

*Substantive*  
INTELLIGENCE

APR 14 1941

11 April, 1941.

From: Captain of the Port of New York.  
To: Collector of Customs, New York.  
Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 11 April, 1941 (WRL:cm)

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

GUNS AND AMMUNITION: (1) 1 - B.L. 4" IX\* R.G.F. 1917 No. 4229. Elevation 30° + 10°. Arc of train 260°. Telescopic and open sights. Located on a special raised platform after end of the poop deck. 32-rds cordite charges; 40-rds H.E. shells; 1-practice shell and 35-percussion tubes.

(2) 1 - Q.F. 40 m/m mark I 1941 No. LS116. Elevation 90° + 5°. Arc of train 360°. Open sights. Located on the port side of the poop deck house. 1000-rounds of ammunition for 40 m/m gun. 1-extra barrel for 40 m/m gun, 19 W W - 4 No. 1 15349.

SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION: 1-Vickers machine gun .303; 2-Hotchkiss machine guns .303; 2-Lewis Savage machine guns .30; 5-machine gun mounts located 2-on the bridge, 2-on the poop deck and 1-on the boat deck; 1-Ross rifle .303; 1-Lee Enfield rifle .303; 1-Webley MAGAZINE: (revolver .45; 2000-rds .303 and 800-rds .30.

4" ammunition stowed in port side forward end poop deck house. 40 m/m ammunition stowed in a locker port side aft end of the poop deck. Permanent flooding system.

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

PERSONNEL: 2-Gun layers (Royal Navy); 1-merchant seaman gunner; balance of guns crews taken from regular ships force; 5-soldiers from the British Army on board.

MISCELLANEOUS: 5-port fires; 9-smoke floats and 6-igniters; 45-steel helmets; 8-service gas masks; 30-civilian duty gas masks; 2-P.A.C. projectors and 4-rockets; 1-Schermuly pistol and 6-rockets; 6-decontamination sets; 1-zig-zag clock; 6-bomb proof shelters located two on the bridge and four on the main deck; cement slabs used around the wheel-house, radio room and chart room for protection; 1-kite flown from the foremast; 1-convoy light and 2-convoy buoys; DeGaussed (wired).

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 <sup>\*\*/</sup> Three (3) photographs of this vessel, showing her guns and their location.

\*\*/No photographs if reinspected.

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

*Joy*

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