

64-CONFIDENTIAL

12 August, 1941.

From: Captain of the Port of New York.
 To: Collector of Customs, New York.
 Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.
 Reference: (a) Your letter, 12 August, 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 - Q.F. 12-pdr C.W.T. R.G.F. 1918 No. 6541. Elevation 35° + 10°. Arc of train 30°. Telescopic sights. Located on the aft end of the poop deck. 50-rds cordite charges; 50-rds H.E. shells; 6-practice shells and 89-percussion tubes.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 2-Ross rifles .303 and 480-rds ammunition for the rifles.

MAGAZINE LOCATION: Port side of the poop deck. Flooded by hose only.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone from bridge to gun.

PERSONNEL: 1 - Gun layer (Royal Canadian Navy Reserve); balance of the gun's crew taken from ship's regular force; 1-certified merchant navy defense officer on board.

MISCELLANEOUS: 1-steel helmet; 1-service gas mask; 1-Schermuly pistol and 4-rockets; this vessel is not degaussed.

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)
 Headquarters (1) File (1)

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