

Aug

12 November, 1940.

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

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 12 November, 1940 (WRL).

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

GUNS: 1 - 4" Q.F. gun, mark IV Vickers 1918, No. 411, telescopic and open sights, (30° + 6°) elevation, arc of train 240°. Located after end, top of after deck house. 1 - 12-pounder Q.F. gun, mark B.S.O. 1918, No. 3050, open sights, (85° + 6°) elevation, arc of train 360°. Located starboard side, forward end, top of after deck house, just forward and to starboard side of the 4" gun.

AMMUNITION: 40 - rounds H.E. shells; 10 practice shells; and 42 powder charges semi-fixed for the 4" gun. 40 - rounds H.E. shells; 12 practice shells; and 52 powder charges semi-fixed for the 12-pounder gun.

SMALL ARMS: 2 - Lewis machine guns .303 mounted midship on boat deck house. 2 - Ross rifles .303 and 2 Lee Enfield rifles .303. 1 Bayonet.

AMMUNITION: 3532 - rounds .303

MAGAZINE LOCATION: Projectiles port side in after deck house. Powder charges in starboard side, after deck house.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Telephone from bridge to the guns. 1 Aldis daylight signalling lamp.

*** 4 service gas masks; 170 civilian gas masks.

GUNS CREWS: 2 - gun layers: 1 Royal Marines, and 1 Royal Navy. 2 merchant seamen gunners; rest of guns crews taken from regular ship's force. 4 certified merchant navy defense officers.

REMARKS: 6 - smoke floats; 2 smoke float igniters; 20 steel helmets; 2 paravanes 1 Pain rocket projector and 4 rockets; 4 sets of decontamination equipment; 1 zig-zag clock; 4 kites; 1 Holman projector; 1 convoy light; 2 convoy buoys; 47 bombs for Holman projector. 2 PAC projectors and 2 rockets. Cement slabs used around the bridge and radioroom for protection. (Hull degaussed)Wired.***

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 three (3) 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.