

Marine and Inspection of Machinery Department, Wellington, 31st January, 1919.

WITH reference to your memorandum of the 10th instant, addressed to Captain Blackburne, Nautical Adviser to this Department, asking for certain evidence which was given as to the cubic space per man which the accommodation on the transport "Tahiti" provided on the occasion when the influenza epidemic broke out, I have to state that the evidence has been checked and an inspection has been made of the space on board the vessel. This inspection shows that the space *per man* on the different decks was as follows :—

In hammocks—	320 men.	Forward, 'tween-decks		103 cub. ft.
"	280 "	Aft, 'tween-decks		106 "
"	170 "	First saloon, on spar-deck		87 "
"	50 "	Second saloon, on spar-deck		148 "
In bunks—	162 "	Main deck : Rooms including passages		189 "
		Main deck : Rooms alone, average over		110 "
"	60 "	Poop : When 81 berths are occupied		92 "
"	36 "	Boat-deck : In house on port side		72 "
"	9 "	Boat-deck : These men must have been in hospital or in a similar house on the starboard side. In either case the space would have been ample.		

The space against poop is shown when fully occupied, as I do not know how the 60 men were berthed.

I return herewith the plan forwarded with your memorandum.

GEORGE ALLPORT, Secretary.

Lieut.-Colonel R. H. Makgill, Assistant Director of Medical Services,
Defence Department, Wellington.

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