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4 April, 1941.

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

Reference: (a) Your letter, 4 April, 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) 1 - Q.F. 12-pounder mark I R.G.F. 1918 N. No. 6541. Elevation  $40^{\circ} + 40^{\circ}$ . Arc of train  $360^{\circ}$ . Telescopic sights. Located on the after end top of after deck house. 54-rds cordite charges; 50-rds H.E. shells; 6-practice shells and 90-percussion tubes.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 2-Ross rifles .303 and 500-rds of ammunition.

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

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone from bridge to gun.

PERSONNEL: 1-Gun layer (Canadian Navy); 2-merchant seaman gunners; balance of gun's crew taken from regular ship's force; 1-certified merchant navy defense officer on board.

MISCELLANEOUS: 1-service gas mask; 2-smoke gas masks; this vessel is not DeGaussed.

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.

2. Inclosed herewith are (recheck) - - - - - photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

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

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