

[Report 1955] / Medical Officer of Health, Workington Port Health District.

Contributors

Workington (England). Port Health District.

Publication/Creation

1955

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**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT
OF WORKINGTON**



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
PORT MEDICAL OFFICER
For the Year 1955

BY
JAMES L. HUNTER,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Workington,
February, 1956.*

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT
OF WORKINGTON**

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THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD.

MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR J. R. DAVIS

(Workington Borough)

COUNCILLOR E. BARRACLOUGH *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. J. CORLETT *(Workington Borough)*

„ A. H. DUNN *(Workington Borough)*

„ J. FISHER *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ A. HALL *(Cockermouth R.D.C.)*

„ H. H. McMANUS *(Workington Borough).*

„ J. C. MOORE *(Workington Borough)*

„ W. ROE *(Ennerdale R.D.C.)*

ALDERMAN S. WALKER *(Workington Borough)*

TOWN HALL,
WORKINGTON,
February, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Workington Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the year 1955 has been prepared in the form and sequence required by the Ministry of Health Form Port 20 dated October, 1952.

SECTION 1—STAFF.

TABLE A.

<i>Name of Officer.</i>	<i>Nature of Appointment.</i>	<i>Date of Appointment.</i>	<i>Qualifications.</i>	<i>Any other Appointments held.</i>
Russell C. Pharaoh.	Clerk.	October, 1953.	Solicitor.	Town Clerk, Borough of Workington.
James L. Hunter.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	July, 1950.	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Workington. Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Cumberland County Council.
Ronald E. Fletcher.	Deputy Port Medical Officer.	October, 1941.	M.B., Ch.B.	Private Practitioner.
Richard James.	Port Health Inspector.	February, 1933.	Cert. R.S.I. and S.I. Joint Board. Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods.	Chief Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Workington.
Charles E. Pearson.	Assistant Port Health Inspector.	November, 1948.	Cert. R.S.I. and S.I. Joint Board.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Workington.

Address and Telephone Number of the
Medical Officer of Health:—PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
TOWN HALL, WORKINGTON.
PHONE: WORKINGTON 85.

SECTION II.
SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

<i>Ships from.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number Inspected.</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health.</i>	<i>By the Port Health Inspector.</i>	
Foreign Ports	133	240,400	12	124	1
Coastwise	445	114,741	Nil	289	
Total	578	355,141	12	413	1 Diagnosis not confirmed.

SECTION III.
CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE
DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic.

Number of passengers INWARDS	21
Number of passengers OUTWARDS ...	—

Cargo Traffic.

Imports amounted to 699,550 tons as compared with 714,715 tons during the previous year. Iron ore (including manganese ore) was again the chief import, viz:—

Iron and Manganese Ores	621,145 tons
Coking Coal	48,410 tons
Petrol	22,901 tons
Bricks and Ganister	2,842 tons
Ingot Moulds	2,541 tons
Spent Oxide	1,434 tons
Miscellaneous	277 tons

Exports amounted to 149,132 tons as compared with 135,766 tons in 1954, viz:—

Coal	23,972 tons
Steel	87,039 tons
Pig Iron	8,761 tons
Tar	6,790 tons
Ingot Moulds	4,651 tons
Coke	10,978 tons

Spent Oxide	188 tons
Pitch	5,941 tons
General Cargo	812 tons

Principal Ports from which Ships arrived.

India.	Vizagapatam, Bombay.
Sweden.	Lulea, Vasteras, Oxelosund.
Algeria.	Bona, Bougie, Algiers, Philippeville.
Spain.	Almeria, Seville.
Norway.	Kirkenes, Narvik.
Spanish North Africa.	Melilla, Casablanca.
Holland.	Buncrani, Ymuiden.
Egypt (Red Sea).	Abu-Zenina.
Portugal.	Setubal.
Russia (Black Sea).	Poti.
Gold Coast.	Takoradi.

Also numerous ports in England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic.

SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY.

The Port receives the same water supply as the Borough of Workington, and vessels are supplied from hydrants situated on the dockside. The source of supply is from Crummock Lake which has a gathering area of 25 square miles.

