

On arrival a member of the crew - W. Croft - Greaser was found to be in convalesency from Smallpox. Evidently the disease had been in rather a mild form as there was no pitting and the majority of the lesions had practically disappeared. There were, however, very definite seeds on both feet and this along with a very typical history - (see attached report from Master) made the diagnosis certain.

Croft first reported ill on 10/1/44 and it appears certain that he was infected at Bombay. He was isolated in ships hospital on 12th and Chief Steward Morse alone attended him during his illness. Isolation measures were good and his attendant acted very efficiently in regard to precautionary measures, disinfection etc., Croft had not been vaccinated since infancy (32 years ago) but showed four reasonably good scars. Steward Morse who also had not been vaccinated since infancy (36 years ago) showed two good scars but on re-vaccination here gave a full Jennerian reaction.

On arrival the ship was ordered into Quarantine and patient and Contact were removed to Quarantine Station and all members of the crew were vaccinated. The following day (29th) the remaining members of crew were taken to Quarantine Station along with all their personal effects, bedding etc., for bathing and disinfection and then returned to the ship for remaining period of Quarantine. All living quarters on ship with pantry, store-room and hospital were given a thorough Formalin disinfection by Quarantine Assistant Stanley who remained on ship from 28th January to 1st February.

MEMORANDUM:-

The Director-General of Health,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Quarantine - S.S. "Empire Mist".

Further my report of 29th January, 1944, the patient is now free of infection all seeds having separated during the week-end and skin is clear.

There are no developments on the vessel and the Chief Steward remains well.

Quarantine Assistant Poore, who has nursed and handled all smallpox cases at Woodman's Point for years and who, of course, is fully protected vaccinally, is the only person in contact with the case.

I think it safe and desirable to release the case and contact and raise the Quarantine on 11th February, permitting both to rejoin the vessel before she sails. Unless otherwise instructed, I propose to follow this course and should be glad of telegraphic indication of your approval or instruction.

(G.A. Murray)
Senior Commonwealth Medical Officer
Western Australia.