

3.4. Cases of Industrial Disease among workforce of the Fife Coal Company, 1936-1945.

Note: Beat hand and knee, in addition to nystagmus, came within the scope of the Workmen's Compensation legislation by an Act passed in 1906. The understanding of silicosis and pneumoconiosis developed during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s so that those diseases were gradually brought within the scope of the compensation system during those decades and there were numerous changes to the rights of sufferers to compensation. These factors would have had a significant influence on the extent to which the Fife Coal Company recorded instances of these diseases.

Number of Cases of Industrial Disease

Year	'Beat' (Hand or Knee)	Dermatitis	Nystagmus	Silicosis and Pneumoconiosis	Total No. of Cases
1931	144	-	-	-	144
1932	143	-	-	-	143
1933	133	-	-	-	133
1934	131	-	-	-	131
1935	112	2	-	-	114
1936	89	-	-	-	89
1937	72	2	1	-	75
1938	66	9	-	-	75
1939	43	4	-	-	47
1940	56	7	-	1	64
1941	60	6	-	-	66
1942	59	5	-	2	66
1943	66	7	1	-	74
1944	73	12	-	6	91
1945	66	12	1	3	82

Source: National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh, CB3/134, J. N. Williamson, *Ten Years of Safety Work in a Scottish Colliery Group. The Safety Records of the Fife Coal Company Limited 1936 – 1945* (1946).