

Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 509 Marine

DATED 16 June '98

11/4/98

18/6/98

Chittagong
Sunderbans
MA 65

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague: Ordering the publication in the
Fish & Marine Dept. of the
Sanctioning
an alteration in Rule 5 of the rules for the
Port of Chittagong regarding quarantine
of ships & —

18/6/98
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[1898-2011-01]

18/6/98

Ordering the publication, in the Fort St. George and Maritime District Gazettes, of the notification of the Government of Bengal sanctioning an alteration in Rule 5 of the rules for the port of Chittagong regarding quarantine against —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following paper:—

G.O., No. 353, Marine, dated 7th May 1898.

Read—the following paper:—

From T. H. CLOWES, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Marine Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Calcutta, 27th April 1898, No. 943.

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a notification, No. 65, Marine, dated 25th April 1898, issued by this department, publishing rules for quarantine in the port of Chittagong, and to state that these rules will be strictly enforced against vessels arriving from Hongkong, Macao and Canton, as well as against Karachi and other infected ports.

ENCLOSURE.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

The 25th April 1898.

No. 65, Marine.—In exercise of the power conferred by section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, III of 1897, and by the notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 302, dated the 4th February 1897, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has been pleased to prescribe as a temporary measure the following rules for quarantine against plague, and for the medical inspection, isolation, observation, and surveillance of persons suffering from, or suspected of being infected with, plague.

These rules shall take effect from the 27th April 1898 in the port of Chittagong, and shall supersede all previous rules.

I.—Definitions:—

- (1) *Health Officer*.—In these rules "Health Officer" means the Health Officer of the Port of Chittagong, and includes an Assistant Health Officer and any person appointed by name or in virtue of his office to perform the duties of an Assistant Health Officer.
- (2) *Infected ship*.—Any ship with plague on board, or on board which one or more cases have taken place within 12 days before her arrival, will be considered *infected*.
- (3) *Suspected ship*.—Any ship, on board which there has been a case of plague at the time of departure, or during the voyage, but on which no fresh case has occurred for 12 days before her arrival, will be considered *suspected*.
- (4) *Healthy ship*.—Any ship, even though coming from an infected port, which has had no death or case of plague on board, either before departure, during the voyage, or on arrival, will be considered *healthy*.
- (5) *Observation*.—The term "observation" means that the persons subjected to it will be segregated in a lazaretto or isolation camp, till they have obtained free *pratique*.
- (6) *Surveillance*.—The term "surveillance" means that the persons subjected to it will not be isolated; they will at once obtain free *pratique*, but, on arriving at their destination, they will be kept under medical supervision.

II.—*Hoisting of yellow flag*.—The Commander of every vessel, including buggalows or other native craft, (a) arriving from an infected port, or (b) having plague on board, or (c) on board of which one or more cases of plague have taken place within 12 days of her arrival, shall, on arrival at the anchorage outside the Chittagong river, hoist a yellow flag, and indicate by signal the port from which she has come, and shall keep such flag and signal flying until permitted in writing by the Health Officer to haul it down. The pilot, on going alongside such vessel, shall direct the flag prescribed above to be hoisted, if that has not already been done.

III.—*Prohibition of communication*.—The Commander shall not, without first having obtained permission as hereinafter provided, allow any communication except orally with the shore or any other vessel or boat, excepting only with the boat supplying the Pilots* from the Pilot cutter, and in that case, communication shall be limited to receiving on board the Pilot, his Leadsman, servant and baggage.

* N.B.—Pilotage is not compulsory for any vessels in the port of Chittagong.

IV.—*Stoppage outside the river*.—If there is any case of sickness on board, and the Pilot has reason to believe that it is plague, he shall send word to the Health Officer, and not proceed without the permission of the Health Officer.

V.—*Stoppage at Jooldia*.—If the Pilot has no reason to believe that there is any one suffering from plague on board, he shall bring the vessel up the river to Jooldia, and shall anchor it there till the Health Officer has visited it.

