

Dear Sir:

f am in receipt of your letter of July 24th and note with interest your comments on the removal of the Bedford Magazine to some point which will offer security and comfort to the people of Halifax.

Your letter will be kept on file and when the matter is discussed in future it will give me an opportunity to consider the point of view you now express.

Yours very truly,

AMB/C

A. M. Butler, MAYOR.



Regina Terrace, Halifax, N. S.

July 24th, 1945.

A. M. Butler, Esq.,
Mayor of the City of Halifax,
Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

In this morning's "Chronicle" your reference to the explosion situation last Wednesday - Thursday were read with deep interest and entire concurrence.

As one citizen of this area, may I ask you to put on foot, preferably through one of our Members, a Campaign to have the Magazine removed elsewhere.

To the best of my belief such action was taken in England by the City of London as regards Woolwich Arsenal in 1937, to the great mental comfort of that City's inhabitants.

Yours faithfully,



SYMBOL
DL
NM
NL

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate mesage. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.



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MOA268 90=OTTAWA ONT 24 119P
HIS WORSHIP MAYOR A M BUTLER=
621
HFX=

845 JUL 24 PM 2 52

CONFIRMING MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION REGRET DELAY IN REPLY

TO YOUR TELEGRAM WHICH WAS NOT BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION UNTIL

THIS MORNING STOP AS EXPLAINED TO YOU PRESENT BOARD OF

ENQUIRY IS A PURELY NAVAL AND TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION INTO

THE CAUSES OF AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSIONS AT

BEDFORD MAGAZINE AND I AM RELUCTANT TO CREATE A PRECEDENT BY

PERMITTING NON-SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND STOP I GIVE

YOU MY PERSONAL ASSURANCE HOWEVER THAT YOU WILL BE PROMPTLY

AND FULLY INFORMED AS TO THE FACTS ELICITED BY THE PRESENT

BOARD OF ENQUIRY:

"DOUGLAS C ABBOTT."



July 23, 1945. Vice-Admiral G. C. Jones, C.B., Commander-in-Chief Canadian North West Atlante H. M. C. S. Stadacona, Halifax, N. S. Dear Admiral Jones: Reports have just come to me from the Chief of Police that cases of explosives have drifted to the shores of Bedford Basin on the western side in the vicinity of Africville and locations north of that point. I would request that some action be taken by the Naval Authorities to patrol the shore daily in order to collect any such explosives that are still afloat. I would also suggest that a patrol of the waters should be maintained with the object of removing any explosives seen moving about. It is important to do everything possible to prevent them getting into the hands of the public who have still failed to appreciate the danger which might result from their being handled. Would you be good enough to advise me if you will be in a position to meet my request. Yours very truly, A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.

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D. E. GALLOWAY, Assistant Vice-President, Toronto, Ont.

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED

Form 6102

FULL-RATE MESSAGE

NIGHT MESSAGE

NIGHT LETTER

PATRONS SHOULD MARK AN X OPPO-

RECEIVER'S NO.

TIME FILED

CHECK

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

TREATES MINISTER OF NATIONAL FOR NAVAL SERVICES, OTTAWA.

Halifax, N. S.

July 21, 1945.

HAVE REQUESTED ADMIRAL JONES TO PERMIT REPRESENTATIVE PROCEEDINGS NAVAL COURT OF INQUIRY RE EXPLOSIONS ESTABLISHMENT HERE AND CITIZENS VITAL CONCERN TO RECURRENCE ANY TIME ADMIRALS REPLY STOP ESTABLISH CAUSE AND ORIGIN BENEFIT WOULD ACCRUE TO IN ACCORDANCE NAVAL PRACTICE STOP IN I REQUEST YOUR PERSONAL AND AT BOARD OF INTO METHODS

A. M. BUTLER

M A Y O R
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HALIFAX JUNIOR BOARD OF TRADE

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

P. O. BOX 623

190

July 21,1945



The Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munition & Supply, Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

In the opinion of this Board the location and handling of explosives at Halifax nearly led to a major catastrophe and we recommend that any future plans for this arsenal have as first consideration the safety of the citizens and property of Halifax, Bartmouth and vicinity. Further we recommend that the present stores of explosives be reduced to normal requirements by moving the bulk of same to some isolated location.

G. J. CHURCHILL,

President

Confirmation of night letter sent July 20

Copies to

Hon. Gordon B. Isnor

Hon. Wm. C. Macdonald K.C. Mayor A. M. Butler Halifax Mayor L. J. Isnor Dartmouth Sec'y Halifax Board of Trade

Mr. C. F. Fraser Halifax Chronicle Mr. R. J. Rankin Halifax Herald



July 20, 1945. Ris Worship Mayor Ira B. Lohnes, Windsor. Nova Scotia. Dear Mayor Lohnes: I am anxious to write you early this morning, now that the people of Halifax realize the danger which threatened them is over, to voice the thanks of its citizens to you and the people of Windsor for the tangible proof of generosity shown yesterday. You prepared and brought to us an abundant supply of sandwiches and other food and this assistance, when it was finally distributed to the people played a most important part in restoring them to normal. All during the day their nerves were taut and apprehensions were many. The food supply was scanty and in their homes which they had evacuated there was practically nothing to eat. You may be assured that in acting in the generous way you did you gave us cause to remember the people of Windsor in a very special way. On behalf of the people of Halifax I extend formal thanks. Yours very sincerely, A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.

July 20, 1945. His Worship Mayor E. G. Leaman, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. Dear Mayor Leaman: May I on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Halifax express to you and the people of Bridgewater our very great thanks for the tangible assistance you brought to the City yesterday. This took the form of sandwiches and coffee and other foodstuff and the distribution of it in the areas where evacuation had to be ordered was something which brought forth the thanks and appreciation of the people who were the recipients of your generosity. Bridgewater because of its solid proof of friendship will mean something special in the future to the people of Halifax as they journey there. Yours very sincerely A. M. Butler, MAYOR ALEB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.

July 20, 1945. Vice-Admiral G. C. Jones, C.B., Commander-in-Chief Canadian North West Atlantic, H. M. C. S. Stadacona, Halifax, N. S. Dear Admiral Jones: As Mayor of the City I should like to request that the City of Halifax be permitted to send a representative to the Naval Court of Inquiry which you propose holding in connection with the explosions at the Bedford Magazine. The representative I have in mind would be entitled only to watch the proceedings and not participate in them, unless, of course, such permission would also be granted. Perhaps the regulations are such that representation by a municipal corporation is precluded but because of the fact that the Bedford Magazine is not merely an outgrowth of the war but a permanent establishment for the peace time activities of the navy as well as wartime, I am of the opinion that the public interest of the citizens of Halifax is such that a representative of theirs should attend. Would you be good enough to give this request consideration and let me know if it is within your authority to grant it. Yours very trul AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.





Department of National Defence

Rabal Service H.M.C.S.STADACONA, Halifax, N.S. 20th July 194 5

Office of the Commander in Chief, Canadian Northwest Atlantic.

Your Worship:-

The Naval Board of Enquiry has been instructed to establish the cause and origin of the explosion in the Bedford Magazine. The evidence will be mainly technical, and no benefit would accrue to the City of Halifax by the attendance of a representative.

It is not in accordance with established Naval practice to allow the attendance of such representatives at Naval Boards of Enquiry and it is not desired to create a precedent.

Yours very truly,

(G.C. Jones) VICE ADMIRAL, R.C.N.

A.M.Butler, Esq. , Mayor of Halifax, Halifax, N.S.

D 2258 1500m-11-40 (7828) N.S. 815-5-2258

July 20, 1945. His Worship Mayor H. F. Harper, Town of Pictou, Nova Scotia. Dear Mayor Harper: I acknowledge your telegram of July 19th which did not come to my attention until this morning, not through fault of the Telegraph Company but simply due to the fact I was not in my office at all yesterday. May I express on behalf of the people of this City our gratitude for your generous offer to house and feed so many of our citizens. As you now know the danger appears to be over and I think it is safe to say it is over and therefore we shall not have to avail ourselves of your generosity. Let me, however, convey to you and the people of Pictou our warmest thanks and appreciation for what you stood ready to do for us. Yours very sincerely, A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.





CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS MONTREA

8CU AN 38 RX 4 EX GET REPLY

PICTOU NS JUL 19 1945 12N

THE MAYOR

522

CITY OF HALIFAX NS

UNABLE TO REACH YOU BY PHONE STOP WARTIME HOUSING HERE

HAVE ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS FOR FOUR HUNDRED IN STAFF HOUSES AND

COMMISARY CAN FEED ONE THOUSAND IF YOU CAN USE PLEASED

TO RENDER ANY ASSISTANCE

H F HARPER, MAYOR TOWN OF PICTOU

1221P

July 20, 1945. His Worship Mayor Ray T. Forbes, Fredericton. New Brunswick. Dear Mayor Forbes: The telegram you sent me offering help came to my attention this morning. Testerday was a busy day and all efforts were directed elsewhere. Would you please convey to the citizens of Fredericton and its City Council the thanks I extend to you on behalf of the citizens of Halifax for your sympathy and the offer of help which you expressed in the wire. Fortunately, it will not be necessary for us to avail ourselves of your offer as the situation in Halifax appears to be over with everything secure again. Nevertheless we are grateful and I am prompt to express the thanks and appreciation of our citizens for the help you stood prepared to give us. Yours very sincerely. A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.



