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B O R O U G H O F R Y E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for

1944
1945

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LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE
AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

To the Mayor & Members of the Rye Borough Council:

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my fourth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of the Borough.

By direction of the Ministry of Health (Circular 49/45 of March 19th, 1945) the Report like those for the year 1941 and since is in a slightly shortened form.

For the first time it is possible to tell something of the damage done by the aircraft and flying bombs of the enemy. The tale is impressive and the wonder is that there were not more casualties considering that nearly 300 bombs of various kinds fell within the confines of the Borough.

Apart from war the one matter that was really unsatisfactory was that so few children were immunized against diphtheria.

It was the more disappointing because the Council had been quick to grasp the importance of immunization and directly it was proposed made it free to all who could not afford it privately.

The probable reason why comparatively few parents had, up to the end of 1944, taken advantage of the Council's foresight and public spirit is that mothers cannot spare the time for waiting their turn at the doctor's. There is no doubt that most parents desired this protection for their children.

Though it does not belong strictly to a record for 1944 I am happy to be able to report that clinics at the Junior Council School have since been arranged and that they have been well attended. The local medical men give the injections. Much extra work has been thrown upon the District Nurses Miss M. M. Downey and Miss G. Hunt and the success of the arrangement up to the time of writing is largely due to them.

Scabies has not been eradicated but cases were probably fewer than in 1943.

As noted in my report for 1943 children in need of a change can be sent to Tangle Place, near Guildford.

In 1944 fifty three children were sent. Two or three of these outside but near the Borough.

Again I have to thank the Officers of the Borough and of the County for much help both in compiling this report and in carrying out activities recorded in it.

I am, Mr. Mayor & Councillors,
Your obedient servant,

ALAN MOORE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
The Watch Oak,
Battle.

23rd August, 1945.

Area	1,021 acres
Population by census 1931	3,947
Estimated population in 1944, Registrar General's figure	3,333
Number of inhabited houses, estimated (not including houses occupied by H.M. Forces)	1,284
Number of rateable premises, March 31st, 1944	1,604
Rateable Value	£39,392
Sum represented by a penny rate for the Financial year ending March 31st, 1944	£148.

Occupation and Industry

Shopkeeping

Fishing In 1944, 62 boats worked from the port.
Of these 24 usually berthed at Rye
Harbour in the parish of Icklesham.

General and Structural Engineering

Agriculture

Small ship-building and boat building

The war revived this ancient local industry. During the war various craft were built. Besides the building of 2 lifeboats, 3 keels were laid in 1944.

Land drainage work.

Unemployment

The Labour Exchange reports that unemployment was exceptionally low.

Births

	Registrar General's figures	
	Male	Female
Legitimate	25	29
Illegitimate	1	4
Total	26	33
Live Birth rate per 1,000 of Resident Population	17.70	
Live Birth rate for England and Wales	17.6	

Deaths

Male 32 Female 26 (Registrar General's figures)

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population 17.40

Death Rate of England and Wales 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

Maternal death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total births, excluding abortion 1.53

For 1943 (given in the Annual Report by a misreading as 11.68) 1.84

	M	F
Stillbirths	1	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		
Legitimate	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0
Death rate of Infants per 1,000 live births		Nil
Infant death rate for England & Wales		46

No deaths of children under 2 years of age were caused by diarrhoea.

No deaths were due to measles or whooping cough

Deaths from Cancer

All deaths are included for which any form of carcinoma was mentioned in the Death Certificate. No sarcoma was recorded. The nature of a tumour of the brain was not specified.

Ages	Male	Female
50 - 54	0	1
55 - 64	2	0
65 - 74	(1 tumour)	1
75 & over	3	0

Seat of the disease from the Death Register. The classification in the Registrar's returns is slightly different.

	Male	Female
Alimentary Canal, including the oesophagus but not the mouth	2	1
breast	0	0
lungs or bronchi	1	0
other	2 & 1 doubtful	1

Health Services

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health A. H. Moore, M.B. D.P.H.

The Medical Officer is also M.O.H. of the Battle Rural District and Assistant School Medical Officer under the County Medical Officer of Health for East Sussex.

Surveyor, Town Planning Officer, A. G. J. Cornner,
Slum Clearance Officer, Water M.Inst.M.& C.E., M.R.San.I.
Superintendent & Petroleum
Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector, Meat H. C. Gower, A.R.San.I.
Inspector & Deputy Surveyor.

Civil Defence

Subcontroller and A.R.P. Officer A. G. J. Cornner

First Aid Commandant Nurse Purcell, First Aid
Post, Tower House,
West Street.

First Aid Post at Tower House, West Street, Medical Officer,
Dr. J. L. Hartley.

Mobile First Aid Post, stationed at the East Kent Road Car
Company's Garage, South Undercliff, Medical Officer, Dr.
W. E. Knowles.

The Sub-controller, Mr. A. G. J. Cornner reports the following as directly or indirectly affecting the Borough and due to the action of the enemy from the beginning of the war till November 30th, 1944.

Alerts	1,472 (15 of these were local)
Incidents	38
High explosive bombs	88
Oil Bombs	1
Incendiary bombs (approx)	200
Flying bombs	7, all in 1944
Incidents from machine gun or cannon fire	17
Mines	1 (outside the Borough but causing damage inside)
Other missiles	1

Casualties

Killed	12 (1 in 1944)
Died in Hospital	3
Severely injured	26 (2 in 1944)
Slightly injured	54 (10 in 1944)

Damage to Property

	Dwelling Houses	Other Premises	Totals
1. Totally destroyed	55	9	64
2. Severely damaged but reparable	282	53	335
3. Slightly damaged	924	133	1,057
Many premises under (2) and (3) were damaged several times giving a total of incidents causing damage of	2,536	324	2,860

In addition to incidents within the Borough the Civil Defence General Services of the Borough attended for numerous incidents in or at Playden, Iden, Peasmarsh, Camber, Rye Harbour, Icklesham, Winchelsea and Udimore on approximately 30 occasions and also in the area covered by the above names attended some 9 British aircraft and 2 of the enemy that had crashed.

The services involved were Wardens, Rescue Parties, Ambulance and the First Aid Post.

Many casualties were brought to the Rye First Aid Post and dead to the Rye mortuary.

The Army had several guns and searchlights stations in and around Rye and casualties in them were dealt with.

Repairs

First aid repairs to all premises and permanent repairs to dwelling houses were carried out by the Borough Surveyor mainly by labour from the Rye and Battle Rural District Group.

These repairs were nearly complete by the end of the year.

Legislation in Force

Adoptive Acts and Sections of Acts and Byelaws relating to Public Health in force in the Borough:

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890: adopted 4th September, 1896.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 (Parts II and III): adopted 4th September, 1896.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (Sections 15, 16, 19, 29, 32 and 33 in Part II): adopted 19th Jan'y, 1925.

The Public Health Act 1925: Sections 13 to 19 and 23 to 33 and 35 in Part II: adopted 12th March, 1926.

Byelaws for cleansing footways &c: adopted 11th July, 1871.

Byelaws for dealing with Nuisances: adopted 16th October, 1896

Byelaws for Good Rule and Government: adopted 31st December, 1903.

Byelaws for New Streets and Buildings: adopted 19th June, 1925.

Hospitals

The Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital.

The nearest large general hospital is the Royal East Sussex at Hastings.

For maternity, the Hastings Municipal Hospital and Fern Bank Maternity Home, Old London Road, Hastings.

Patients suffering from notifiable infectious diseases are sent to the Hastings Borough Sanatorium.

Insulin

In July 1943 the Borough Council at the advice of the Finance & Executive Committee resolved that insulin should be supplied at the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health to diabetics who could not afford it or get it through Insurance, the Poor Law or the Education Act. None was so supplied in 1944.

Laboratories

Throat swabs and the like are sent to the Pathological Laboratory of the Royal East Sussex Hospital, Hastings. Sputum is examined for tubercle bacilli at the County Laboratory, Hellingly.

An ambulance, not for infectious patients, is kept at Wright & Pankhurst's Yard in Cinque Ports Street.

Water Supply

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination once a month and for chemical examination once a quarter.

Other samples are taken when advisable.

In 1944 35 bacteriological and 8 chemical samples were taken.

All water supplied to consumers was satisfactory. The water is chlorinated.

55,533,235 gallons were supplied from the Cadborough and Military Road Pumping Stations. Of this amount 5,001,100 gallons were supplied in bulk to the Battle Rural District Council.

Drainage & Sewerage

The automatic ejector stations in 1944 lifted the following amount of sewage.

Station A	817,950 gallons
Station B	3,694,200 gallons
Station C	1,179,450 gallons
Station D	1,527,785 gallons
	7,219,385 gallons

Scavenging

1,451 tons of refuse were dealt with at the fully controlled Refuse Tip in Cadborough Road.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Council. Refuse is removed in a motor-vehicle with a covered metal body to the fully controlled refuse tip in Cadborough Road.

The work is carried out according to the latest instructions of the Ministry of Health and is entirely satisfactory and free from annoyance.

Salvage

<u>Paper</u>	T c q lbs.				T c q lbs.				Sums received		
									£	s.	d
Clean	2	2	2	10					19.	10.	9
Rough	9	15	2	17	11	18	0	27	39.	2.	2
<u>Textiles</u>											
Rags	5	2	3						4.	15.	9
Sacks		1	14		5	3	17				9
<u>Bottles & Jars</u>											
					1	16	0	27	7.	9.	5
<u>Bones</u>											
					9	2	5		1.	13.	6
<u>Total</u>											
					14	9	3	20	72.	12.	4

Public Conveniences

The Council controls the following:

Cinque Ports Street	Men, 3 W.C.s & 3 stall urinal, Women, 4 W.C.s.
Landgate Tower	3 stall urinal
Strand Quay	Men, 3 W.C.s & 3 stall urinal, Women, 4 W.C.s.
Ypres steps	3 stall urinal
Fishmarket	Urinal

The convenience at Battery Gardens was taken over by the Military late in 1942.

Housing

No of new houses built 0

The Borough Surveyor reports,

"There was very little maintenance work carried out during the year to houses owing to the heavy amount of damage caused by enemy action during the year. Over 92% of all property was damaged, much of it several time, and all available building labour was diverted to this work."

General Public Health Work

The Sanitary Inspector reports:

15 complaints of nuisances were investigated and the defects found were remedied.

Cowsheds, dairies, bakehouses etc. were periodically inspected.

No slaughter houses were in use during the year.

5 complaints of vermin other than bed bugs were dealt with.

10 houses were disinfected on account of infectious disease.

Milk

Licences taken out in 1944

Supplementary Dealers Licence for "Tuberculin Tested" milk	1
Supplementary Dealers Licence for "Accredited" milk	1
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

Food inspection

No slaughtering was carried out at Rye during the year. Home killed butcher's meat is inspected at the place of slaughter.

Fish brought into Rye from fishing boats operating in Rye Bay was inspected at the distributing station.

Food condemned

Tinned meat	91 lbs.	Eggs	16 eggs
Tinned fish	32 tins	+ Sugar	10 lbs.
Wet fish	199 lbs.	Tea	3 lbs.
Shell fish	69 lbs.	Biscuits	16 lbs.
Tinned fruit, jam, vegetables & soup	105 tins	Flour	6 lbs.
Tinned milk	32 tins	+ Dripping	56 lbs.
Cheese	2 lbs.	Fruit pies & pastry	236 lbs.
Bacon & ham	67 lbs.	Sundries	29 lbs.
Liver	25 lbs.		

The above includes food supplied by N.A.A.F.I.

+ Damaged by enemy action.

Notified Illness

Diseases, other than tuberculosis, in civilians notified in 1944.

Disease	Cases notified	Sent to Hospital	Deaths of notified patients
scarlet fever	4	4	0
measles	1	0	0
pneumonia	1	0	0
erysipelas	1	0	0

A patient, aged 19, believed to have scarlet fever, not included above, was found in hospital to have rubella.

Ages of notified patients

scarlet fever	3, 7, 7, 9.
measles	2.
pneumonia	43.
erysipelas	45.

Schools

Rye Junior School accommodating senior and junior children was open.

The Senior School ceased to be used as a school in July, 1940.

Rye Grammar School moved to Bedford in July, 1940.

Diphtheria Immunization

The inoculations are free. Medical men are paid a fee of 2/6 for each injection.

In 1944 six children all under 5 completed course of immunization. It was calculated that by December 31st only 23.79% of children under five and 50.83% of those from 5 to 14 inclusive had received the necessary inoculations.

The County pays half the cost of immunizing children under 5.

Schick-testing is not provided.

It has been found advisable to give children inoculated in early years a third injection when they are 5.

A return has to be sent to the Ministry of Health every six months giving the estimated number of children under 5 and of those between 5 and 15 with the percentage of those considered to be immunized in each group.

The return for the first six months was very inaccurate owing to the late receipt of information of inoculations.

The Registrar General later supplied an estimate of the number of children in the two groups.

For the first 6 months of 1944 the numbers were:

Children under 5	267	Children 5 - 15	449
Number immunized then or before	65	Number immunized	212
Percentage immunized	24.34	Percentage immunized	44.98

For the second six months the return made to the Ministry was derived from the following.

Estimated number of children under 5 (not the Registrar General's estimate)	290	Children 5 to 15 (not the Registrar General's estimate)	417
Number immunized, then and before	69	Number immunized - (none known during the 6 months)	212
Percentage immunized	23.79	Percentage immunized	50.83

Tuberculosis

No action was required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 or under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations.

Cases on Register 31st Dec. 1944

Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
males	females	males	females
13+	5	2	2

+ actually 14 but 1 should have been removed.

Cases notified for the first time

Age Groups	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
5 - 14			1	
15 - 24	1			
25 - 34	1			
35 - 44		1		
45 - 54	1			
55 - 64	2			

Deaths

Age Groups	Respiratory Male
15 - 24	1
55 - 64	1

One of the patients who died had been invalided from the Royal Navy in 1942. The other had been at the County Hospital, Hellingly for 10 years.

T H E E N D.



