

**[Report 1942] / Medical Officer of Health, Gosport Borough.**

**Contributors**

Gosport (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1942

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hq6g5bjb>

**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>

BOROUGH OF GOSPORT

---

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

---

YEAR 1942

(War Edition)

---

BOROUGH OF GOSPORT  
-----

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Gosport.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my twelfth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the borough for the year ended 31st December, 1942, on the lines indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 2773, namely that it should be confined to essential matters and as brief as possible. For security reasons tables of local populations are excluded and quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable local populations to be constructed. Moreover no reference may be made to activities in connection with wartime industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings. When considering the figures of vital statistics it must be remembered that the same reliance cannot be placed upon them as in pre-war years when the population could be estimated more accurately. Excepting an epidemic of measles and the prevalence of whooping cough, the health of the people remained good and well up to the pre-war standard throughout 1942, the third year of the war.

The main features of interest are as follows:-

Births per 1,000 population: 23.47  
compared with 15.8 for England and Wales

Deaths per 1,000 population: 12.3 (including deaths due  
to enemy action)  
compared with 11.6 for England and Wales

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births: 61  
compared with 49 for England and Wales

Other items of interest will be found in the body of my report.

In conclusion, I would again like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, and especially



to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee  
and my staff for their helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. W. FLEMING

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE MAYOR

Chairman: Councillor WHEELER

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. H. SMITH

Aldermen: MAIN (MRS), SILVER, WILLIAMS

Councillors: ABEL, AUSTIN, AYLING, DUGMORE,  
NOBES, OVENS, READ, TURNER,  
WILLIAMS (MRS.)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and  
Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital:

G. W. FLEMING  
L.R.C.P.&S, L.R.F.P. & S, D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector  
T. E. OWENS  
Cert. R. San. I., Meat & Food Insp. Cert. etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector  
H. R. DUKE  
Cert. R. San. I., Meat & Food Insp. Cert.

Chief Clerk  
H. J. MOORE

Assistant Clerks  
Miss J. G. FISHER  
K. WILLIAMSON (Military Service from August, 1939)

Disinfecter and Mortuary Attendant  
E. G. COLES

Mosquito Sprayer  
C. GIDDY

## SECTION A

### SUMMARY FOR 1942

#### 1. General Statistics

Area in acres (land and inland water)	6,227
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942)	
according to Rate Books	12,989
Rateable Value	£389,567
Sum represented by penny rate	£1,439

#### 2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

##### Live Births

Legitimate )	Rate per 1,000 population	23.47
Illegitimate)		
	(England and Wales	15.8)

##### Stillbirths

Legitimate )	Rate per 1,000 total (live	
Illegitimate)	and still) births	38.41

<u>Deaths</u>	Rate per 1,000 population	12.30
	(England and Wales	11.6)

##### Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births
Puerperal Infection	2.40
Other puerperal causes	2.40
Total	4.80

##### Infant Mortality:-

per 1,000 live births	61
(England and Wales	49)

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	65.77
--	-------

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
--	-----

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities

County Council Lab., Winchester... 'Phone Winchester 4415  
E. P. H. Laboratory, Winchester... " Winchester 3807

#### (b) Ambulance Facilities

Ambulances maintained by Borough Council:-

General & Accident Cases (2 ambulances)... 'Phone 89263  
Infectious Diseases (1 ambulance)..... " 8535

#### (c) Nursing in the Home

Victoria Nursing Society,  
Peel Road, Gosport..... 'Phone 8039



(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis

Under County Medical Officer,  
The Castle, Winchester.....'Phone Winchester 4415

Clinic: 4 Clarence Square, Gosport  
Mondays 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon

Maternity & Child Welfare

Under County Medical Officer,  
The Castle, Winchester.....'Phone Winchester 4415

Clinic: Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport  
Fridays 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Under County Medical Officer,  
The Castle, Winchester.....'Phone Winchester 4415

Clinic: War Memorial Hospital, Gosport.....'Phone 8059  
Thursdays 2 p.m. (except 5th Thursday in month)

School Clinic 2 Stoke Road, Gosport.....'Phone 89131

Minor Ailments - Open 9 a.m. weekdays (excepting Saturdays  
and holidays)

Dental - By appointment only  
Eye - By appointment only  
Orthopaedic - By appointment only

Venereal Diseases

Under County Medical Officer,  
The Castle, Winchester.....'Phone Winchester 4415

Clinics: St. Marys Hospital, Portsmouth.....'Phone 2476  
Males: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Females: Mondays and Wednesdays 2 p.m.  
Fridays 10 a.m.

