

11 December, 1941

From: Captain of the Port of New York, Third Naval District.
To: Collector of Customs, New York.
Subject: Armed merchant vessels.
Reference: (a) Your letter 11 December (VRL:cm).

1. The Panamanian S/S ARISTIDES was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: 1 - 4" mark IX mod. 5, 1918, No. 1362. Elevation 30° + 10°. Arc of train 360°. Telescopic sights. Located special raised platform after end top of after deck house. 100-rds fixed ammunition.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 2-Lewis .303 machine guns, mounted forward end of after boat deck. 7,600-rds ammunition. 2-Colt .38 pistols. 100-rds pistol ammunition.

MAGAZINE: Port side in foreage space. Flooded by sprinkler system.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone. ~~xxxx~~

PERSONNEL: Taken from ship's regular force.

MISCELLANEOUS: 12-steel helmets; 12-civil. gas masks; 1-convoy light; 2-buoys; 1-kits, flown from mainmast; 4-bomb proof shelters, (2) forward end of after boat deck; (2) forward end of poop deck; concrete slabs around bridge and radio-room; hull De-mussed (wired).

2. It is the opinion of this office that the above-mentioned armament is carried for defensive purposes only, provided the vessel is employed in normal trade.

3. Inclosed are two (2) photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

NOTE: No photographs if reinspected.

Distribution:

C/C - (2)
H.Q.- (1)
File- (1)

J. S. BAYLIS,
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard.