

22 April, 1941.

From: Captain of the Port of New York.
To: Collector of Customs, New York.

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 22 April, 1941 (WR:cm)

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

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: (1) 1 - Q.F. 12-pdr mark I R.C.F. 1918 N No. 6541. Elevation $30^{\circ} + 30^{\circ}$. Arc of train 360° . Telescopic sights. Located on the after end after deck house. 54-rds powder charges; 50-rds H.E. shells and 6-practice shells.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 2-Ross rifles .303 and 500-rds ammunition; 1-revolver .32 and 20-rds ammunition.

MAGAZINE: Located port side after end of after deck house. Flooded by hose through door only.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone from bridge to guns 1-Maras daylight signalling lamp.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: 4-port fires; 1-steel helmet; 1-service gas mask; 1-Schermyly 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 ^{**/recheck} ----- photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

**/No photographs if reinspected.

Distribution
Collector of Customs (2)
Headquarters (1) File (1)

J. S. BAYNE
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard.