**2.10. Fife Coal Company safety and accident statistics, 1936-45.**

Comparison of Frequency and Severity of Injuries to Hands etc, with 1931 Statistics as Basis

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Total Number of Hand, Head, Feet and Eye Injuries and ‘Beat’ cases (a) | Percentage Reduction in Frequency | Total time Lost Due to (a) (weeks) | Percentage Reduction in Time Lost |
| 1931 | 959 | - | 4635 | - |
| 1939 | 203 | 78.8 | 928 | 80 |
| 1945 | 417 | 56.5 | 1918 | 58.6 |

Injuries to Hands, Heads, Feet and Eyes and ‘Beat’ Cases per 100,000 Manshifts Worked

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hands | Heads | Feet | Eyes | ‘Beat Hand’ | ‘Beat Knee’ |
| All Fife Coal Co. Collieries 1939 | 2.75 | 0.80 | 1.99 | 0.57 | 0.45 | 1.18 |
| All British Mines 1938 | 20.42 | 3.99 | 7.23 | 3.25 | 0.49 | 2.18 |

Injuries to Boys Under 16 Years of Age

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year |

|  |
| --- |
| No. Employed |
| Surface | Underground |

 | % of Total Colliery Personnel |

|  |
| --- |
| No. of Injured and off work for 3 days or more |
| Surface | Underground |

 | Average Time Lost per Injury (weeks) |

|  |
| --- |
| % of Boys under 16 years injured and off work for 3 days or more |
| All British Mines | Fife Coal Co. Ltd. |
| Surface | Underground | Surface | Underground |

 |
| 1931 | 219 | - | 2.14 | 34 | - | 4.8 |  |  | 15.5 | - |
| 1932 | 225 | - | 2.51 | 19 | - | 7.3 |  |  | 8.4 | - |
| 1933 | 210 | - | 2.55 | 21 | - | 5.0 |  |  | 10.0 | - |
| 1934 | 205 | 10 | 2.53 | 17 | 1 | 5.3 |  |  | 8.3 | 10.0 |
| 1935 | 180 | 35 | 2.53 | 20 | 2 | 5.5 | 9.7 | 25.4 | 11.1 | 5.7 |
| 1936 | 188 | 34 | 2.49 | 9 | - | 6.0 | 10.1 | 27.9 | 4.9 | - |
| 1937 | 212 | 18 | 2.51 | 13 | - | 3.6 | 10.5 | 28.1 | 6.1 | - |
| 1938 | 248 | 12 | 2.71 | 3 | - | 7.3 | 10.2 | 24.7 | 1.2 | - |
| 1939 | 267 | 15 | 3.29 | 3 | - | 6.5 | 10.2 | 23.3 | 1.1 | - |
| 1940 | 296 | 16 | 3.68 | 6 | 1 | 5.5 | 12.5 | 27.0 | 2.0 | 6.2 |
| 1941 | 253 | 32 | 3.56 | 9 | 2 | 6.5 | 15.4 | 34.1 | 3.8 | 6.2 |
| 1942 | 245 | 30 | 3.22 | 12 | 2 | 5.5 | 16.3 | 34.1 | 4.9 | 6.7 |
| 1943 | 208 | 27 | 2.88 | 12 | 1 | 7.3 | 16.5 | 33.8 | 5.8 | 3.7 |
| 1944 | 125 | 28 | 1.79 | 9 | 1 | 8.0 | 17.0 | 37.7 | 7.2 | 3.6 |
| 1945 | 155 | 19 | 2.14 | 4 | - | 8.6 |  |  | 2.6 |  |

Frequency and Severity of Injuries to Hands, Heads, Feet and Eyes and cases of ‘Beat’ Hand and Beat’ Knee

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Hand Injuries (a) | Head Injuries (b) | Foot Injuries (c) | Eye injuries (d)  | ‘Beat’ Hands’ (e) | ‘Beat’ Knees (f) |
|  | No. | Total Time lost (wks) | No. | Total Time lost (wks) | No. | Total Time lost (wks) | No. | Total Time lost (wks) | No. | Total Time lost (wks) | No. | Total Time lost (wks) |