VI.—*Inspection by Health Officer*.—The Health Officer, as soon as he has received information of the stoppage of the vessel outside the river, or of its arrival at Jooldia, shall visit it and ascertain by enquiry from the Commander or the Medical Officer on board, or from other sources of information, whether any person on board is suffering or has suffered from plague. For this purpose, he may demand a declaration, on oath, from the Doctor of the ship, or, failing him, from the Captain, that there has been no case of plague on the ship since her departure.

VII.—*Rules relating to infected ships*:—

- (1) If an infected ship has, under Rule IV, been stopped outside the river, she will await the orders of the Health Officer there. If, under Rule V, she has been brought up to Jooldia, the Health Officer will direct the Commander to await orders there.
- (2) On arrival at the sanitary station, the sick will be immediately disembarked and isolated under the order of the Health Officer.
- (3) The other persons on board shall also be disembarked and, when necessary, kept under observation at the sanitary station for a period varying, in the discretion of the Health Officer, according to the sanitary condition of the ship and the date of the last case. Such period must not exceed ten days from the date of the last case, whether that occurred on boardship or during the period of observation on shore. It is also in the discretion of the Health Officer to allow such persons to proceed to their destination on their giving a written undertaking, in the form annexed as Appendix I, to submit themselves to surveillance by the Medical Officer (if any) appointed for the purpose, at their destination, for a period of ten days from the date of the arrival of the ship. The undertaking shall be executed in duplicate, and one copy shall be sent by the Health Officer to the Medical Officer concerned.

No one arriving on the vessel shall be left on board except those persons whose presence is necessary for the care of the vessel.

- (4) The soiled linen and personal effects of the crew and passengers, which in the opinion of the Health Officer may be considered as infected, shall be disinfected in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix II.
- (5) The bilge-water will be pumped out after disinfection, and good drinking-water will be substituted for the water stored on board.
- (6) All parts of the ship, which have been inhabited by plague patients, will be disinfected; and the other parts of the ship may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.
- (7) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

VIII.—*Rules relating to suspected ships*:—

- (1) If a suspected ship has, under Rule IV, been stopped outside the river, she will await the orders of the Health Officer there. If, under Rule V, she has been brought up to Jooldia, the Health Officer will go on board of her there.
- (2) The passengers and crew will be medically inspected by the Health Officer.
- (3) The soiled linen and personal effects of the passengers and crew which, in the opinion of the Health Officer, may be considered as infected, will be disinfected in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix II.
- (4) The bilge-water will be pumped out after disinfection, and good drinking-water will be substituted for the water stored on board.
- (5) All parts of the ship, which have been inhabited by plague patients, will be disinfected; and the other parts of the ship may also be disinfected at the discretion of the Health Officer.
- (6) Passengers who are suspected by the Health Officer to be infected with plague may be detained under observation in an isolation hospital appointed for the purpose, for ten days from arrival of the ship, or if plague occurs among them while under observation, from the date of the last case.

- (7) The crew will not be allowed to land, except on duty, for ten days from the arrival of the ship.
- (8) Passengers who are passed on medical inspection as healthy will be allowed to proceed to their destination on their giving a written undertaking, in the form annexed, to submit themselves to surveillance by the Medical Officer (if any), appointed for the purpose, at their destination, for a period of ten days from the date of the arrival of the ship. The undertaking shall be executed in duplicate, and one copy shall be sent by the Health Officer to the Medical Officer concerned.
- (9) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.

IX.—Rules relating to healthy ships—

- (1) A healthy ship shall be given free *pratique* at once, whatever may be the nature of her bill of health.
- (2) Such a ship may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be subjected to the measures prescribed in Rules VIII (2), VIII (3) and VIII (4), but the ship itself may not be disinfected as in Rule VIII (5), except with the consent of the Commander or Agent.
- (3) Passengers who, on medical inspection, are suspected by the Health Officer to be infected with plague may be detained under observation in an isolation hospital appointed for the purpose, for ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port, or, if plague occurs among them while under observation from the date of the last case.
- (4) The crew will not be allowed to land, except on duty, for ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port.
- (5) The crew and passengers may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be subjected to surveillance in the manner described in Rule VIII (8) for a period of ten days from the date on which the ship left an infected port.
- (6) When these rules have been fully complied with, the Health Officer shall, by an order in writing under his hand, to be delivered to the Commander, permit the yellow flag to be hauled down.
- (7) None of the above measures will be considered necessary when the ship has been given free *pratique* at Colombo or other intermediate port.

