

Contributors

River Blythe Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1944

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hmvwt22c>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. 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.

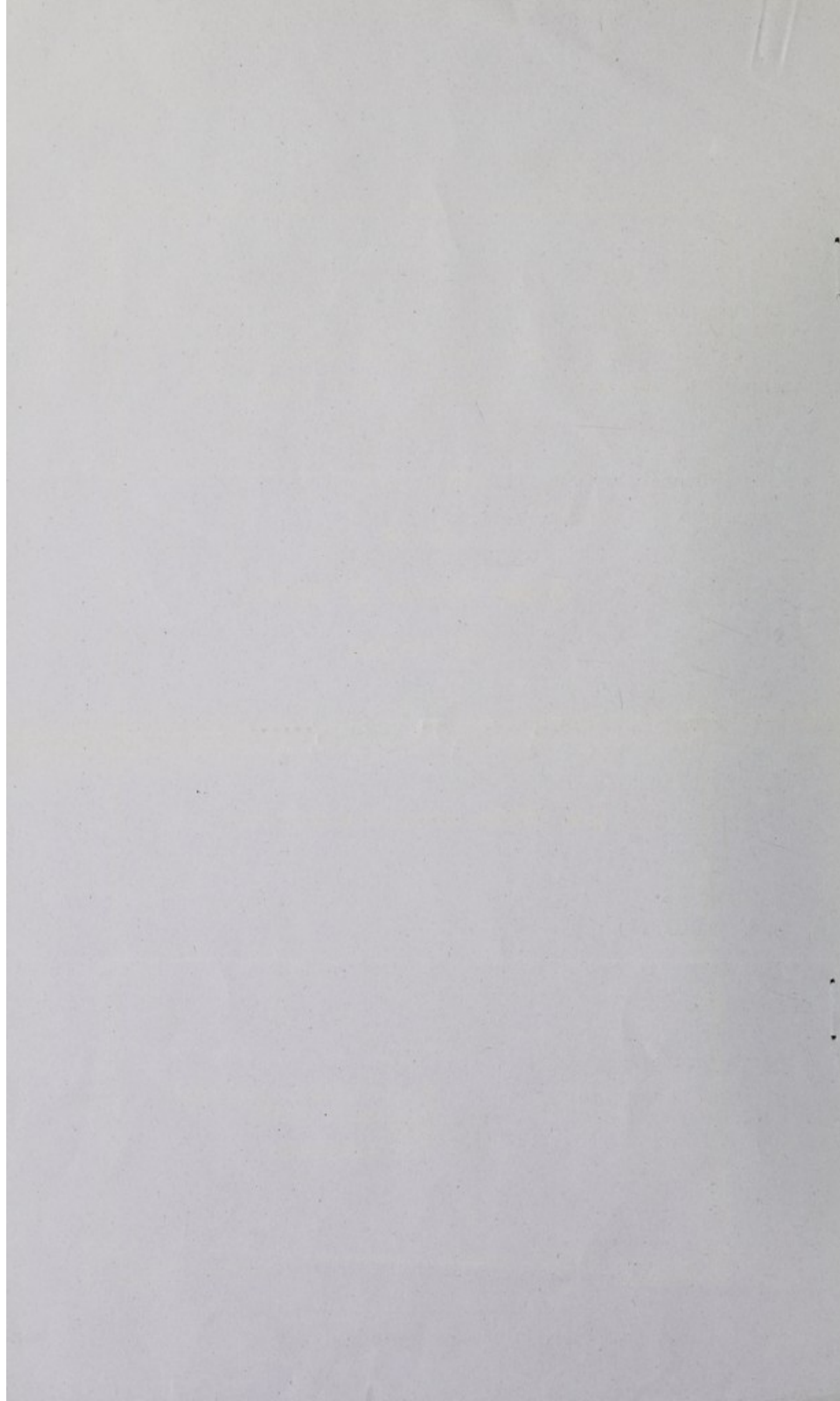


R I V E R B L Y T H
P O R T H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y

R E P O R T
O F T H E
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
F O R T H E Y E A R
1 9 4 4 .

A . G . N E W E L L , M . D . , C . M . , L . M . , D . P . H .

Public Health Department,
Wellington House,
BLYTH,
Northumberland.



MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Chairman
Vice Chairman

- Councillor S. Kidd.
- Councillor J.S. Heatley.

Appointed by the Blyth Borough Council.

Alderman H. Donnachie.
Councillor A. Purves.
Alderman F. Rafferty.
Alderman R. Walker.
Alderman A. Walton.

Councillor J.R. Curry.
Councillor J.W. Heatley.
Councillor F. Ridley.
Councillor R. Turnbull.

Appointed by the Bedlingtonshire Urban
District Council.

Councillor C.S. Kidd.
" W. Mather.
" W.C. Ward.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

A.G. NEWELL, M.D. C.M. L.M. D.P.H.

..... Wellington House,
Blyth.

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

W.I. GORDON M.A. M.B. Ch.B.

..... Waterloo Road,
Blyth.

Sanitary Inspector and Executive
Officer under Rat and Mice
(Destruction) Act, 1919.

JOHN DILKS, M.S.I.A.,

Rat Catcher.

A.F. CHAPMAN.

Clerk.

A. Teasdale.

..... 6, Blagdon Str.
Blyth.

Clerk to the Authority.

J. LEIGH TURNER, ESQ.,
W.T. HARRISON, ESQ., (since 31st
August, 1944)

..... "Dinsdale House"
Blyth.

Telegraphic Address:-
Portolth Blyth.

* Part-time appointment.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944.

Wellington House,
BLYTH.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1944. For Security reasons, certain details are excluded, but members can have them if desired.

The Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933:- The various sections concerning Declarations of Health are still observed when occasion arises through arrivals from Foreign Vessels.

(3) Notification is sent direct to the Health Authority to the Registered Telegraphic address, Portelth, Blyth, if any vessel requires special attention.

(5) Standing exemptions have been arranged so that all ships with the exception of those with evidence, or suspicion, of infection from Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small-Pox, or Typhus Fever, may be allowed to proceed to their berths.

The Port Health Authority have no hospital of their own. Infectious persons are removed to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Hospital at Walkergate, and The Grange, Shiremoor. The Port Health Authority's own hospital has been closed since 1940.

Supervision of Contacts:- Any person or persons leaving a ship will, as required by these Regulations, give his name and address to the Medical Officer of the Port where disembarkation takes place. Other essential matters such as, special Post Cards (P.S.3) have been printed with the name and address of the Authority thereon; also some of the requirements of the Regulations.

Bacteriological examination of rats are carried out at the County Laboratory, Newburn-on-Tyne, for Plague, etc., and the result of the examination is received as early as possible.

Bacteriological examinations of swabs or blood tests are carried out as required at the same laboratory at Newburn-on-Tyne.

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the quarters by Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector on account of diseases on board during the voyage, at time of arrival or whilst in Port.

<u>Nationality of Vessel.</u>	<u>Cause of Illness.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
British.	Appendicitis	3
"	Stomach Trouble	3
"	Accident	5
"	Catarrh	1
"	Jaundice	2
"	Phlebitis	1
"	Non-Infected	2
"	Asthma	1
"	V.D.	1
"	Sore Throat	1
"	Abscess (face)	1
"	Scabies	3
"	Indigestion	1
"	Skin Trouble	1
"	Eczaema	1
"	Rheumatism	1
Danish	Accident	3
"	Sore Foot	1

Nationality of Vessel.	Cause of Illness.	Remarks.
Polish	Influenza	1
"	Lumbago	1
French	Sore Throat	1
"	Hernia	1
Norwegian	Stomach Trouble	1
"	Heart Trouble	1
Swedish	Accident	1
"	Skin Trouble	1
Dutch	V.D.	1
Greek	Stomach Trouble	1
TOTAL:		42 (from 5/1/44 to 23/12/44.)