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ANADIAN NATIONAL







W M ARMSTRONG GENERAL MANAGER

TELEGRAPHS

JBA239 25=FREDERICTON NB 19 212P

HFX= 1762

1945 JUL 19 PM 8 44

THE CITY OF FREDERICTON DEEPLY REGRETS YOUR PRESENT
DISASTER STOP IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBLE HELP THAT WE CAN
RENDER DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK=
MAYOR RAY T FORBES.



FORM 6122

190

July 28, 1945.

Brunswick Street, Halifaz, N. S.

Dear Mrs. Killeen:

In reply to your letter of July 26th it would appear from an official announcement at Ottawa that full payment of all claims will be made up to a point and will include the value of the losses you sustained.

It will be some few days until an official announcement is made as to how it is to be paid but I would suggest that anything that needs repair urgently and cannot wait, that it be dealt with and the invoices showing the expense carefully kept and later filed.

Yours very truly,

AMB/C

A. M. Butler,



Halifax, b. J. July 26 th 1945 Dear Jir, Would you please tell me what is going to be done about the damage saused by the explosion to property I have a house 99 Inaithand II. the tenant mas down to see me The plaster is down the grundows broken the Hoor's are out of place and the Chimney is crack Please see about it as soon as you Oblige

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CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

W. G. BARBER, GENERAL MANAGER, TORONTO, ONT.

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

HONORABLE DOUGLAS C. ABBOTT, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR NAVAL SERVICES, OTTAWA. ONTARIO.

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST ANSWER TO MY WIRE.

Halifax, N. S.

July 23, 1945.



A. M. BUTLER,
MAYOR

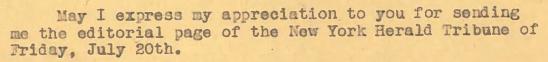


190

July 23, 1945.

247 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Mr. Mason:



I was much interested in the editorial dealing with the part played by this City through two great wars, and although I had heard of the editorial this was the first opportunity I had of reading it.

Yours very truly,

AMB/C

A. M. Butler, M A Y O R

* 347 - New York avenue, Brooklind N.K. To his Honor, ip of Haliface, K.S. the shayor of Wlar Sir: The writer believes enlased herewith Clipping, with be of justiresteato you, h An old time native of Halifux, and for Meny years, a litie

Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.

DAY LETTER

HON DOUGLAS ABBOTT MINISTER OF NATIONAL OTTAWA DEFENCE FOR NAVAL SERVICES, OTTAWA.

Halifax, N. S. July 21, 1945.

HAVE REQUESTED ADMIRAL JONES TO PERMIT REPRESENTATIVE OF CITY WATCH PROCEEDINGS NAVAL COURT OF INQUIRY RE EXPLOSIONS BEDFORD MAGAZINE STOP MAGAZINE PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT HERE AND PUBLIC INTEREST SUCH THAT CAUSE AND ORIGIN OF EXPLOSIONS OF VITAL CONCERN TO CITIZENS STOP ESSENTIAL THAT ALL SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE ANY TIME FUTURE BE ESTABLISHED STOP THIS IS CITIZENS INTEREST STOP ADMIRALS REPLY TO REQUEST TO EFFECT THAT BOARD OF INQUIRY WILL ESTABLISH CAUSE AND ORIGIN EXPLOSIONS THAT EVIDENCE WILL BE MAINLY TECHNICAL THAT NO BENEFIT WOULD ACCRUE TO HALLIFAX HAVING REPRESENTATIVE THAT IT IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE NAVAL PRACTICE TO ALLOW SUCH ATTENDANCE AND NOT DESIRABLE TO CREATE PRECEDENT STOP IN VIEW OF DECISION AND REASONS GIVEN BY ADMIRAL I REQUEST YOUR FERSONAL AND OFFICIAL INTEREST TO ARRANGE THAT INFORMATION ELICITED AT BOARD OF INQUIRY BE AVAILABLE DURING SESSIONS OR IN FUTURE STOP IN VIEW OF PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT OF MAGAZINE HERE FULL PUBLICITY INTO METHODS AND OPERATION MATTER OF LARGE PUBLIC INTEREST LOCALLY

A. M. BUTLER M A.Y O'R

Pail:



July 21, 1945.

Mis Worship Mayor D. J. MacLean, Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mayor MacLean:

Many thanks for your telegram expressing your sympathy to us in our present situation.

