



Tragedy. Forgotten.

DRESDEN 1957

In the summer of 1957, six Dutch immigrant workers were killed when an excavation collapsed in Dresden, Ontario. It was front-page news across Canada and in the Netherlands. There was an investigation, an inquest, and a trial. And then the story disappeared.

It ranks as one of the worst workplace tragedies in Ontario's history, but it is virtually unknown today.

Filmmaker Eric Philpott discovered the story by chance: his late father was the site engineer on that construction project. His father's diaries, letters, and photos provide a detailed account of what happened behind the scenes.

DRESDEN 1957 is a feature documentary that reconstructs this lost story from never-before-seen records, eyewitness accounts, deeply personal testimony, and a wealth of archival material.

The film follows interwoven narratives: families who left postwar Europe in search of a better life in Canada, the building of modern Ontario, and the events in Dresden before, during, and after the disaster.

These accounts bring the audience inside the world of these men: their hopes, the challenges they faced here, and the risks they took to support their families.

But this is not just a story about the past.

Grounded in contemporary themes like workplace safety, immigration, and social justice, the film examines questions of remembrance: the things we hold onto, the things we hide from, and the price of forgetting.

Status: Filming completed. Currently in post-production

Goal: Raise finishing funds to complete and distribute the film

Help us tell this story.

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