X.—Ships carrying a Doctor or a stove.—In exercising the discretion vested in him by the rules under heads VII, VIII and IX above, the Health Officer should take into consideration the fact of there being a Doctor, or a disinfecting apparatus (stove), on board the ship in question.

XI.—Rules relating to crowded and insanitary ships.—Crowded ships, ships carrying emigrants or return pilgrims, and ships which appear to be in an insanitary state may, at the discretion of the Health Officer, be treated as suspected ships under head VIII.

XII.—Right of ship to put back to sea.—Any ship objecting to submit to the obligations imposed by these rules will be free to put back to sea. Such objection must be notified on or before arriving outside the river.

XIII.—Rules applying to ships claiming right to put back to sea.—If ships claiming the right to put back to sea desire to disembark passengers or land goods, they must submit to the rules relating to suspected ships.

XIV.—Provisions and stores.—It will be the duty of the Port Officer to facilitate the conveyance to all vessels in quarantine of such supplies of provisions, stores and other articles as may be required by those on board. Such supplies will be placed on the boats of the vessels in quarantine, to be subsequently removed by members of their crews.

A. D. McARTHUR, Col., RE.,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

APPENDIX I.

I (name) of (place) do hereby declare that it is my intention at once to proceed to (place), and I agree to submit myself to medical supervision by (name or office of Medical Officer appointed for the purpose) for a period of ten days from (date from which period is to be reckoned).

Signed

In the presence of

Health Officer.

APPENDIX II.

Instructions for disinfection.

1. Personal effects, rags, infected bandages, papers and other articles without value should be destroyed by fire.

2. Under-clothing, bedding, wearing apparel, mattresses, carpets, &c., which are contaminated or suspected should be disinfected in stoves at normal pressure, or at a pressure of from one and-a-half to two atmospheres, with or without the presence of steam.

Before a stove is passed as efficient for the purposes of disinfection, it should be subjected to a test, with the aid of a signal thermometer, showing the moment when the temperature in the middle of a mattress rises to, at least, 100° centigrade.

To ensure that the disinfection is effective, this temperature must be maintained for from 10 to 15 minutes.

3. Disinfecting solutions—

(a) Solution of corrosive sublimate, of one part in 1,000, with the addition of ten parts of chloride of soda.

The solution should be coloured with aniline dye or indigo. It should not be placed in metal vessels.

(b) A 5 per cent. solution of pure crystallized carbolic acid, or 5 per cent. of crude commercial carbolic acid, in a warm solution of soft soap.

(c) Fresh slaked lime.*

4. Special instructions to be observed in the employment of disinfecting solutions—

The linen, clothing and articles, soiled by the excreta of patients, should be soaked in the solution of corrosive sublimate. The solution of pure carbolic acid, and the solution of soap and carbolic acid, are equally suited to the purpose. The articles should remain in the solution for at least six hours.

Articles which cannot be subjected to the temperature of the stove (100° centigrade) without injury, such as leather goods, wooden articles stuck together with glue, felt, velvet, silk, &c., should be washed with the solution of corrosive sublimate; coins can be disinfected with the solution of soap and carbolic acid.

Persons engaged in nursing the sick should wash their hands and faces with the solution of corrosive sublimate, or with one of the carbolic solutions.

The carbolic solutions will be useful more particularly for disinfecting articles, such as metals, instruments, &c., which can neither be subjected to a temperature of 100° centigrade, nor placed in contact with corrosive sublimate.

Slaked lime is particularly recommended for disinfecting excreta. Expecterated matter should be burnt.

