

14 April, 1941.

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

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 14 April, 1941 (WRL:cm)

1. The French S/S ILE DE RE was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: (1) 1 - G. De 90 M^{le}. 187 TARBES A.C. 18 Le CREUSOT set Cie 1877 No. 106. (2) 1 - G. De 90 M^{le}. 187 BOURGES F. 18 FIRMINY R.V. 1897 No. 613. Both guns are stowed in No. 5 hold, starboard side in 'tween deck. Dissembled breech mechanism and firing lock and stowed them in the Boatswain's storeroom port side fore-castle head under seal. 154-rds cordite charges; 100-rds H.E. shells; 56-practice shells and 233-per-cussion tubes also stowed in Boatswain's storeroom under lock and seal by Customs.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 1-STEFANNE 8 m/m machine gun with extra barrel ; 1-LEBEL 8 m/m and 3-GRAS 11 m/m rifles; 1-St. ERIENNE 6.35 m/m revolver; 4-bayonets; 1524-rds 8 m/m; 175-rds 11 m/m and 210-rds 6.35 m/m stowed with other equipment in Boatswain's storeroom.

MAGAZINE: (1-machine gun mount stowed in No. 5 hold with 90 M^{le}. guns. Flooded by hose through door and port hold.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone from bridge to guns.

PERSONNEL: 2-Naval reserve officers and 2-merchant seaman gunners on board.

MISCELLANEOUS: 8-smoke floats and 8-igniters stowed with other equipment in Boatswain's storeroom; 21-steel helmets; 2-civilian gas masks; 41-civilian duty gas masks; 1-zig-zag clock; cement slabs used around the bridge for protection; 1-convoy light and 1-convoy buoy; This vessel is not DeGaussed.

All ammunition and equipment stowed in the Boatswain's storeroom is under seal of U. S. Customs. Sealed by Custom Agent PELLIS.

2. 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.

3. Inclosed herewith are **** ^{**/ recheck} photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

**/No photographs if reinspected.

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

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