Defects in the following vessels have been dealt with as follows:-

	Work in hand.	Work Completed.	Total.
Forecastles to clean out	-	18	18
Forecastles to repair	-	13	13
Forecastles to paint out	-	6	6
Forecastles doors to repair	-	3	3
56 Ports to repair	-	22	22
New Bogies to fix & repair	-	7	7
Officers rooms leaking, to repair	-	3	3
Galleys to repair	-	6	6
Radiators to repair	-	2	2
New Bunks to fix	-	2	2
20 Beds to destroy	-	3	3
Store rooms to clean out	-	2	2
Fresh Water tanks to clean out	-	3	3
Food lockers to clean out	-	2	2
Steam pipe leaking in F'c'11'e	-	1	1
Hewse pipe leaking in F'11'e	-	1	1
Ventilators to repair	-	1	1
Donkeyman's room to repair	-	1	1
New Bedding to provide	-	1	1
Scupper to repair	-	1	1
Lavatory basins to fix	-	4	4
Sanitary Tanks to fix & repair	-	5	5
New W.C.s to fix & repair	-	9	9
W.C.s flushed on to quay	-	17	17
		133	133

The total number of ships found verminous was 18. The majority were fumigated with SO₂ and HCN, the latter gas appears to be more efficacious for the destruction of Bugs and Cockroaches, although a longer time is necessary for the actual work owing to the crews being taken ashore for one night to allow for the safe dispersal of this deadly gas. The use of suitable insecticides at regular intervals is strongly recommended, when small or slight infestations can be dealt with, and therefore prevent a major infestation. Masters of vessels, also Officers, are always advised to carry insecticides and use them freely as occasion demands, also the application of soap and water help to bring about hygienic conditions. After the war the new insecticide D.A.T. will become available and will kill all insects.

Civil Defence Services:- (Food Decontamination). As stated in previous reports the Port have six trained men for Food Decontamination. They attended lectures that were arranged from time to time along with the Borough of Blyth members of Food Squads. Blyth Port is chiefly used for the export of minerals, (Coal & Coke, chiefly). The Blyth Harbour Commission have their Fire Float, and Hydrants are situated at different parts of the River. They have also protective clothing, etc., The Port Health Authority work in conjunction with the Borough of Blyth for Food Decontamination purposes.

One meeting was held during the year with the Ministry of Food Official, Mr. Newton, when the position regarding the personnel of both Authorities, protective clothing, etc., was reviewed.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS SPACES.

TABLE. J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during 1944.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear & tear.	Dirt, vermin & other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	1,729	3.	45.	50.
Other Nations	353	-	15.	14.

VII. Food Inspection.

(1) As there is no importation of food at the Port, the action under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933. Imported Milk Regulations, 1926, Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927 is nil.

(2) Shellfish, Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1915:-
An order is in force under the above Regulations prohibiting the distribution for sale for human consumption, of any Shellfish brought from any public laying or bed (unless such shellfish has been relaid in pure water for a period of at least one week). Copies of the Order are publicly displayed in all parts of the Harbour

No action has been taken regarding the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

(3) Number of samples of food examined by Bacteriologist nil; Analyst, nil.

RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

INFESTATION ORDER. S.R. & O. 680. 1943.

Rodent Planning & Advisory Committee for Regional Area No.1.

The River Blyth Port Health Authority is represented by your Sanitary Inspector on the Rodent Planning & Advisory Committee for the above area, and has attended meetings during the year at Newcastle-on-Tyne when required.

Your Authority give all possible assistance also their co-operation with the Borough of Blyth to deal with infestation and the carrying out of repressive measures essential to the campaign.

During the summer the Authority's Rat Catcher attended a two days course of Lectures which were inaugurated by the Ministry of Food, under the direction of the Deputy Divisional Food Officer, Mr.C.N.Brown, and the Divisional Rodent Officer, Mr. J.F.Martin.

Many Local Authorities of East and South Northumberland are represented on the Planning and Advisory Committee, this is surely a step in the right direction, when concerted action can be taken by the respective and adjoining Local Authorities, especially where sewers are concerned.

About 22 sewage pipes discharge into the River Blyth in the area of the Port Health Authority and the destruction of rats in the sewers is of undoubted importance, and one can only suggest that the recent co-ordinated action will be kept constantly in action - surely a much better method than taking a rat week once a year.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for detection of Rodent Plague.

(a) In ships in Port:- On arrival at the Port, vessels are examined, and if there is any evidence of rats, notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rat Catcher, who is engaged when the occasion arises. Particular attention is paid to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected or suspected ports. During the year 28 rats have been examined bacteriologically by your Medical Officer for evidence of Plague, but in each case the result was negative.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port:- Poison baits are laid regularly along the river banks, and around the docks, warehouses, dry-docks, and the ship-breaking Yard. The result appeared highly satisfactory, and a fair number of dead rats was recovered. Private firms throughout the year laid rat poisons in an effort to keep their premises as free as possible from rat infestation.

2. Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and shore:- Rat guards are kept by the Port Health Authority for use when required. Rat guards are used during the fumigation and are kept attached to the mooring ropes till the vessels are ready for sea. Special attention is given to gangways, ladders, etc.,

3. Methods of deratisation of:-

(a) Ships - Fumigation:- Some vessels deratised during the year were done with Sulphur Dioxide. The method employed is that of burning sulphur in specially constructed pails and sealing the compartments down for a period of from six to eight hours. The standard requirement for International purposes is 3 lbs. of sulphur per 1,000 cubic feet of space, and sulphur of good quality is only used. Care is exercised to see that the proper cubic capacity of compartments is correctly estimated. The work is carried out by private firms, all who are established on Tyneside.

As in previous years HCN gas has been used. The work is carried out by skilled operators, and has at all times been found to be satisfactory. The standard for International purpose is 2 oz. per 1,000 cubic feet for holds, cargo, spaces, etc., and 1 oz. per 1,000 cubic feet for superstructures, that is officers' quarters, messrooms, galleys, etc.,. Observations have proved that the gas has a deadly effect on Cockroaches, Bugs, Fleas, etc.,

When vessels are undergoing fumigation, every precaution is taken, such as the posting of notices over the ship's sides, also the fencing off of the gangways to render the process as free as possible from accidents. The minimum period of exposure for this gas is two hours, and effects a considerable saving of time compared with other methods such as Sulphur Dioxide.

Trapping:- It was found necessary to carry out trapping occasionally during the year, and while it can be useful in clearing rats from single compartments the method is not generally adopted where there are rat indications elsewhere. It is now recognised that fumigation, especially for International Sanitary Certificates, is the more satisfactory and efficient method for the destruction of rats.

Poisons:- Poison baits are sometimes put down on vessels where there is only a slight indication of rats. It is also a convenient way of dealing with the vessels which are laid up or where the vessels are having a short stay in port.

(b) Premises in the vicinity of Docks and Quays:- These are generally dealt with by poison baits as occasion may require. Trapping is also carried out on private premises.

4. Measures taken for the detection of rats prevalence in ships and on shore:-

Daily inspections are carried out, and vessels are searched upon arrival by the Port Health Inspector and Rat Catcher. Special attention is given to foreign arrivals, also those from infected or suspected ports. Old vessels, where rat harbourage is more evident are closely searched. Shore premises are also inspected, and advice is given to private owners on methods of rat destruction.

5. Rat Proofing:- (a) The docks, wharves, and warehouses are not of recent construction, and cannot be said to be rat-proof. As there is no importation of foodstuffs, no facilities are offered for the feeding of rats, and the various places are fairly free of rodents.

(b) Advice is given to the masters of vessels and occupiers of premises as to the best methods of making ships and premises rat-proof.

Poisoning Baits laid on Docks, Quays, and Warehouses during the Year 1944.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
55	75	75	125	75	175	83	75	100	135	100	95	1,168

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF DERATISATION AND
DERATISATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES
ISSUED DURING QUARTER ENDING

Year Ending 1944

PORT.	DERATISATION CERTIFICATES.	DERATISATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.	TOTAL CERTIFICATES ISSUED.
River Blyth	Liquid HCN - 4	No. Issued - 8	
Port Health	Sulphur - 1	Percentage of	
Authority.	Total - 5	total - 61%	13

Number of Rats destroyed during the Year ended December 31st, 1944. TABLE E.
(1) On Vessels.

Number of:-	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Black Rats.	3	12	8	8	2	3	8	-	45	5	8	2	104
Brown Rats.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats species not recorded.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats infected with plague.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats Examined.	3	12	8	8	2	3	8	-	45	5	8	2	104

4 Black Rats have been sent for bacteriological examination to the Laboratory during the year.

Number of Rats destroyed during the Year ended 31st December, 1944. TABLE F.
(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of:-	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Black Rats.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Rats.	-	14	10	-	13	36	17	4	15	20	4	27	160
Rats species not recorded.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats infected with plague.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rats examined.	-	14	10	-	15	36	17	4	15	20	4	27	160

I have the honour, to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

A.G. NEWELL.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

TO: The Chairman and Members,
River Blyth Port Health Authority.

