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Contributors

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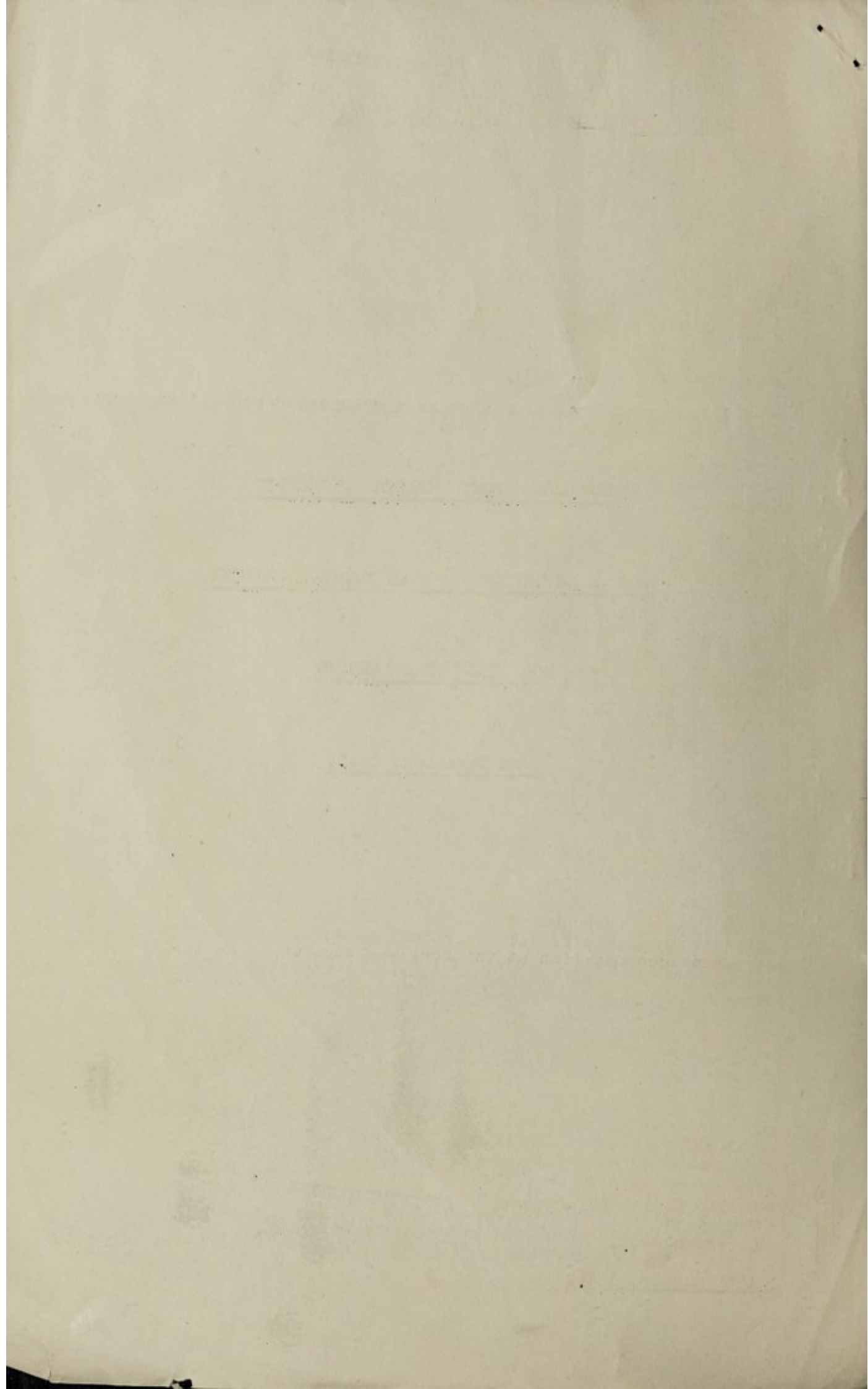
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1945.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Lewes, Sussex.

