



From the office of the Grand Commander
December 2023 Supplement

Greetings Sir Knights all,

I hope all of you Sir Knights and your families are enjoying this Christmas season. This is the time of year where we count our blessings and appreciate our friends and family.

We may look at the news reports from different parts of this earth and see man's in-humanity to this fellow man. This is a sad statement of the human condition. But we can see man's good works as well. This happened to me today as I was passing by a large truck stop near 195. There, on a flatbed trailer was a very large Christmas tree from Halifax Nova Scotia, Canada. This tree is very special. The tree is a gift from Halifax to the City of Boston which this delivery happens every year and was very lucky to see it!

The reason for this gifting of the tree is because of the very terrible explosion that happened in Halifax harbor on December 6, 1917 when a French ship loaded with 2.9 kilotons of explosives collided with a Belgian ship. How powerful was the blast? The French ship's anchor landed two miles away. The blast destroyed many ships in the harbor, parts of the city and surrounding area as well as killing almost 2000 people.

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In Boston Massachusetts, the news of the explosion was received at 9:04 am that morning. The news came in by telegraph, and by 10:00 pm, a relief train with Doctors, nurses, and medical supplies was dispatched that evening to Halifax. Also, the State of Maine sent 110 doctors, plus nurses and other volunteers as well. Trains from Philadelphia, and Washington were later dispatched. (Brian Douglas Tennyson's 2015 book, Canada's Great War, 1914-1918."

Our Brethren, Companions, Sir Knights and friends from Nova Scotia appreciate the support and compassion shown that December of 1917. This is why I was very pleased to see the tree, to remind me of Man's good works to his fellow Man.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year Sir Knights!

In Knightly Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

S.K. Richard J. Phillips, REGC of Maine