5. Disinfection of ships with plague-patients on board—

The cabin or cabins, and all parts of the ship occupied by the sick or suspected, should be cleared out, and all articles in them should be treated as described above.

The partitions should be disinfected with the solution of corrosive sublimate, with an addition of 10 per cent. of alcohol. The washing should commence from the top, horizontally, and be continued downwards, so that the whole surface of the partition becomes covered with a coating of minute drops.

The boarding should be washed with the same solution.

Two hours after, the walls and flooring should be washed over with plenty of water.

6. Disinfection of the hold of an infected ship—

To disinfect the hold, sulphate of iron in quantity sufficient to neutralise the sulphuretted hydrogen, should first be thrown in, the bilge-water should be pumped out, and the hold washed with sea water. Solution of corrosive sublimate should then be thrown in.

The bilge-water should not be pumped out while the ship is in port.

Order—No. 353, Marine, dated 7th May 1898.

Recorded.

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Secretary to Government.

* To get very strong slaked lime, take lime of good quality, slake it by moistening it gradually, with half its weight of water. When the operation is completed, put the powder in a carefully corked receptacle, and place it in a dry spot. As each kil. gramme of lime absorbs 500 grammes of water in order to become slack, it acquires a volume of a litres 200, and it is sufficient to dilute it with double its volume of water, say, 4 kilogrammes 400 grammes, to obtain a whitewash which will be of about 20 per cent. strength of lime.

READ—also the following paper:—

From A. H. C. MacCARTHY, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Marine Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Marine Department, dated Calcutta, 6th June 1898, No. 1209.

In continuation of the letter from this department, No. 943, Marine, dated the 27th April last, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a notification (No. 83, Marine), dated the 23rd ultimo, sanctioning an alteration in rule 5 of the rules for the port of Chittagong regarding quarantine against plague.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

The 23rd May 1898.

No. 83, Marine.—It is hereby notified that Rule V of the rules for the port of Chittagong, regarding quarantine against plague, and the medical inspection, isolation, observation and surveillance of persons suffering from, or suspected of being infected with, plague, which were sanctioned under the notification of this Government No. 65, Marine, dated the 25th April 1898, has been modified as follows:—

“V.—Stoppage at Buoy—No. 10.—If the Pilot has no reason to believe that there is any one suffering from plague on board, he shall bring the vessel up the river to Buoy No. 10, and shall anchor it there till the Health Officer has visited it.”

A. D. McARTHUR, Col, R.E.,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

ORDER—No. 509, Marine, dated 16th June 1898.

Ordered to be published in the Fort St. George and Maritime District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Press.
„ the Presidency Port Officer.
„ Collectors of Maritime Districts.
„ the Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Plague Surge Marine DEPARTMENT.
Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated *7th May* 1898, No. 353 Marine
Again G.O., dated 189 , No.
Current No. *772* of 1898, dated *13 June 98*, from *the Govt. of Bengal*
„ „ „ 189 „ „
„ „ „ 189 „ „ *7P*

ORDER. 509 Marine d/16 June 1898

Ordered to be published
in the Fort St. George and
Maritime District Gazettes.

ES *W. B. S.*

To
The *Super* Govt. Press. *11/16*
P. P. O.
Collectors of Mar. Sts.
L + M Dept.

Plague
Marine (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 772

Order

From

The Government of Bengal
Marine Deptt

No. 1209 Marine

Dated 6-6-98

Received 13-6-98

Enclosures 1

Spare copies 100

SUBJECT.

Bubonic Plague

Forwarding copy of a notification sanctioning an alteration in Rule 5 of the rules for the Port of Chittagong regarding quarantine against —

A. D. McARTHUR, Col., R.E.,
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A. D. McARTHUR, Col., R.E.,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Mar
772/98

Marine Department. 5 P

N^o 1209 Mar.

From. A. H. E. Macfarlane Esq^r
Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal

The Secy. to the Government of Madras,
Marine Department.

Dated Calcutta, the 6th June 1898

Sir.

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I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obed^t servant

W. H. Macfarlane
Under Secretary
Sb.

Accomp^t
Copy of - N^o 83 - Marine