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#### **Contributors**

River Blythe Port Health Authority.

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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

REPORT

OF THE PORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 5

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

Public Health Department, "Dinsdale" Marine Terrace, BLYTH, Northumberland.



### MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Chairman Vice Chairman - Councillor J.W. Heatley

- Alderman F. Rafferty.

# 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. Councillor W. Mather. Councillor W.C. Ward.

# OFFICERS AND STAFF.

### Medical Officer of Health

A.G. NEWELL, M.D. C.M. L.M. D P.H. ... "Dinsdale House",

Blyth.

4 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.

J. Morgan.

Clerk to the Authority

W.T. HARRISON, ESQ.,

.... 12, Maughan Street, Blyth.

"Dinsdale House" .... .Blyth.

Telegraphic Address:-PorteIth Blyth.

4 Part-time appointment.

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

"DINSDALE", Marine Terrace, BLYTH. 5th February, 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1945.

The Port Sanitary Regulations, 1973:- The arrangements in force at present for dealing with Declarations of Health Areas are as follows: - The Pilots who have consented to co-operate in the new regulations are supplied with Forms P.S.l., and issue these to Masters of Foreign ships. The Master, on completion, hands the form of Declaration to the Customs Officer or a member of the staff of the Medical Officer. If any one from the staff of the Medical Officer boards the ship prior to any Customs Officer he collects the Form of Declaration and leaves Form P.S.2., thus showing there is no medical reason for witholding pratique. This, of course, is when the declaration requires no Medical Inspection.

This method has so far been satisfactory, and the understanding between the Pilots, Customs Officers and Members of the Medical starf is efficient.

Vescels are boarded on arrival by the Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector at their respective berths. H.M. Customs Officers are always on duty and board all foreign ships in the course of their duties. No person is allowed to disembark from board a foreign ship until it has been declared free either by the Customs Officer or the Medical Officer.

Notification to the Sanitary Authority is now sent direct to the registered telegraphic address: "Portelth Blyth", if any vessel should require special attention. Wireless messages are received at the Cullercoats station, which is situated about seven miles south of Blyth. These in turn are passed through the G.P.O. and sent to the above address. Flamborough is the nearest land signal station. Shipping agents sometimes receive wireless messages and if in relation to health, they are passed on to your Medical Officer. The Pilots, Oustoms, etc., hand in any information required as stated by the Port Regulations.

Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945: - These came into force 1st December, 1945. There is no basic change in the present general procedure. There is a revised form of Declaration of Health. It is necessary for a Port Health Authority to take steps to secure that the Master pf every foreign-going vessel approaching a port from foreign countriesis furnished with copies of the revised form of Declaration of Health. The words "Port Sanitary Authority" shall in all cases be substituted by the words "Port Health Authority". If a Health Declaration has been made at one British Fort and the ship within six weeks calls at another British Port the Master must inform the Customs House Officer or Officer of the Sanitary Authority which boards the ship first, of every case of illness since the first declaration. For the purposes of deratisation in future a ship having during the previous six months called at a foreign port arrives at an approved port, having no valid deratisation or deratisation exemption certificate, arrives at a British Port after calling at a Port outside England and Wales other than a foreign port will be deemed to arrive from a foreign port.
All other amendments concern the Medical Officer of Health re-

garding infectious diseases.

- The other principal provisions resulting from the new Convention are:

  (a) whilst the International Sanitary Conventions are principally concerned with what are know as the "Convention" diseases, viz: plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus, and smallpox, the new Convention, with an eye to the circumstances of the immediate post-war period, requires Governments to inform UNRRA of outbreaks in their territories of other infectious disease of such a kind as might constitute a menace as between different countries. It is difficult to foresee whether any epidemic disease (not being one of the "Convention" diseases) might occur in this country in proportions menacing to other countries, and the prospects of such an occurrence are possibly remote, but the Minister has thought it well to include in the draft Regulations a provision which in such a contingency would enable preventive measures to be taken in an infected port against the spread of the disease to other countries;
- (b) here the Port Medical Officer of Health finds a person to be a contact of one of the "Convention" diseases he can at present place the contact under "surveillance" by which is meant that the contact proceeds to his home or other place of destination, but that during the period of possible incubation the local Medical Officer of Health can make inquiries as to his state of health and, if necessary, medically examine him. The new Convention permits of Governments if they think fit, taking power to require a contact who is under surveillance himself to report periodically to the local Medical Officer of Health. In the Regulations, the Minister has not seen his way to introduce the latter system as a measure of general application but power is reserved by which such a requirement could if necessary be imposed at a particular port or ports with the Minister's authority.
- (c) the new Convention permits of isolation as an alternative to surveillance in the case of unprotected smallpor centacts from an infected ship. A restricted provision for this is made in the draft Regulations where the Port Medical Officer considers that there is an exceptionally serious risk of smallpox being introduced. It is felt that where contact with virulent smallpox is concerned though surveillan should be the normal procedure, the temporary detention of some contacts might on occasion be necessary to avoid spread of the disease.
- Source of Water Supply: 
  (a) The Port is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.,
  on the South side of the river, and the Tynemouth Water Company on the
  North side.
- (b) Ships are supplied from the mains which are laid along the loading, and most of the waiting berths, with the exception of the jetties at the West Staiths. The import dock is well provided with water mains at the East and West berths also the middle jetty.
- (c) There is only one water boat in commission at the present time, and is the property of the Harbour Commission. Some time previous the last privately owned water boat which had supplied ships for many years was sold and gone to some other port. The water boat now supplying the ships is frequently inspected, but is always found to be in first class condition. It is periodically in dry dock for repairs, when the tanks are cleansed out and cement washed, also the structural condition is attended to.

Cargo Traffic - Shipped from Blyth, 1945; Coal and Coke - 3,662,688 tons.

Goods and Timber Imports - 15,621 tons.
" " Exports - 17,197 tons.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPIL'S ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

# TABLE A.

		TOTALS:	Mishing.	Sream,	TOTAL:-	Woreign. Steam. Motor. Sali, Plating.	Vossels.
		2,199	7	1,748	/5	73	Number.
39,248	Coas	1,550,977	231	1,430,172	69,717	6.53 8.46 <b>6</b> 89	Tonnages.
81/2	Coastwise.	1,1	! 3	1 1	1	: 1 1 1	No.by
1,525	Toreign.	2,192	7	1,743	75	73	Inspected by San Inspecto
64 40,837	Fishing. Total.	131	1 1	117	6	1110	Inspected by No. report- San.Inspector. ed defective.
		137	1 1	117	6	1116	No.Vessels defects re- medied.
73.		NII.	1-1	T.	Mil.	mil.	No. Vesseis having the voyage Infectious disease on board.

# TABLE C.

CASES OF TRECTIOUS SICKNESS LANDED FROM VESSELS: ..... NIL.

# TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS OCCURING ON VESSELS DURING THE VOYAGE, BUT DISPOSED OF PRIOR TO ARRIVAL: ..... NIL.

# The following are the Ports from which versels have arrived:Foreign Ports.

FRANCE	Caen, C	Cherbourg,	Rouen,	Dieppe,	Morlaix,
	Fecamp.	. Havre. Ca	alais.		

SWEDEN.. Mo, Gothenborg, Gefle, Nykobing, Otterbackin, Skoyhall.

NORWAY .. Stavanger, Trondjem, Tromso, Oslo, Sandnessfjord.

GERMANY.. Bremerhaven, Hamburg, Brunsbottel.

DENMARK.. Fredrikshaven, Copenhagen.

HOLLAND .. Rotterdam, Ymuiden.

CANADA.. Sidney, New Brunswick.

FINLAND.. Kotka, Kemi, Himango.

## NATIONALITIES.

BRITISH	2,028
SWEDISH	61
NORGE	41
DUTCH	69
FRENCH	29
DANISH	25
GREEK	6
BELGIAN	3
ICELANDIC	1
POLISH	1
IRISH FREE STATE	1
CYPRIOT	1_
	2,266
8 FISHING VESSELS	8
GRAND TOTAL	2,274
	The second second

# VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS.

The following table shows the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Sanitary Authority, on account of coming directly ir indirectly from foreign ports, infected, or suspected of being infected, with Cholera, Plaque, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus Fever:

DATE 1945	FROM IN	FECTED PORTS	FROM SU TO B	SPECTED PORTS LYTH	TOTAL
	DIRECT	INDIRECT	DIRECT	INDIRECT.	
January	-	1	-	3	4
February	-	1	-Then	Settings" of any	1
March	-	- 1	H.	4	4
April	-	-	2 20	2	2
May	-	-	-	1	1
June	-	1	-	Transfer of Ca	-
July	-	-	2	. 115-1 61	. 2
August	- 1		2	1	3
September	***	-	1	-	1
October	1	-	4	-	5
November	- 1	-	2	COURT	2
December	-	-	2	1	3
TOTALS.	1	2	13	12	28

Number of vessels found having Sanitary or Structural defects:-

no till and the	Structur	al Defects	Sanitar	v Defects	Total
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	10003
British Steam Motor.	=	43 10	-	44	87
Foreign Steam. Motor.	3	13	2	18	15 36
" Sail.	-	-	-	-	1 -
	3	67	2	65	137

Defects in the vessels on Page 5 have been dealt with as follows:-

Defects.		Work in hand	Work completed	Total
Forecastles to repair. Forecastles to paint out. Forecastles to paint out. Forecastle Door to repair. 73 Ports to repair. Galleys to repair. Ventilators to repair. 37 Beds to destroy. New Lockers to fix. Fresh water tanks to clean out repair. Bathrooms to repair. Messrooms to repair. Officers Rooms to repair. Officers Rooms to paint out. Pantry to repair. Lavatory tanks to repair. Lavatory tanks to repair. Lavatory basins to fix. Decks to wash down. Meat safe to repair. Scupper to clean out. Radiator to repair. Bugies to repair. W.C.'s to repair. W.C.'s flushed onto Quay.	ê.		8 6 16 12 8 3 5 5 5 8 3 5 5 5 2 2 4 4 4 2 1 1 1 3 5 1 8 1 8 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	8 6 16 12 8 3 5 5 5 8 3 5 5 5 2 2 4 4 2 1 1 1 3 5 8 18 13 7

# HYGIENE OF CREW'S SPACES.

# TABLE J.

# Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during 1945.	Defects of original construct-ion	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin, and ot- her co- nditions prejudi- cial to health.
British	2,028	6	46	48
Other Nations	239	- 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10 - 10	17	20
Total.	2,267	6	63	68

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during 1945 by the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector on account of diseases on board during the voyage, or at the time in Port, or while lying in harbour.

	belset 8th	A TOTAL	1442	29th	2nd 6th	20th	1701 2310	JAN. Ist 1st	Date. 1945.
	Faxfleet m/v Scenity Southport The Marchioness Kirkwood	Windsor Queen	Lysaker IV. Ramava Tug. T.I.D. 126	Beigweed Beiglen Largo	Sulev Jebshaven Belgian Trader	Beltsy	Mistle, William Psagman Empire Treat	Francis Fladgate Stanholm Avenwood	Name of Vessel.
	Eritish Eritish Eritish Eritish	Eritish Eritish Felgian	Fritish Eritish	Eritish Eritish	Eritish Dutch Felgium	British	Eritish Eritish	Fritish Danish Fritish	Nation-
THE PERSON NAMED IN	Cowes London Southampton Fredrikshaven	London London Antwerp	Rochester Dieppe Hull	Southampton Yondor	Tyne Hull Antworp	Po:: bemouth	Middlesboro! lordon Tyrs	London London London	Where from.
	2nd Mate Sailor Sailor Sailor Sailor	Sailor Mate Sailor	Seilor -do- Captain	Mess Boy Sailor Mate		Sailor	Fireman Able Seaman Fireman	Steward Radio Officer Sailor	Rating.
	Accident to hand V.D. V.D. Far trouble V.D.	Septic Hand Appendix	V.D. Stomach Ulcers	Accident to hand Accident to chest	Congestion of lungs Accident to feet Laryngitis	V.D.	Stomach trouble Scabies Hermin	Influenza Ear Trouble	Sickness.
	To receive treatment -do- P.T. Receiving treatment	Receiving treatment Removed to R.V.I. Treatment at Blyth	Left at Dieppe Removed to R.V.I.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Removed	Treatment in Blyth.	see see	Portor Posee M.O.H.	Remarks.

FOOD INSI	1 2nd 13th	0.0000 123rd	23rd	7th	29th	21st	4402	1544	11th	SEPT.	1945
INSPECTION: - (1) As there	Francis Fladgate		Hawkwood Oeltio Queen	00	William H. Daniels	Stanhope	S.T. T.I.D. 152	3-4	Lucient Rose	0	Hamo OT AGBROT.
p.	Polich British	British	British British	British .	British British	British	British	British	British	Norge	ality.
portation of for	Ghent	London	London London	Hamburg Grangemouth	London	Fredrikshaven	Sunderland	Portsmouth Kemi	Rouen London	London	Where from.
no importation of food at the Bowt +bo octi-	Steward Sailor	Bolsun	Sailor Steward	Engineer Fireman	Sailor Fireman	Deck Boy Mess Boy	Fireman	Mess Boy Passenger	Wireless Op. & Fireman	Sailor	Rating.
	Tonsillitis Fatal accident	Influenza	Tonsillitis Scables	Dental trouble	Ear trouble Stomach	Tonsillitis V.D.	Bronchitis Burns	Boils Mental trouble	Sto	Accident	Sickness
1	Examined by doctor	Sent home for treatment	Paid off Receiving treatment	bid. •	To see Specialist Examined by doctor	Receiving treatment Attending Clinic	Hemoved to V Womatta	To receive treatment	To receive treatment	D m	Domonic

Food) Regulations, 1925, the Imported Milk Regulations, 1926, also the Public Health (Imported (Preservatives, (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, is nil.

publicly displayed at all parts of the harbour. No action has been taken regarding the Public (Cleansing of Shellfish Act, 1932). No action has been taken regarding the Public Health (Shellfish) fish has been relaid in pure water for a period of at least two weeks). Copies of the Order are Regulations prohibiting the distributions for sale for human consumption, of shellfish brought from any public laying or bed situate on any part of the foreshore of the River Blyth (unless such shell-Shellfish - Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1915,- An Order is in force under the above

year. The samples taken reverled an alarming high bacterial count. The estimated number of B.coli per mussel varied (3) Number of samples of food examined by Bacteriologist - 6. Analyst - Nil. Samples of shellfish (Muggels and Winkles) were sent by your Medical Officer of Health to the bacteriologist during the from 20,000 to 2,000,000. These figures show how dangerous the consumption of these might be to the people.

# RATS & MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

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

The River Blyth Port Health Authority is represented by your Sanitary Inspector on the Rodent Planning & Advisory Committee for the area, Regional Area No.1. Your Authority give all possible assistance and co-operation with the Borough of Tryth to deal with infestations and the carrying out of repressive measures essential to the campaign.

One Meeting was held during the early part of the year at Newcastle-on-Tyne at which your Sanitary Inspector attended.

### 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 Sanitary Authority have their own official rat-catcher, who is engaged when the occasion arises. Particular attention is paid to vessels arriving either directly or indirectly from infected or suspected ports. During the year seven rats have been sent for bacteriological examination by your Medical Officer for evidence of Plague, but in no case was the result

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warshouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port. Poison baits are laid regularly along the river banks, and around the docks, warshouses, dry docks, and the ship-breaking yard. The Harbour Commission and the Dry Docks and Shipbuilding Co., are regularly informed of any infostation and where action is necessary they willingly co-operate to abate any nuisance caused by Rats. The results appeared highly satisfactory, and a fair number of dead rats were 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 THE SHORE:-

Rat guards are kept by the Port Sanitary Authority for use when required. Rat quards are used during the fumigation and are kept attached to the mooring ropes till the vessel is ready for sea. Special attention is given to gangways, ladders, etc.

# 3. - METHODS OF DERATISATION OF :-

(a) SHIPS. Furigation. -- 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 required for International purposes is 3-lb. of sulphur per 1,000 cubic feet of space, and sulphur of good quality only is used. Care is exercised to see that the proper cubic capacity of compartments is correctly estimated. The work has been carried cut by private firms all of whom are established on Tyneside.

More vessels have been fumigated with HCN., gas during the year than has been the case in previous years. The work being carried out by skilled operators has at all times been found to be satisfactory. The standard for International purposes is 2 ozs. per 1,000 cubic feet for holds, cargo spaces etc. and 1 oz. per 1,000 cubic feet for super-structures, that is Officers quarters, Mess Rooms, 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,

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 very 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 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 RAT PREVALENCE IN SHIPS AND ON SHORE: Daily inspections are carried out, and vessels are searched upon arrival by the Sanitary Inspector and the Rat Catcher. Special attention is given to foreign arrivals, also those from Infected or Suspected Ports. Cld 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 by ships, no storage facilities are offered for the feeding of rats, and the various places are fairly free of rodents.

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

More vessels have been found verminous than in previous years. The conditions imposed by the war, and the necessary blacking out of port lights also the covering of ventilators naturally lead to a deterioration of health conditions in the forecastle. 20 vessels have been fumigated for Bug and Cockroach infestation with Hydrogen Cyanide and Sulphur Dioxide. The latest/how discovered thanks to the urgency of recent years is DDT, which I have no doubt will prove successful in the destruction of domestic parasites etc.

The regular use of insecticides is still urged upon Masters and Officers, more especially when there is only slight infestation, proper precautions taken in time will prevent a lot of trouble and dissatisfaction among crews.

#### TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

Net Tonnage	No.of ships	Afte with	s issu	gation	Aft- er tr-	ifi-	No.of Derat-	Total
		N.	phur	Sul-	apping poiso- hing	To- tal	isati- on Exe mption Certifi- cates is- sued	Certi- ficat- es iss ued.
Ships up to 300 tons		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ships from 301 to 10 Ships " 1001 to 300		2	2	-	-	-	5	-
Ships " 3001 " 1000	00 -	-	-				1	
Ships over 10,000 to				-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.		3	2	_		_	14	19

Number of Rats destroyed during	during	the	year ended	ended	31st	De		1945.		TABLE	EH .	
Number of:-	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	мау.	June.	July.	Auge	Sept. Oct.	Oct.	Nove	Dec.
Rats Rats Rats	4.14	41141	101101	10110	(성: 1년	10110	1 1 1 1 1	01101	12 12 12	18	221122	11111
(2)		Docks,	- Queek	QUEYES Thor 383		and	Warehouses	1868.		TABLE .	;  xj	
Sumber of	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June. July.	July.	Aug.	egeb#.	Oct.	Oct. Nov.	Dec.
Black Rats Brown Rats Species not recorded Examined with Plants	1,191	11111	1112/1	10:141	27	1 1 1 1 1	11100!	13	17	11171	11144	14101
110	Fait	100	ac	Docks		To, Wh		and	Warehouses, during	TABL	duri:	1 1
Jane	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr. May.		June. July.	Aug.	Sept	· Oct.	. AOM	Nov. Dec.	Tota
75	70	3.30	75	00.7	100	65	95	90	100	115	100	1,1
										TABLE	E	
Measures of Res Destruction on infected ports arriving in the	Destruction on		Plagu	e Tin	fecte g the	Plague "infected" or port during the year,	"Suspected" 1945		vessels,	•	or ves	vessels f

I have the honour, to remain, Your Obedient Servant,

A.G. NEWELL. Port Medical Officer of Health.

103

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

Yeer 1945.

196

rom Plague

THE REAL PROPERTY.