As you will have noted by the press the danger now appears to be over and we are getting back to normal.

Your offer of assistance was very kind but fortunately for us we did not have to use it. You may be assured however, that should the occasion have arisen the city would have been greatful for the help you stood ready to give.

Yours very sincerely,

A. M. Butler, MAYOR

AMB/C

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Yours very sincerely,

AMB/C

A. M. Butler, MAYOR





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W M ARMSTRONG GENERAL MANAGER
TORONTO



1945 JUL 19 PM 3 14

DYA69 15=COS=SYDNEY NS 19 1117A

MAYOR ALLAN BUTLER= 493

HFX=

SORRY FOR YOUR CATASTROPHE STOP IF WE CAN BE OF ANY SERVICE

LET ME KNOW =

D J MACLEAN MAYOR.



FORM 6122

July 20, 1945. His Worship Mayor Don McLeod, New Glasgow. Nova Scotia. Dear Mayor McLeed: Today I read the telegram sent to me July 19th. Yesterday all efforts were directed elsewhere and your kind message did not reach me. I am glad to be able to write you that your offer of assistance which is gratefully acknowledged need not be acted on because of the removal of danger in our City. The fact however, that you made your offer has the thanks and appreciation of our citizens and certainly we would have availed ourselves of it if the need had arisen. Please convey to the Council and the citizens the gratitude I wish to express on behalf of the people of Halifax. Yours very sincerely, A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS MONTREAL

46GO AK 19 RUSH

NEWGLASGOW, N.S. 19- 125P-

MAYOR BUTLER.

HALIFAX, N.S.

829

OFFER YOU ALL ASSISTANCE IN OUR POWER STOP IF YOU WANT ANYTHING WILL BE ONLY TOO GLAD TO OBLIGE.

DON MCLEOD MAYOR

133A



July 20, 1945. Mayor J. D. McKenna, St. John, New Brunswick. Dear Mayor McKenna: Yesterday was a busy day here and so much so that I did not get to my office at all and when today I read your telegram I was very pleased with your mag-mificent offer of help. Fortunately for us the danger is over and we are getting back to normal ways of life, but it is with gratitude that I extend to you on behalf of the people of Halifax their appreciation and thanks to the Common Council and the citizens of the City for their very generous offer of help. It might well have been that we would have used it but I know that you will be glad as we are, that the occasion did not arise. I have taken the liberty of acquainting the citizens of Halifax with your offer and I know that they would . want me to express to your people their thanks and appreciation. Yours very sincerely. A. M. Butler, AMB/C MAYOR Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.



CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS MONTREAL

SA162 46

SAINTJOHN NB 19 1121A

1945 . MIL 19 AM 11 30

MAYOR A M BUTLER 358

CITY HALL HALIFAX

ON BEHALF OF MAYOR COMMON COUNCIL AND CITIZENS OF SAINT JOHN
I EXTEND TO YOUR CITY THEIR REGRETS ON OCCASION OF BISASTROUS
EXPLOSION STOP I AM INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT SAINT JOHN STANDS READY
TO RENDER ANY AVAILABLE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY REQUESTED
BY YOU

HENRY D HOPKINS COMMON CLERK

July 20, 1945. 39 Great Jones Street, "Manhattan" New York City. Dear Mr. Kirshner: I was very pleased to receive your wire in which you offered help in the matter of assisting our citizens to repair their glass damages. I understand the facilities we have at our disposal are sufficiently ample and that it will not be necessary for us to avail ourselves of your generous offer. I note you mention you are a former Dalhousian and this being so you will have a special interest in the City and our welfare. As a matter of fact you have, I think indicated that special interest in the telegram you have just sent me. It is nice to know that from such a distance there are those who realize the difficult role which this city and its citizens have played in the two great wars and it was interesting to read the tribute paid them in the New York Herald Tribune. Again let me express my thanks and my personal appreciation on behalf of the people of Halifax. Yours very sincerely, A. M. Butler, MAYOR AMB/C Digital copy of 102-3B.190 City of Halifax Mayor's correspondence - Explosion at Magazine provided by Halifax Municipal Archives. Citizens' names and addresses removed for privacy until 2045.



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W.D.NEIL. GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREA

RAB552 36/35 NL 5 EX

BROOKLYN NY 19

1945 JUL 19 PM 41 29

HỘN MẠYỘR

1.31

HALIFAX NS

CAN A FORMER DALHOUSIEAN BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE TO YOU NOW I CAN FURNISH YOU WITH AS MANY GLASS SETTER AND GLASS AS YOU NEED AWAITING YOUR REPLY RESPECTFULLY YOURS



GREAT JONES ST MANHATTAN