Vaccination

Vaccination Officer - C. F. Lewington,  
Public Assistance Institution,  
Park Road,  
Gosport.....'Phone 8456

Public Vaccinator - Dr. J. C. Glen,  
Bury Grange,  
The Avenue,  
Alverstoke.....'Phone 8008

(e) Hospitals Public and Voluntary:

War Memorial Hospital - Voluntary.....'Phone 8059  
Infectious Diseases  
Hospital - Local Authority..... " 8535  
Haslar - Naval Hospital..... " 74571  
N.C.H. & O.,  
Alverstoke Branch - Emergency Hospital..... " 89196

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water

The main supply is a typical chalk water remaining practically constant in quality.

During the year 16 samples of the main water supply were submitted for both chemical and bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

#### Emergency Water Supplies

Feeding Centres: 14 samples were examined and all were reported satisfactory.

Wells: Samples from 26 wells were taken for examination. Only 3 were satisfactory but the water from 19 of the 23 unsatisfactory wells could be made fit for consumption by chlorination or boiling.

Rivers and Streams - There was no pollution in the area requiring any action

Public Cleansing - House refuse is collected once weekly.

#### Sanitary Inspections of the Area

Public Air Raid Shelters	1872
Dwelling Houses	
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	556
Inspections under the Housing Act	15
After Infectious Disease	826
Overcrowding	10
Complaints received and attended to	283
Re Sanitary Dustbins	23
Drainage Inspections	487
Drains tested	17
Houses let in lodgings	10
Common Lodging Houses	31
Offensive Trades	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	4
Stables and Stable Yards	111
Piggeries	78
Factories (Power)	108
Factories (Non-power)	30
Outworkers' Rooms	69
Bakehouses	29
Public Conveniences	26
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	48
Schools	8
Shops Acts and Young Persons (Employment) Act	187
Mosquito Control	185
Vacant Lands and Dumps	16
Revisits to Premises under Notice	1254
Works in Progress	33
Interviews with Owners Etc.	362
Verminous Premises or Rooms	195
Slum Clearance Revisits	8
Miscellaneous Visits	987

#### Meat and Foods

Slaughter Houses	17
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	304
Fishmongers and Poulterers	94
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	123
Grocers and Other Food Shops	400
Fried Fish Shops	41



Sanitary Inspections of the Area (Cont.)Meat and Foods (Cont.)

Dairies and Milkshops	130
Cowsheds	9
Preserved Food Premises	69
Cafes	47
Street Hawkers and Vendors	17
Milk Samples	36
Milk Detergent Samples for Bact. Examination	21
School Milk Bottles	22
Water Samples	56
Food and Drug Samples	124
Miscellaneous	211

Total Visits 9593

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried OutHouses

Roofs	24
Walls (External)	8
Chimneys and Stacks	3
Rainwater Pipes	2
Eaves Guttering	9
Yards and Passages	2
Dampness Abated	2
Wallplaster	4
Ceilings	6
Floors	9
Windows	12
Sashcords	1
Additional Ventilation	2
Doors	7
Cleansed	9
Woodwork	1
Fireplaces	6
Cooking Ranges	4
Coppers	2
Sinks (Repair and Renewal)	1
Sink Waste Pipes	7
Repairs to Water Supplies	33
Overcrowding Abated	1
Miscellaneous	26

Drainage

Drains Cleared	138
Drains Repaired	12
New Drains	5
Other Defects	35

Water Closets

Cleared	4
Repaired	51
Cleansed	3

Dustbins

New Provided	4
--------------	---

Miscellaneous

Offensive Accumulations	20
Verminous Houses	33
Animals	14
Public Air Raid Shelters	243

Contraventions

Common Lodging Houses	5
Dairies and Milkshops	4
Cowsheds	2
Food Premises	2
Piggeries	5
Stables and Stable Yards	3
Factories	4
Shops Acts	4

Total Defects Remedied

772



## Summary of Sanitary Work Carried out (Cont.)

### Notices Served

#### Informal Notices:

Public Health Acts	293
Shops Acts	2

Statutory Notices 10

Number of Notices Complied with 294

#### Action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, and the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

187 visits were made

2 Informal Notices were complied with and  
various minor contraventions rectified  
without notices being served.

Camping Sites - No change

Smoke Abatement - No action required

#### Swimming Baths and Pools

The Corporation Swimming Pool was used for storage of  
fresh water for emergency use until June when it was  
re-opened as a swimming pool.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following action was taken during the year:-

	<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>Other Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. No. of houses found to be infested	10	24	34
2. No. of houses disinfested	10	24	34

#### Mosquito Control

No change in the arrangements but effective control  
was impossible owing to flooding of wide areas for defence  
purposes.

During the year  $130\frac{3}{4}$  gallons of larvicide and 282  
gallons of paraffin were used for this purpose. The cost  
to the Corporation for wages, larvicide, paraffin and haulage  
etc. was £202. 13. 11d.

#### Premises Subject to Control by the Local Authority

Houses let in lodgings	4
Common Lodging Houses	1
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	143
Slaughter-houses	9
Hawkers' Premises	13

SECTION D.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. (a) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)   | 293 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 571 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above,) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. | Nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | Nil |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.                                       | Nil |
| 4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.    | 293 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	243
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- |     |
| (a) By Owners  | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 8 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-         |   |
| (a) By Owners   | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners   | 1 |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made                                   | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders                                      | Nil |
| 3. Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation in accordance with undertakings given by owners | Nil |



#### 4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 7  
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 7  
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 59
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1  
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 12
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

#### Slum Clearance - Position at 31st December, 1942.

Total number of Houses demolished 393

### SECTION E

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food

##### Milk Supply

Of 36 samples of milk taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, only two were adulterated.

Of 36 samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination and/or the phosphatase test, two failed to pass the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation but no T.B. or other pathogenic organisms were found.

The number of licences issued by the Local Authority in 1942 to producers and distributors of special milk were as follows:-

	<u>Producers</u>	<u>Distributors</u>
Tuberculin Tested	-	5
Pasteurised	-	1

Three licences to pasteurise Milk were issued but two of these were cancelled later.

##### Meat and Other Foods

During the year 11 pigs were slaughtered in the Borough and examined; one head (tuberculosis) was condemned and surrendered.

Other foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows:-

#### Decomposition etc.

Bacon	59 lbs.	Fish Cakes	6 doz.
Biscuits	4323 "	Ham	345 lbs.
Blancmange and		Haricot Beans	2148 "
Custard Powder	3½ tons	Lard	6 "
Bran	90 lbs.	Marrowfat Peas	2767 "

Decomposition etc. (Cont.)

Bread	14 sacks	Milk Powder	104 lbs.
Canned Goods:		Miscellaneous Foods	224 "
Fish	84 tins	Oatmeal	547 "
Fruit	77 "	Potatoes	9 cwts.
Jam	2 "	Rice	163 lbs.
Meat & Soups	233 "	Salt	336 "
Milk	1131 "	Sausages	12 "
Spaghetti	1 "	Spaghetti	168 "
Vegetables	224 "	Split Peas	3504 "
Miscellaneous	175 "	Sugar	71 "
Cereals	170 lbs.	Sweepings:	
Cheese	191 "	Flour	3484 "
Cocoanut	80 "	Mixed Cereals &	
Corned Beef	2810 "	Biscuits	112 "
Fish	33 boxes	Sugar Confectionery	129 "

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples taken by the Inspectors during the year:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Milk	34 <sup>(a)</sup>	2 <sup>(b)</sup>	36
Other Foods	73	4 <sup>(c)</sup>	77
Drugs	10	1 <sup>(d)</sup>	11
	117	7	124

(a) Includes 1 "Appeal to Cow" sample.

(b) Vendor Warned in each case

(c) 1 prosecuted and fined £5.

2 reported to Ministry of Food.

1 stock surrendered and vendor warned.

