

6 4 - CONFIDENTIAL

13 December, 1941

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

Subject: Armed merchant vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter 13 December, 1941 (WRL:cm).

1. The Panamanian S/S EL LAGO was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: 1 - 4" mark IX mod. 5, 1920, No. 845. Elevation 30° / 10°. Arc of train 280°. Telescopic sights. Located special raised platform on stern. 96-rds fixed ammunition.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 4-Lewis .30 machine guns, mounted (2) wings of bridge (2) aft on top of after deck house). 10,900-rds ammunition.

MAGAZINE: Portside, forward side in after deck house. Flooded by sprinkler system.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone. 1-Aldis (day) lamp.

PERSONNEL: Taken from ship's regular force.

MISCELLANEOUS: 2-Civil. gas masks; 1-sig-sag cloth; 1-convoy light; 2-buoys; 2-kites, flown from mainmast; 4-bomb proof shelters, (2) wings of bridge, (2) aft on top of after deck house; armor plate around bridge and radioroom; hull degaussed (wired).

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

3. Inclosed are two (2) photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

NOTE: No photographs is reinspected.

Distribution:

C/C - (2)
H.Q.- (1)
File- (1)

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