

10 September, 1941

From: Captain of the Port of New York.  
To: Collector of Customs, New York.  
Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 10 September, 1941 (WRL:cm)

1. The British S/S BELLE ISLE was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: 1 - G.P. 12-pdr. 12 Cwt R.O.P. 1915E, No. 6941. Elevation 20°  
1/4 15°. Arc of train 360°. Telescopic sights. Located aft end top of aft deck house.  
51-rds powder charges; 50-rds H.B. shells; 6-practice shells.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 2-Ross rifles 1303. 485 rds rifle ammunition.

MAGAZINE: Port side aft end in aft deck house. Flooded by hose only.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone.

PERSONNEL: 1-Gun layer (Royal Canadian Navy). Balance of gun's crew taken from ship's regular force. 1-Certified merchant navy defense officer.

MISCELLANEOUS: 1-Steel helmet; 1-serv. gas mask; 1-Scherwaly pistol; 4-rockets distress type;

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

3. Inclosed herewith are no photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

(NOTE: NO PHOTOGRAPHS IF REINSPECTED).

Distribution:  
Collector of Customs (2)  
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J. S. BAYLES,  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard.