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**BOROUGH OF TORQUAY**

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**Torquay Riparian Authority**

**REPORT 1937**

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(The work in connection with Port Health Administration is carried out by the above members of the Public Health Staff, in the course of the general Public Health Administration of the Borough).

## BOROUGH OF TORQUAY.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1937.

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1937, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health contained in Memorandum 204/S.A.

**I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT  
DURING THE YEAR.**

TABLE A.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
Foreign—							
Steamers ..	12	15185	4	3	—	—	—
Motors ..	34	7812	1	37	—	—	—
Sailing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	35	490	—	12	—	—	—
Total ..	81	23487	5	52	—	—	—
Coastwise—							
Steamers ..	155	29563	2	60	—	—	—
Motor ..	835	33552	5	38	—	—	1
Sailing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing ..	730	3595	—	14	—	—	—
Total ..	1720	66710	7	112	—	—	1
Total—Foreign and Coastwise ..	1801	90197	12	164	—	—	1



## II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) *Passenger Traffic during the year.*

This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

No. of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards ..	—	—	—	—
Outwards ..	—	—	—	—

*Tourist Traffic.* During the year there were 6952 inward passengers and 6509 outward passengers on tourist trips, chiefly short journeys to the Dart or along the coast to Exmouth, Weymouth, etc. It also includes some passengers who landed for a few hours from two or three liners on tour calling in Torbay.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*

*Principal Imports.* Coal, cement, timber and general.

*Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.* Baltic Ports, Ghent, Roscoff, Delfzyl and St. Malo.

## III. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) *Source of Supply for (a) the Port (b) Shipping.*

The town supply drawn direct from the main is the source of supply used.

(2) *Hydrants and Hosepipes. What precautions are taken against Contamination?*

These are flushed prior to use and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

(3) *Number of water boats and their sanitary condition.*

There are no water boats.

#### IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

(1) *Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.*

Declarations of Health in the approved form are completed by the Master of the Vessel and handed to the Customs Official who, should occasion require it, communicates immediately with the Medical Officer of Health.

(2) *Boarding of vessels on arrival.*

All foreign and coastwise vessels are boarded and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and by the Medical Officer of Health if required; and a few vessels are inspected by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy as a routine.

(3) *Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention (wireless messages, land signal stations, information from Pilots, Custom Officers, etc.)*

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of wireless messages if required. None were received in 1937.

(4) *Mooring stations designated under Article 10.*

- (a) Within the docks.
- (b) Outside the docks.

In March, 1934, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise formally agreed to the establishment under Article 10 of a mooring station for ships arriving at Torquay between Buoys No. 11 and No. 19 in the Outer Harbour. The agreement is subject to the understanding that the mooring place referred to is for all ships unhealthy under the Regulations, that a standing exemption under Article 14 has been granted and that the Local Health Authority will meet the cost of conveying Customs Officers when boarding ships detained at the Mooring Station.

(5) *Particulars of standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.*

A standing exemption under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of ships with infectious diseases other than cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever, smallpox and chicken-pox on board, and ships otherwise clean arriving from ports in areas listed under Article 11.



(6) *Experience of working Article 16.*

There has been no experience of this during 1937.

(7) *What, if any, arrangements have been made for :—*(a) *Premises and waiting rooms for medical examinations.*

There are no premises specially designated for medical examinations, but there is an office at the harbour where such examinations may be made.

(b) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing and other articles.*

The Authority is not competent to undertake the disinfection of ships which, when occasion arises, are referred to Plymouth for this purpose.

The cleansing of persons and the disinfection of clothing and other articles can be undertaken at the Isolation Hospital.

(c) *Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons for whom such accommodation is required for the purposes of the Regulations.*

No special premises have been designated for the temporary accommodation of persons, but should this become necessary, it might be provided at one of the Hospitals in the area.

(d) *Hospital accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox and other infectious diseases.*

For smallpox cases the County Council have a central institution at Upton Pine, near Exeter. No special hospital accommodation is available for plague, cholera or yellow fever, except such as the Torquay Isolation Hospital could provide. There is a small special hospital at Dartmouth where cases might be sent by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health. Other infectious diseases would be dealt with at the Isolation Hospital.

(e) *Ambulance Transport.*

An adequate and efficient ambulance service is available with four motor ambulances for infectious and non-infectious cases.

(f) *Supervision of Contacts.*

This would be undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health, his Deputy, or by the Sanitary Inspector, according to the requirements of the particular case.

(8) *Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rats for plague.*

No formal arrangements have been made, but the required examination would be carried out at the County Laboratories, Exeter (administered by the County Council).

(9) *Arrangements for other bacteriological or pathological examinations.*

Examinations under this heading would be made either at the Town Hall Laboratory, Torquay, or at the County Laboratory, Exeter. Special examinations (such as for leptospirosis, etc.) would be made at the Wellcome Research Bureau, London.

(10) *Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among sailors under international arrangements.*

A venereal disease clinic is held at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, where provision is made for diagnosis and treatment; in addition to the special clinics daily treatment is arranged for those cases needing it. The personnel of all ships are circulated with leaflets informing them of these facilities: and the booklet "A Doctor Speaks to Seamen" has also been distributed.

(11) *Arrangements for the interment of dead.*

There is a recently built and adequately equipped mortuary for infectious and non-infectious cases; and when built accommodation was provided in excess of that ordinarily anticipated, so that it would possibly meet the needs of any mishap by sea or on shore. The nearest crematorium is at Plymouth; but there was no death at the port in 1937.



**TABLE C.**

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Measles ..	1	—	1	0.2

**TABLE D.**

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during the year		No. of Vessels concerned	Average No. of Cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
—	—	—	—	—

No cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever, smallpox or typhus fever occurred on any vessel using the port, and no plague-infested rats were discovered.

## V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

### (1) *Steps taken for detection of rodent plague.*

#### (a) *In ships in the port.*

Enquiries are made from all Masters of Vessels using the port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is extremely uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

#### (b) *On quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.*

Regular inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Ratcatcher, and any unusual signs are notified to the Medical Officer.

(2) *Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.*

Notice is given to each Master who must adopt these precautions in order to prevent the passage of rats between the ships and the shore, and in addition two notice boards have been placed on the quay; protectors must be fitted on hawsers (or hawsers to be frapped with canvas and freshly tarred each night to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector), and gangways must be removed at night.

(3) *Methods of deratisation of*

(a) *Ships.*

Any ship requiring deratisation is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel would be notified.

(b) *Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays.*

These premises are inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector and baits laid down, if required.

(4) *Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.*

Systematic inspections are made, with special reference to the presence of rat excreta, rat runs, damage to food-stuffs, etc.

(5) *Rat-proofing.*

(a) *To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat proof.*

The quays are of cement and there are concrete walls, with sheet zinc extensions below ground.

(b) *Action taken to extend rat-proofing.*

(i) *In ships.*

Masters are advised and regularly reminded of the necessity for storing food in containers which are rat-proof, and of the necessity for avoiding any collection of food refuse, etc., which might attract rats.



(ii) *On shore.*

The quays are of good construction, but emphasis is laid on adequate cleanliness and the avoidance of any accumulation of foodstuffs for rats. Where foodstuff is temporarily stored on the quays, it is placed in buildings which are rat-proof.

## RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE E.

## (1) On Vessels

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in year
Black .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Brown .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Species not recorded	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Examined .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Infected with plague	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

TABLE F.

## (2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses

Number of Rats	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total in year
Black .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Brown .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Species not recorded	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Examined .. .. .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Infected with plague	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the Port during the year.

(1) Total number of such Vessels arriving	—
(2) Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub>	—
(3) Number of Rats killed	—
(4) Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	—
(5) Number of Rats killed	—
(6) Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, etc., were employed	—
(7) Number of Rats killed	—
(8) Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out.	—

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This table does not apply, as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926.

## VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances

Nationality of Vessels	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British ..	112	—	—	—
Other Nations ..	48	—	—	—

## VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

- (1) *Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.*

No samples were taken; there is no importation of food, except a few cargoes of potatoes and onions from France.

During the year no food (including fish) was condemned or surrendered.

- (2) *Shell Fish.*

*Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the P.H.A. stating whether they are in the opinion of the Medical Officer liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.*

There are no oyster or mussel beds within the jurisdiction of the Authority, and no action was taken under the above-mentioned Regulations or Act.



Some lobsters and crabs are caught locally by Torquay and Brixham boats; but there is no evidence to suggest that they are liable to pollution.

*Any available information on the following points:—*

- (i) *The places to which shell-fish taken from layings in the district are sent to be marketed.*

There are no shell-fish layings in the area.

- (ii) *The layings from which shell-fish (specifying the kinds of shell-fish) which may be marketed in the district, are derived.*

Lobsters and crabs are caught locally, and are disposed of in the district; small shell-fish such as oysters, cockles, winkles, etc., come by train from the London markets.

(3) *Number of Samples of Food examined by:—*

(a) *Bacteriologist.*

(b) *Analyst.*

No samples were taken for examination under either heading.