The character of the water is 1.4 degrees of hardness and is of exceptional purity, proved by chemical and bacteriological examination several times during the year. Treatment of the water is by chlorination and de-incrustation.

Every precaution is taken by the Dock Engineer against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes, and regular flushing is carried out.

No water boats are used.

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels as to the source of the existing water supplies and the frequency of cleaning out of water tanks.

Four samples of water taken from foreign-going ships were declared unsatisfactory by the Bacteriologist, being suspicious of faecal contamination. The water tanks of the vessels concerned were cleaned out.

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS)

REGULATIONS, 1952.

List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6). The Pilots and H.M. Customs are supplied with up-to-date lists of Ports and other areas which are infected or believed to be infected with quarantinable diseases. These lists are prepared from the weekly information supplied by the Ministry of Health.

Radio Messages. In accordance with Regulations 13 and 14 (1a and 2), the Dock Office of the Workington Harbour and Dock Board deal with this matter and pass on any information.

Notifications otherwise than by radio. When ships are not equipped with suitable radio transmitting apparatus (Regulation 14 (1) (b)) messages are transmitted via the Pilots meeting the vessel off the Port.

Mooring Stations (Regulations 22 to 30). The arrangements made under the old Regulations still apply in respect of mooring stations for infected or suspected ships i.e., Workington Roads off entrance to the Port; breasted off the Quay at the place of mooring, discharge or loading; or the allotted berth in the Prince of Wales Dock.

The Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox) is at the Galemire Hospital, Cleator Moor, and Crozier Lodge, Carlisle.

Surveillance and follow up of contacts. When the occasion arises daily visits are made to the vessel concerned. When members of the crew have left vessels, notifications are forwarded to the Medical Officers of the districts concerned.

Disinfection of ships and articles is carried out by Port Health Officers. Articles for steam disinfection, and person requiring cleansing, are dealt with at one of the Hospitals.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX.

Cases of smallpox would be sent to the Fairhill Isolation Hospital, Penrith.

Transporting cases to Hospital would be dealt with by the Cumberland County Council. The vaccinal state of the ambulance crews is satisfactory and under constant review.

The Smallpox Consultant locally is Dr. J. Simpson, Medical Specialist, Workington Infirmary (Telephone No. Workington 777). Other Bacteriologists or Consultants available would probably be Dr. J. S. Faulds and Dr. D. G. Davies at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle (Telephone No. Carlisle 22332). Outside the County the services of Dr. Wilson Minies, Deputy County Medical Officer, Northumberland, and Dr. James Grant, Medical Officer of Health, Gateshead, might also be available.

Laboratory diagnostic facilities. These are available through the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, under the direction of Dr. D. G. Davies.

SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE.

Seamen suffering from Venereal Disease can receive free confidential treatment from a Local Medical Practitioner appointed by the Regional Hospitals Board. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. daily excepting Sundays, and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily excepting Sundays and Thursdays.

Treatment can also be obtained at the Whitehaven Infirmary, and the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

Routine enquiries are made on all vessels and information cards are left.

During the year 17 seamen (10 foreign, 7 British) received treatment.

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ships.	—	—	—	—

On fourteen vessels cases of sickness or injuries were reported upon docking, but all proved of a non-infectious character, viz:—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Complaint.</i>	<i>Treatment.</i>
British.	Cerebral Haemorrhage.	Removed to Hospital.
British.	Heart Trouble.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Heart Trouble.	Returned Home.
British.	Severe Haemorrhage of Nose.	Removed to Hospital.
Swedish.	Skin Disease.	Local Medical Practitioner.
Italian.	Diphtheria (?)	Removed to Hospital. Diagnosis not confirmed.
Swedish.	Renal Calculus.	Removed to Hospital.
Chinese.	Abscesses.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Injury.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Injury.	Removed to Hospital.
Dutch.	Influenza.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Influenza.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Gastritis.	Local Medical Practitioner.
British.	Appendicitis.	Removed to Hospital.

