

29 October, 1941

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

Subject: Armed merchant vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter October, 29, 1941 (WRL:cm)

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

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: 1 - 4" gun mk. IX mod. 5, 1919, No. 2147. Elevation 30° / 5°. Arc of train 360°, telescopic sights. Located on special raised platform aft end poop deck. Protective shield. 100-rds fixed ammunition.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 4-Lewis .30 machine guns. (Mounts: 2-on bridge deck, 2-on boat deck). 15,000-rds machine gun ammunition.

MAGAZINE: Starboard side after end in poop deck house.

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

PERSONNEL: Gun's crew taken from ship's regular force.

MISCELLANEOUS: 50-Steel helmets; 50-civil. duty gas masks; 50-decontamination sets; 1-convoy light; 2-buoys; 4-bomb proof shelters (2) bridge deck, (2) boat deck; concrete slabs around bridge and radiator room; hull DeGaussed (wired)

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ANS'D 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.