

**[Report 1949] / Port Medical Officer of Health, Boston Port Health Authority.**

**Contributors**

Boston (England). Port Health Authority.

**Publication/Creation**

1949

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/s4744gzp>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

-----  
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949.  
-----

-:o)O(o:-

Port Medical Officer of Health :

DAWSON C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.

Cert. Meat &amp; Food Inspector.

-:o)O(o:-

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1949.

-----

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses  
of the Borough of Boston.

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted  
by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ended 31st. December, 1949. The Report has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During 1949 the trade of the Port has continued to be much the same as in previous years. The amount of foreign shipping entering the Dock during the year increased slightly, although during the same period there was a decrease in coastwise shipping resulting in the total figure being slightly higher than that for 1948. Nevertheless trade has been brisk and bears favourable comparison with any other port of a similar capacity. Infectious Diseases have been particularly conspicuous by their absence, although the continued efficiency of the Health Administration would enable effective action to be taken should any outbreak occur.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*D. C. Robertson*

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
8, Bridge Street,  
BOSTON, Lines.  
MARCH, 1950.



BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL   OFFICER   OF   HEALTH.

-----  
YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1949  
-----

TABLE A.

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

	Num- ber	Ton- nage	Number inspected		Number reported to be defect- ive.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, in fectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign	Steamers	86 47,763	22	62	13	10	Nil	Nil
	* Motor	345 52,496	31	47	8	7	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	Nil Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Foreign	431 100,259	53	109	21	17	Nil	Nil
Coastwise	Steamers	64 20,091	10	6	3	3	Nil	Nil
	* Motor	280 34,748	27	32	7	5	Nil	Nil
	Sailing	Nil Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fishing	Nil Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Coastwise	344 54,839	37	38	10	8	Nil	Nil
	Total Foreign and Coastwise	775 155,098	90	147	31	25	Nil	Nil

\* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.



## II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B

(a) Passenger Traffic during the year.

No. of Passengers.	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Trans-migrants
Inwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Outwards	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :-

Grain	Telegraph Poles	Fertilisers	Bulbs
Deals	Flour & Feeding Stuffs	Petroleum	Basic Slag
Battens & Boards	Paper	Oyster Shell	Tinned Milk
Sleepers	Potatoes	Fruit & Vegetables	

The Principal Exports are :-

Grain	Potatoes	Coal	General Continental
Sugar	Fireclay	Zinc Ashes	Goods.

(c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.

<u>Holland</u>	<u>Finland.</u>	<u>Sweden.</u>	<u>Sweden cont'd.</u>	<u>France.</u>
Amsterdam	Abo	Auskardwik	Skelleftehamn	Dieppe
Due Bommel	Halosenlahti	Batskarnas	Skoghall	Dunkirk
Hansweert	Hamina	Blankaholm	Stugsund	Rouen
Hoorn	Helsingfors	Bollsta	Sundsvall	
Maasluis	Jakobstad	Gothenberg	Tyssivick	<u>Norway</u>
Middleharnis	Kasko	Grankullaviken	Umea	Christianhamn
Oud Beyerland	Kemi	Mudiksvall	Waija	Porsgrunn
Rotterdam	Kotka	Korsnas		Skien
St. Anne Land	Lovisa	Krakanger	<u>Germany</u>	
Zierikzee	Mantyluoto	Kristinehamn	Hamburg	<u>Russia</u>
	Patenieme	Norrkoping	Stettin	Archangel
<u>Belgium</u>	Rafso	Nyhamn	Warnemunde	Mesane
Antwerp	Raumo	Oskarshamn	Wismar	Petchora
Ghent	Valkom	Pitea		
			<u>Poland</u>	<u>Denmark</u>
			Gdynia	Odense

### Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

### III. WATER SUPPLY.

#### 1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Undertaking.

#### 2. Hydrants and Hosepipes. Precaution taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

#### 3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.



#### IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 and 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health :-

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival :-

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention. (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.) :-

Each week, a detailed list of infected ports is extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record. This list is forwarded to the Port Manager for the information of Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, etc. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

Communication by radio telephone is available between the Dock Master's Office, Lock Head, and the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : "Port-health, Boston" is registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10 :-

(a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks : The Quarantine Station - "Clay Hole".

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14 :-

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16 :-

It has not been necessary during the year 1949 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :-

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination :

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

(b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other articles :

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer. Bedding, etc., can be disinfected by steam in the steam disinfector at the Boston Isolation Hospital.



7. (Continued)

- (c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations :

Such accommodation is available at the Boston Isolation Hospital.

- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other Infectious Diseases :

Cases occurring under this heading are referred to the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

- (e) Ambulance Transport :

A motor ambulance is provided by the Holland County Council.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts :

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague.

Such examinations are arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations:-

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories :

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

- (b) The Holland County Council Public Health Laboratory, Boston.

(Provided by the Holland County Council).

10. Information as to the Location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-patient Treatment; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen :-

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Out-patient Treatment is available at the Clinic, London Road Hospital, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the clinic are as follows :

Tuesdays	...	...	10a.m. to 12.00 noon.
Wednesdays	..	...	6p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

If necessary, special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.



In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with by the Grimsby Hospital Management Committee.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspection.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead :-

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. Other Matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention :-

There are no items to report under this heading.

-----  
TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during the Year 1949.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival

Disease	No. of Cases during the Year 1949.		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1949 and no plague infected rats were discovered; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.



## V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

### 1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague :-

#### (a) In Ships in the Port:

Inspections are carried out by the Port Sanitary Officer.

#### (b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c. in the vicinity of the Port:

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

### 2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore :-

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide "mushrooms" on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

### 3. Methods of Deratisation of :-

#### (a) Ships:

The normal method is trapping. Poisoning is occasionally used and if infestation is so heavy as to warrant immediate fumigation, arrangements are made through fumigation contractors at Grimsby. As Boston is not an approved Port for the issue of Deratisation Certificates it has not been considered necessary to make any other arrangements for the complete fumigation of ships.

#### (b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays:

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Prebaiting is carried out at regular and frequent intervals and is followed by any other necessary action.

### 4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore :-

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

### 5. Rat-proofing :-

#### (a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof?

The Fruit Shed (South side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the North side of the Dock are of concrete.

#### (b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing.

i. In Ships, any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. On Shore, the existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.



RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels

Number of Rats.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year
Black ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Brown ... ..	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	5
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year
Black ... ..	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7*
Brown ... ..	-	-	12	6	-	8	-	-	-	-	12	-	38*
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined ...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Infected with Plague	-	-	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

\* These figures relate to bodies recovered. It is estimated that as a result of poisoning a further 104 rats were killed during the year.

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels,  
or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port  
during the Year

Total Number of such Vessels arriving (1)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub> (2)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN (4)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed (6)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out (8)	Nil



TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This table is inapplicable as Boston is not an Approved Port.  
All ships inspected carried valid certificates.

-----

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the Year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural Defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	47	5	1	12
Other Nations	100	3	6	11

-----

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :-

No occasion for any action under the above Regulations arose during the year 1949.

2. Shell-fish :-

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority, in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1949, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :-

(a) Bacteriologist ... Nil.

(b) Analyst ... Nil.