In addition the Master of a British vessel from Almeria reported having put ashore during the voyage a cabin boy suffering from Poliomyelitis. The crew were kept under observation during the vessel's stay in Workington. Subsequent enquiries showed the diagnosis was not confirmed.

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCES OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

No case of Malaria has been reported during the year.

All foreign-going vessels carry Paludrine and other anti-malarial drugs, and regular doses are issued to the crew prior to reaching known mosquito-infested areas.

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

There has been no occasion to take action under this Section.

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

A thorough inspection is made of all vessels for the presence of rats. Stores and equipment are turned. Test baits and traps are laid, and rat guards are available.

Rats for plague examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Carlisle. During the year three specimens were sent and were declared negative.

The carrying of mineral cargoes considerably minimises the risk of rat infestation. Because of the rigid inspections that are now carried out together with the necessity to hold Deratting Certificates it is not surprising to learn that the majority of ships are rat free.

The dockside and buildings have also received periodical attention during the year. Two minor infestations were rectified.

Workington is an approved Port for the issue of Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates. A commercial contractor (The Hivey Fumigation Co., Ltd., Liverpool) is engaged when vessels are required to be treated with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas.

During the year the Masters of four vessels were requested to carry out rat-proofing works.

TABLE E.
RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN
SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

<i>Category.</i>	<i>Number.</i>
Black rats	17
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	3
Infected with plague	Nil

TABLE F.
DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION
CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS
FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued.					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
After fumigation with						
H.C.N.	Other fumigant.	After Trapping.	After Poisoning.	Total.		
—	—	—	—	—	20	20

In addition 28 Rodent Control Certificates were issued in accordance with the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

<i>Nature and Number of Inspections.</i>		<i>Notices served.</i>		<i>Result of serving Notices.</i>
		<i>Statutory Notices.</i>	<i>Other Notices.</i>	
British	293	Nil	34	1 vessel proceeding to dry dock. 2 vessels attention next port. Remainder carried out.
Foreign	120	Nil	21	3 vessels next port. Remainder carried out.
Total	413	Nil	55	

The 55 notices served cover the following defects, nuisances or conditions prejudicial to health:—

	<i>British.</i>	<i>Other Nationalities.</i>
Water tanks to clean	2	2
Leaking overhead decks	3	—
Vegetable lockers to protect and repair	2	3
Rat proofing work	1	3
Choked and/or dirty waterclosets	10	9
Vermin	1	1
Leaking steam pipes or radiators	21	2
Choked scuppers and sinks	10	3
Dirty crews' quarters	4	2
Dirty messrooms	6	2
Dirty beds and bedding	4	1
Dirty pantries, galleys or storerooms	1	2
Defective ventilators	2	2
Defective ports	2	3
	—	—
	69	35

The number of vessels entering the Port during 1955 increased by 87 as compared with the previous year. The dock gates were removed for repair on the 21st June and were replaced on the 10th July. During that time no large vessels entered the dock.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Total Net Tonnage.</i>
1951	445	271,770
1952	491	320,710
1953	533	344,134
1954	504	391,962
1955	578	355,141

The nationalities of the vessels entering the Port were:—

British	457
Dutch	34
Swedish	31
Costa Rican	19
Norwegian	17
French	9
Finnish	3
Spanish	2
Italian	2
Panamanian	1
German	1
Israeli	1
Liberian	1
	<hr/> 578 <hr/>

SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The Port is not approved for the landing of Aliens.

SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS.

There have been no deaths on board ships during the year. In the event of a death, co-operation with the Shipping Agent would take place. Past arrangements have always worked satisfactory.

One notice was served upon the Parrots and Miscellaneous Birds (Prohibition of Importation) Order, 1953.

The various Regulations continue to work smoothly and there has been no prosecution during the year.

The foreshore under the Authority's jurisdiction has been periodically inspected. The carcasses of 3 sheep and 1 porpoise which had been washed up were removed and destroyed.

In conclusion, I must again thank the Staff of the Port Health Authority for the assistance rendered during the past year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. HUNTER, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Port Medical Officer.