 | Total (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) | Total Time Lost (wks) |
| 1931 | 489 | 2445 | 93 | 536 | 161 | 627 | 72 | 408 | 46 | 167 | 98 | 542 | 958 | 4635 |
| 1932 | 437 | 2031 | 66 | 451 | 143 | 581 | 55 | 346 | 41 | 149 | 102 | 466 | 844 | 4024 |
| 1933 | 420 | 1899 | 48 | 339 | 121 | 503 | 31 | 290 | 40 | 154 | 93 | 435 | 753 | 3610 |
| 1934 | 414 | 1937 | 71 | 442 | 119 | 549 | 39 | 273 | 32 | 112 | 99 | 446 | 774 | 3759 |
| 1935 | 356 | 1531 | 46 | 295 | 101 | 554 | 41 | 340 | 23 | 90 | 89 | 464 | 656 | 5275 |
| 1936 | 215 | 1355 | 35 | 253 | 70 | 267 | 40 | 233 | 20 | 44 | 69 | 291 | 449 | 2489 |
| 1937 | 184 | 852 | 38 | 207 | 58 | 204 | 32 | 208 | 14 | 44 | 50 | 251 | 304 | 1766 |
| 1938 | 114 | 514 | 22 | 163 | 54 | 237 | 18 | 91 | 22 | 68 | 44 | 208 | 274 | 1269 |
| 1939 | 72 | 318 | 21 | 178 | 52 | 207 | 15 | 54 | 12 | 49 | 31 | 123 | 205 | 929 |
| 1940 | 64 | 387 | 14 | 83 | 56 | 281 | 25 | 107 | 15 | 54 | 41 | 169 | 235 | 1081 |
| 1941 | 149 | 610 | 26 | 79 | 68 | 316 | 39 | 148 | 10 | 23 | 50 | 196 | 342 | 1372 |
| 1942 | 146 | 733 | 37 | 234 | 70 | 358 | 35 | 203 | 11 | 40 | 48 | 150 | 347 | 1724 |
| 1943 | 167 | 802 | 35 | 295 | 63 | 403 | 24 | 114 | 8 | 23 | 23 | 192 | 355 | 1829 |
| 1944 | 210 | 1019 | 44 | 252 | 102 | 474 | 43 | 217 | 17 | 48 | 56 | 207 | 472 | 2217 |
| 1945 | 108 | 947 | 22 | 91 | 94 | 456 | 27 | 139 | 11 | 57 | 55 | 228 | 417 | 1910 |

Classification of Non-Fatal Reportable Injuries 1931 – 1945

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Falls of Roof or Slides | Haulage Operations | Shot-firing | Gas Ignition Explosion or Outburst | Machinery | Electricity | Over-winding | MiscU/ground | Surface Operations | Total |
| 1931 | 23 | 8 | 4 | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 40 |
| 1932 | 27 | 9 | 5 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 48 |
| 1933 | 24 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | - | 44 |
| 1934 | 24 | 8 | 2 | - | 3 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 41 |
| 1935 | 28 | 6 | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 41 |
| 1936 | 16 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 3 | - | 31 |
| 1937 | 19 | 3 | 4 | - | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 4 | 39 |
| 1938 | 12 | 5 | 7 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 32 |
| 1939 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 26 X | 1 | 2 | - | - | 1 | 56 |
| 1940 | 9 | 7 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 21 |
| 1941 | 5 | 7 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 20 |
| 1942 | 12 | 4 | 3 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 4 | 27 |
| 1943 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 17 |
| 1944 | 7 | 1 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 12 |
| 1945 | 7 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 10 |

X Valleyfield Explosion

Percentages of Total Colliery Personnel Killed, Seriously Injured and Slightly Injured, 1931 – 1945

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Total Colliery Personnel |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| No. of Injuries | Percentage of Total Personnel |
| Fatal | Non – Fatal Reportable | Others | Killed | Seriously Injured | Slightly Injured |

 |
| 1931 | 9074 | 25 | 40 | 1322 | 0.28 | 0.44 | 14.57 |
| 1932 | 8597 | 13 | 48 | 1192 | 0.15 | 0.56 | 13.87 |
| 1933 | 8394 | 13 | 44 | 1119 | 0.15 | 0.52 | 13.33 |
| 1934 | 8593 | 11 | 41 | 1165 | 0.13 | 0.48 | 13.56 |
| 1935 | 8612 | 12 | 41 | 1047 | 0.14 | 0.48 | 12.16 |
| 1936 | 8911 | 13 | 31 | 737 | 0.15 | 0.35 | 8.27 |
| 1937 | 9179 | 10 | 39 | 644 | 0.11 | 0.42 | 7.02 |
| 1938 | 9425 | 7 | 32 | 509 | 0.07 | 0.34 | 5.40 |
| 1939 | 9386 | 49 | 56 | 430 | 0.52 | 0.60 | 4.58 |
| 1940 | 9149 | 8 | 21 | 478 | 0.09 | 0.23 | 5.22 |
| 1941 | 8699 | 9 | 20 | 633 | 0.10 | 0.23 | 7.28 |
| 1942 | 9061 | 7 | 27 | 688 | 0.08 | 0.30 | 7.59 |
| 1943 | 9026 | 11 | 17 | 688 | 0.12 | 0.19 | 7.62 |
| 1944 | 9223 | 3 | 12 | 865 | 0.03 | 0.13 | 9.38 |
| 1945 | 9267 | 7 | 10 | 817 | 0.08 | 0.11 | 8.82 |

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).