

601-64
CONFIDENTIAL

SEP 25 1941

September 22, 1941

NORFOLK DISTRICT

(Date)

From: Collector of Customs, Baltimore, Md.
 To: Commander, Norfolk District, U.S.C.G.
 Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels of Belligerents
 Reference: (a) Department letter, 3 September, 1939, to Collectors of
 Customs, "Strictly Confidential."
 (b) Your letter _____

1. The Dut. M/S Bantam (arrived 9/21) was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

MAGNETIC BELT: Yes

GUNS: One 4" gun, aft.

AMMUNITION: 40 H.E. shells--fixed ammunition

SMALL ARMS: One Steier rifle; caliber ?

AMMUNITION: 190 rds.

GUN CREWS: 9 men, including 2 merchant seamen gunners.

MAGAZINE: Aft, on deck

FIRE CONTROL AND COM- Fire control directed from gun platform
MUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Telephone, bridge to gun platform

REMARKS: 2 smoke floats

NUMBER GAS MASKS ON BOARD: 14

AMOUNT GAS PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ON BOARD: 10 complete suits

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

Assistant Collector

WJR

INTELLIGENCE

REC'D SEP 26 1941

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