



**Press Release**  
February 2002

DEFE 55/165

In 1964 the Microbiological Research Establishment in Porton Down reported on an exploratory ventilation trial on the London Underground. The trial, in July 1963, involved releasing spray-dried spores of *Bacillus globigii* from a window of a Northern Line tube train travelling from Colliers Wood to Tooting Broadway. London Transport staff then took air samples at these two stations to measure the movement of air. Dust swabs were subsequently taken at other stations on the tube system.

The trial concluded that bacterial spores can be carried for several miles on the tube system, and locally can persist as an aerosol of high concentration for a considerable period.

The file includes illustrations of the powder box from which the spores were released and the pump cylinder used for taking air samples.

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M.R.E. REPORT No. V.T.1.

*202/08/003*



*DEFE 55/165*

# MICROBIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT

## EXPLORATORY VENTILATION TRIAL IN THE LONDON UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS

H. M. DARLOW

ASSESSMENT  
AND RECORDING  
- 075001  
NO 468  
GDE PORTON

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February, 1964

PORTON DOWN,

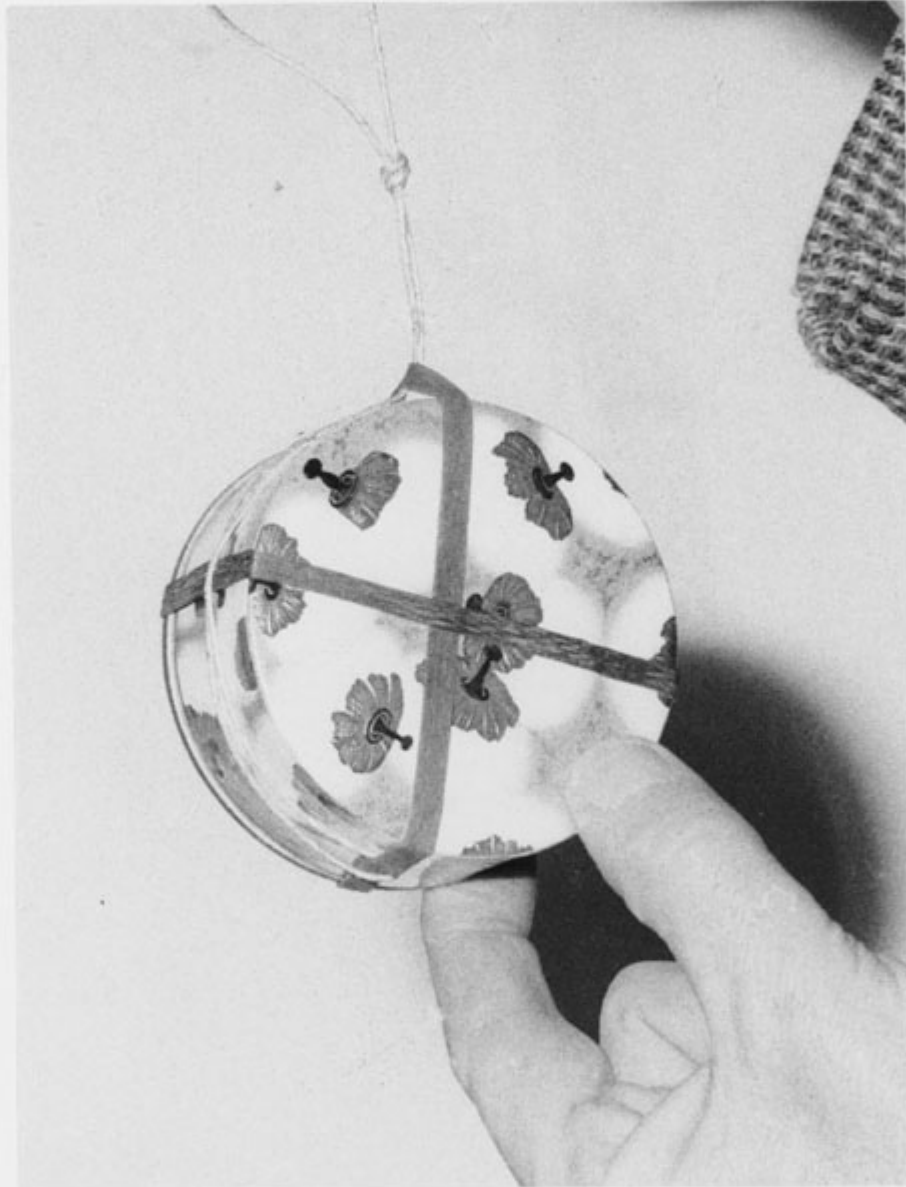
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Information Centre  
NO 10237  
28 APR 1964  
CBDE  
PORTON DOWN

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PLATE 2.  
THE SOURCE



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PLATE 3.  
SAMPLING GEAR



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