

Orig

12 December, 1940

From: Captain of the Port.
 To: Collector of Customs, New York.
 Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.
 Reference: (a) Your letter, 12 December, 1940.

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

GUNS: 1 - Q.F. 12 pdr. Mark I, R.G.F. 1918N, No. 6541. Elevation 20°-20°. Arc of train 360°. Telescopic sights. Location: after end top of after deck house.

AMMUNITION: 50 cordite charges, 50 rds H.E. shells and 90 percussion tubes.

SMALL ARMS: Two (2) Ross rifles .303.

AMMUNITION: 500 rds .303 rifle.

MAGAZINE LOCATION: Port side, aft end in aft deck house. Means of flooding: hose through door.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Telephone, bridge to gun. One (1) Aldis Lamp.

GUNS CREWS: One (1) Gun Layer (Royal Canadian Navy); 2 merchant seamen gunners. Balance of gun's crew taken from regular ship's force.

REMARKS: 1 service gas mask, 1 Pain apparatus, 1 Schermuly pistol, 8 distress line-throwing rockets.

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

2. Inclosed herewith are two (2) photographs showing the guns of this vessel.

FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT:

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

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