(d) Manufacturer warned.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	There were 94 cases of this disease and one death
<u>Diphtheria</u>	Only 3 cases notified. There was one death from laryngeal diphtheria in a child under 1 year of age.
<u>Enteric Fever</u> (Includes Typhoid & Para-typhoid)	No cases notified compared with 6 in 1941.
<u>Dysentery</u>	No cases.
<u>Pneumonia</u>	There were 44 cases compared with 59 in 1941. There were 21 deaths.
<u>Cerebro-spinal Fever</u>	There were 4 cases compared with 10 in 1941. There were no deaths.
<u>Measles</u>	There were 605 cases compared with 419 in 1941. There was one death.



## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases (Cont)

<u>Whooping Cough</u>	There were 88 cases compared with 205 in 1941. There was one death.
<u>Food Poisoning</u>	There were two cases of food poisoning notified.
<u>Scabies</u>	There were 54 notifications of this complaint during the year, 38 being civilians and 16 service cases. In addition 173 cases were found amongst the school children. Service cases have their own treatment centres but facilities are provided by the Local Authority for the treatment of civilian cases at First Aid Posts. All contacts were followed up and treated when necessary. Regular inspections of the school children are made for fresh cases and when these are found the contacts at home are examined and treated also if showing the slightest signs of the complaint.

## Immunisation against Organisms of the Typhoid Group

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2230, dated 7th December, 1940, facilities for free treatment were provided. Mixed Typhoid and Para-typhoid Vaccine supplied by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was used. The following table shows the number of inoculations given during the year 1942:-

	ADULTS (over 18 yrs)		CHILDREN (3-18 yrs. incl.)				TOTAL
	MALES	FEMALES	3-5	6-12	13-15	16-18	
1st Injections	-	2	2	5	1	-	10
2nd Injections	-	2	2	5	1	-	10

## Immunisation against Diphtheria

By the end of the year 86.3% of the school children and 50.9% of the "under fives" had been immunised.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1942:

	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Total cases Admitted to:</u>		<u>Total Deaths</u>
		<u>Blake Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Other Hospitals</u>	
Scarlet Fever	94	2	2	-
Diphtheria	3	2	-	1
Pneumonia	44	1	6	21
Cerebro-spinal Fever	4	3	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	1 (a)	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	1	-
Erysipelas	14	1	-	-
Measles	605	2	1	1
Whooping Cough	88	-	-	1
Totals	859	12	12	24

(a) Transfer from Blake Hospital.

Tuberculosis (New Cases and Mortality during 1942):

	<u>NEW CASES - 56</u>				<u>DEATHS - 19</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Undr. 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 - 5 yrs.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 yrs.	-	1	3	3	-	-	1	-
15 - 25 yrs.	6	6	-	1	-	1	-	-
25 - 35 yrs.	5	4	1	5	4	1	1	1
35 - 45 yrs.	9	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
45 - 55 yrs.	7	-	-	-	4	-	-	1
55 - 65 yrs.	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	29	12	6	9	12	2	2	3

Tuberculosis Death Rate:

All Forms of Tuberculosis - 0.55 per 1,000 population  
 Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 0.41 per 1,000 population

Ratio of Non-notified deaths to total deaths - 3 : 19

There was no instance of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.



BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,  
MATERNAL MORTALITY, and CASE-RATES for certain  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES in the year 1942.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County	GOSPORT.
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-					
<u>Births</u>					
Live	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	23.47
Still	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.93
<u>Deaths</u>					
All Causes	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	12.30
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.03
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.11
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.03
<u>Notifications</u>					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.11
Scarlet Fever	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	2.75
Whooping Cough	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	2.69
Diphtheria	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	0.08
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.41
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	-
Measles	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	17.72
Pneumonia	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	1.32
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-					
Deaths under 1 yr of age 49		59	46	60	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea) and Enteritis under)					
2 years of age )	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	2.5
Rates per 1,000 Total Births:-					
(i.e. Live and Still)					
<u>Maternal Mortality (Excluding Abortion)</u>					
Puerperal Infection	0.42)				(2.40
Others	1.59)	Not Available			(2.40
Total	2.01)				(4.80
<u>Notifications</u>					
Puerperal Fever ))	12.61	15.94	10.80	( 3.10 )	7.20
Puerperal Pyrexia)				(17.69 x)	

\* Including Puerperal Fever