

64-CONFIDENTIAL

13 August, 1941.

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

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

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

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

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: 1 - 4" mark IX model 5 1919 No. 1766. Elevation 25° & 5°. Arc of train 280°. Telescopic sights. Located on a special raised platform aft end top of the poop deck house. 40-rds fixed ammunition.
1 - 12-pdr emplacement located on the forward end top of the poop deck house.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 1-Steyr 7 m/m rifle and 225-rds ammunition; 1-S & W revolver 6 m/m; 1-Mouser pistol 6.35 m/m and 24-rds ammunition for the revolver and pistol.

MAGAZINE LOCATION: Starboard side aft end in the poop deck house. Flooded by hose only.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION: Telephone from bridge to gun.

PERSONNEL: 2-Gun layers (Ex Dutch Navy); balance of the gun's crew taken from ship's regular force; 1-certified merchant navy defense officer.

MISCELLANEOUS: 2-smoke floats and 2-igniters; 2-paravanes; 4-service gas masks; 15-civilian duty gas masks; 1-zig-zag clock; 1-P.A.C. projector, 3-rockets and 3-fouling cables; 15-decontamination sets; 1-convey light concrete slabs used around the bridge and radio room for protection; Degussed (wired) protected by pipe.

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

(NOTE: NO PHOTOGRAPHS IF REINSPECTED).

Distribution:
Collector of Customs (2)
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J. S. BAYLIS,
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard.