

[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Contributors

Weymouth (Dorset, England). Port Health Authority.

Publication/Creation

1940

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wrj36hpr>

License and attribution

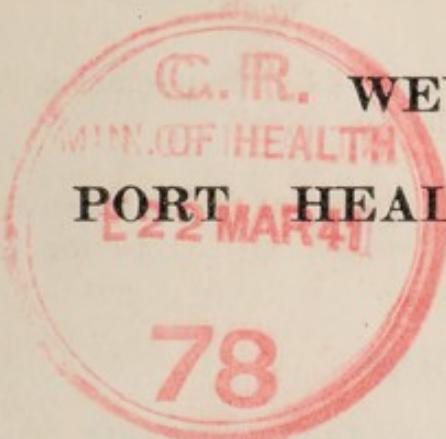
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. 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.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

**WEYMOUTH
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.**

78



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

FOR YEAR ENDING

31st December, 1940.




BY

M. J. SAUNDERS, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.I.,

Medical Officer,

Weymouth Port Health Authority.



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

<https://archive.org/details/b30268862>

WEYMOUTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Weymouth Port Health
Authority.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit by Annual Report of the operations of the Weymouth Port Health Authority for the year 1940.

Owing to the present emergency, instructions were issued by the Minister of Health on 11th January, 1940 (Circular 1937) that having regard to the desirability of reducing the number of records to be kept and avoiding as far as possible the disclosure of information relating to the movements of ships, the requirements set out in Memo. 204/S.A. with regard to the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be modified, and any permanent arrangements which have been fully described in previous Annual Reports, and have not been altered, may be omitted from the Report for 1939. The Minister also suggests that the Report should not be published, a small number of copies being reproduced for the necessary minimum circulation to the Authority and their Officers and to the Ministry.

With regard to my Report for 1940, the Minister of Health has issued instructions (Circular 2288) that it be prepared on similar lines to that of the 1939 Report, and in view of these requirements it will be found, as compared with Reports prior to 1939, that the various tables have been considerably altered, and that the bulk of the letterpress has been omitted.

I would like to express to the Chairman and Members of the Authority my appreciation of their courtesy and consideration during the year, and I am greatly indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. H. Smith, for his help in compiling this Report, and for the very efficient way in which he carried out his duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. J. SAUNDERS,

Port Medical Officer.

6th March, 1941.

Constitution of Port Health Authority.

The Port was permanently constituted a Port Sanitary District by the Local Government Board on October 1st, 1897.

The Weymouth Port Health Authority consists of fourteen members chosen by the respective riparian Authorities from among the members of their own bodies, as follows, namely:—

Seven by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.

Four by the Urban District Council of Portland.

Two by the Rural District Council of Dorchester.

One by the Rural District Council of Wareham and Purbeck.

Limits of Jurisdiction.

“ A line drawn due South from the seaward extremity of the common boundary of the parishes of Puncknowle and

Abbotsbury to the nearest point in the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth, a line drawn from such last-mentioned point and thereafter following the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth to the point at which the said boundary is intersected by a line coincident with the common boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth and Poole, and a line drawn from such last-mentioned point, and thereafter following the common boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth and Poole to its termination at St. Alban's Head in the parish of Worth Matravers; together with the waters of the said Port of Weymouth within such limits, and all docks, basins, harbours, creeks, channels, roads, bays, and streams within the aforesaid limits, and the place or places which may from time to time be appointed as the Customs boarding station or stations for such part of the said port, and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port, under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the authority of the Statute in that behalf, and for the purposes of any such regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or shall be on its way hither."

Apportionment of Expenses.

The Town Council of the Borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis and the Urban District Council of Portland each contribute according to the full rateable value of their districts. The Councils of the Rural Districts of Wareham and Purbeck and Dorchester contribute according to one-half the rateable value of their riparian parishes.

TABLE A.**1.—Ships inspected in the Port during the year 1940.**

By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector.	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.
133	550	103	24	28

TABLE B.**II.—Omitted during present emergency.**

Imports and Exports as in previous years.

III.—Source of Water Supply.

A motor water boat supplies water to most of the merchant shipping. The vessel is fitted with four tanks, each of 40 tons capacity. The tanks are filled from a hydrant at Weymouth Quay.

IV.—Port Health Regulations, 1933.

A description of the application of these Regulations is omitted, but they are fully dealt with in my Report for 1938. The only important alteration concerns arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases amongst sailors. In this connection a new V.D. Clinic was opened in Weymouth in 1939, and offers improved facilities for the treatment of seamen.

TABLE C.**Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.**

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year.		Number of Vessels concerned.	
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Scabies	—	2		2
Measles	—	2		1
Malaria	—	3		2
Mumps	—	1		1
Tuberculosis	1	—		1
Yellow Fever	—	1		1

TABLE D.

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

Disease.	Number of Cases during the year.		Number of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Influenza	—	8	4
Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Paratyphus	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	2	2
Dysentery	—	2	2
Malaria	1	13	9

V.—Measures Against Rodents.

These have been fully described in previous Reports.

Rats destroyed during the year.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats destroyed.	Number examined.	Infected with Plague.
193	—	—

TABLE F.

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

Number of Rats destroyed.	Number examined.	Infected with Plague.
361	6	—

TABLE G.

Not applicable for the year 1940.

TABLE H.

**Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption
Certificates issued during the year.**

Number of Ships.	Number of Deratisation Certificates issued					Total Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
	After fumigation with H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. & Sulphur	After trapping, poisoning, etc.	Total		
3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	3

VI.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construc- tion.	Structural defects through wear & tear.	Dirt, Vermin & other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	339	—	85	247
Other Nations	211	—	16	23
Totals	550	—	101	270

VII.—Food Inspection.

(1) Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations.

The following table supplied by the Food Inspector shows the quantities of foods detained as unsound, and the action taken during the year:—

Foods.	Quantities.	Dates Detained.	Action taken.	
Tomatoes	89 lbs.	19.4.40	Surrendered and destroyed	24.4.40
Bacon	50½ lbs.	18.5.40	Surrendered and destroyed	22.5.40
Bacon	57½ lbs.	18.5.40	Surrendered and destroyed	22.5.40
Bananas	35 tons	22.5.40	Consignment sorted, and 16 tons 3 grs. and 10 lbs. surrendered and destroyed	22.5.40

Weight of unsound foods, surrendered and destroyed during 1940:—16 tns 2 cwts. 2 grs. 11 lbs.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939. Action taken under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, continued to be the same as in previous years.

Weymouth Port Health Authority.

Portland Harbour,

Dorset,

January 15th, 1941.

To Dr. M. J. Saunders,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the requirements of Art. XXVII. (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, of the Ministry of Health, I herewith submit particulars of my work, during 1940, as Port Health and Food Inspector, to the Weymouth Port Health Authority.

176 ships were examined at Weymouth, and 374 at Portland, making a total of 550 during the year.

Defective or insanitary conditions were found in 103 of the vessels dealt with, and in 24 of these I was able to ascertain, by subsequent inspections, that the work required had been satisfactorily carried out.

Nature of Inspections made during the year 1940.

Total Number of Vessels Inspected...	550
Re-inspections after the giving of Notices...	19
Inspections of Coal Hulks ...	3
Inspections of Water Boats ...	2
Visits and Re-visits to Ships discharging Food Cargoes...	81
Visits in connection with the Deratisation of Ships, under the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933 ...	458
Total	1113

Number and Results of Notices Served.

The following table shews the number of notices served during the year, and the number which I have found, from subsequent examinations, to have been satisfactorily complied with:—

	Notices served.	Notices complied with.
Informal ...	103	24
Statutory ...	0	0

65 of the nuisances dealt with in previous Annual Reports were found to have been satisfactorily abated, at visits to the Port, of the ships concerned, during 1940.

Food Inspection.

72 visits, and 9 re-visits, were made to ships discharging food cargoes, during the year. Four consignments of food were dealt with as unsound, and in three cases these were surrendered and destroyed. The fourth consignment, consisting of 35 tons of Canary Islands bananas, was detained and sorted. 16 tons 3 qrs. and 10 lbs. of the bananas were found to be unsound, and these were surrendered and destroyed. A list of the foods dealt with is included in the Report.

During 1940, the imports of fruits and vegetables comprised the following packages and weights:—Tomatoes, 1,152,500 packages (7,203 tons); fruits and vegetables, 25,047 packages (157 tons); potatoes, 85,915 packages (4,373 tons).

In addition, 392 tons of flour, and 17,161 packages of general food stuffs were discharged here.

In conclusion, I wish to again express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority for the support and consideration which I have received from them during the year. Also to the Officers of H.M. Customs and Excise, and the Shipping Agents, for their assistance, which has, at all times, been so willingly accorded to me.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. SMITH,

Port Health and Food Inspector.