15th August, 1946.



NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Lewes.

15th August, 1946.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Port Health Officer for the year 1945.

The health of crews of ships entering Newhaven Port during 1945 was very good. No cases of sickness were brought to my notice.

To provide against the importation of Infectious Diseases into the Port, temporary quarantine would be at the anchorage until fixed quarantine is arranged, which under present circumstances is fluid. The Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford Joint Hospital Board possesses a well equipped and well staffed Isolation Hospital to which cases of infectious diseases, with the exception of smallpox, can be removed at any time. Cases of smallpox can be removed for treatment to the Smallpox Hospital at Chailey, and for this object arrangements are in force with Brighton County Borough for the provision of an ambulance. A supply of calf lymph, renewed every two months, was always kept in cold storage and could be obtained at very short notice.

In case of the incidence of plague on board any vessel entering the Port, it was proposed to apply rat guards and wrapping over the mooring ropes tossed daily to prevent the incursion of rats on to the shore. As a preliminary measure, D.D.T. would have been used extensively on board the affected ship before hydrogen cyanide fumigation. It was also proposed to treat clothing etc., with D.D.T.

In typhus cases and contacts, if they had occurred, suitable measures would have been enforced - isolation and treatment of the patients in hospital, and isolation and surveillance of contacts. Separate accommodation at the Port was secured to deal with typhus contacts. An ample supply of outer and under clothing was procured and a quantity of D.D.T. and blowers.

Dieppe has been the chief Port with which Newhaven has had any considerable traffic, and the chief risk of the importation of infectious diseases was from the Continent of Europe.

With the resumption of the quick communication by sea during the year 1945 between Newhaven and the Continent, there was the distinct possibility of passengers, unknown to themselves, having contracted some dangerous infectious disease abroad. Thus, in 1945 it was possible that some passengers might have come in contact with cases of infectious diseases on the Continent, as during the year affairs in Europe were chaotic at times. Internees from concentration camps, ex-prisoners of war, and others, who were suspected as having at some time or other during transit on the Continent, perhaps come in contact with infectious diseases cases. Constant vigilance was exercised throughout the

year. So as to ensure that the general public was safeguarded, besides a keen examination of each passenger disembarking at Newhaven, printed cards were given to each person as they came off the ship. These cards contained a notice about the possibility of a passenger having contracted an infectious disease abroad, and the card instructed the passenger, if he or she fell sick within three weeks of arrival, to consult a doctor promptly. If the passenger did develop an infectious disease, he or she would have been immediately isolated and treated, and contacts rounded up and placed under surveillance. Local Public Health Authorities would have been immediately notified, and effective measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases quickly put into action by them.

At times during the year some anxiety was felt. The Port Health Officer was kept well informed by a confidential weekly bulletin of the various infectious diseases prevalent on the Continent. Happily the possibility of the importation of infectious diseases into this country greatly lessened towards the end of 1945.

As you are aware cases, or suspected cases, of plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever, or smallpox, in passengers have to be immediately quarantined and kept in hospital until recovery, and the contacts of such cases suitably dealt with.

Rarer cases, such as leprosy, psittacosis, and trachoma, should be removed to hospital and detained there until recovery, if the cases occur in citizens of this country.

The Ministry of Health issued amended regulations dated 10th October, 1945 under Statutory Rules and Orders, entitled "Public Health, England: Prevention of Infectious and Epidemic Diseases: The Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945." These regulations came into force on the first day of December, 1945, and they make it incumbent upon the Master of a ship to report to the customs officer, or officer of the sanitary authority, every case of illness which has occurred on the ship within six weeks from making a declaration previously. Also, according to the regulations, a medical officer shall not cause, or be required to cause, a ship to be used for the purpose of isolation of a person who is suffering from, or has been exposed to infection from, an infectious disease, unless isolation can be effected without delaying, or unduly interfering with the movements of the ship. Further, every person who is placed or kept under surveillance in pursuance of the regulations shall give facilities for any medical examination required by the Medical Officer of Health of any local authority in whose area he may be during the period of surveillance, and shall furnish all such information as any such Medical Officer of Health may reasonably require with a view to ascertaining the person's state of health, and if so instructed by the Medical Officer, report on arrival in the district of any local authority to the Medical Officer of Health of the local authority, and thereafter during the period of surveillance report to that Officer at such intervals as he may require.

Concerning vaccination against smallpox, the regulations define recent vaccination as meaning vaccination followed either by an immune reaction observed within seventy-two hours of vaccination, or by the formation of typical vaccinal vesicles, not earlier than three years and not later than fourteen days before the date of the arrival of the ship. Any passenger of a ship infected with smallpox who has been recently vaccinated need not be vaccinated again. Other passengers exposed to infection should be vaccinated.

As remarked in an earlier part of this Report, the continental boat service was resumed and formed the main source of foreign traffic to and from the Port. Three hundred and twenty outward voyages and the same number of inward voyages were made during the year. No less than 120,655 passengers (31,134 civilian and 89,521 services) made the inward voyages.

The total number of vessels entering the Port during 1945 was 793. Sanitary conditions generally were good, and there was no necessity to serve any notice. Verbal instructions were given in those cases where improvement could be made, and where further inspection was possible such improvement was found to have been carried out. Five fishing vessels were treated for bug infestation.

Psittacosis: No birds entered the Port for landing during the year and no action was, therefore, necessary.

Foreign Meat and Unsound Food: No food of any description entered the Port during the year.

Amount of Shipping entering the Port:

Number of ships entering the Port	...	...	...	793
Number of ships inspected by the Medical Officer	...	...	...	6
Number of ships inspected by the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	183
Number of ships reported defective	...	...	...	6
Number of ships reported as having infectious disease	...	...	...	Nil

Exports: These were small and consisted of machinery, motor cars, and livestock.

Imports: During the year these were coal, stone, oil. The usual imports of silk, cotton, wool, timber, motor cars, machinery, brandies, wines, fruits, and potatoes having ceased for the time being.

Passenger Traffic: From being nil in 1944 the numbers in 1945 were as follows:-

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Outwards</u>		<u>Inwards</u>	
	<u>Alien</u>	<u>British</u>	<u>Alien</u>	<u>British</u>
1st	1,400	1,275	1,160	871
2nd	3,292	2,529	2,694	1,870
3rd	6,089	5,180	5,720	3,760
4th	8,086	6,465	8,337	5,698
Making a total of	18,867	15,449	17,911	12,199

Aliens' Order, 1920: During 1945 the number of Aliens entering the Port totalled 17,911. None was rejected for medical reasons, and all were landed. The medical inspections of Aliens arriving at the Port of Newhaven were carried out by Dr. a'Brook.

Source of Water Supply: The water supply to the Port of Newhaven and shipping on the East Side is pumped from a well sunk into the chalk at Denton and owned by the Southern Railway Company. Samples for examinations, both chemical and bacteriological, were taken throughout the year and no adverse reports were given. Water for the West Side is provided by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company. Frequent samples taken during the year proved this supply to be excellent in all respects.

Table C: No cases of infectious diseases were landed for treatment at the Isolation Hospital.

Table D: No cases of infectious disease occurred on vessels during the voyage prior to entering the Port.

Table E: The number of rats destroyed on vessels during the year was 25. A specially appointed official is employed by the Southern Railway Company to catch or poison rats on their properties, which work during 1945 was supervised by a private commercial firm of rat destroyers.

Table F: Rats destroyed on quays and other Railway property numbered 513. This figure is an estimated one due to the chief means of destruction being by poison and it is for properties still in occupation by the Railway Company only.

My thanks are due to Officials of the Railway Company, Customs, Home Office and C.I.D., for their courtesy and ready help extended to me in carrying out my duties.

I am, Madam, and Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

G.M. DAVIDSON LOBBAN.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Fell.R.S.I., etc.,

Port Health Officer, Newhaven Port.