

64-CONFIDENTIAL

Submittal 3

17 February, 1941.

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

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter, 17 February, 1941 (WHL:cm).

1. The Norwegian M/S MARTIN BARKER was inspected this date and the following armament was found on board:

GUNS: 1 - 4" Wire B.L. gun, mark IX* R.G.F. 1918, No. 4450, (elevation 30° ± 5°) (arc of train 3000°), telescopic and open sights, located on special raised platform, top of after deck house.

AMMUNITION: 48 - rounds cordite charges; 39 rounds R.E. shells; 8 practice shells; and 31 percussion tubes.

SMALL ARMS: 2 - Ross rifles .303

AMMUNITION: 263 - rounds .303

MAGAZINE LOCATION: Port side after end, in after deck house. No means of flooding except hose through ventilator and door.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Telephone from bridge to the gun. 1 Aldis daylight signalling lamp.

GUN CREWS: 8 - Ex Norwegian Army and Navy men in gun crew (regular members of ship's force) 2 certified merchant navy defense officers.

REMARKS: 6 - smoke floats; 6 smoke float igniters; 8 steel helmets; 3 civilian gas masks; Cement slabs used around the bridge and radioroom for protection. (Hull degaussed).

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

2. Inclosed herewith are two (2) photographs showing the guns of this vessel.

FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THE PORT:

Distribution:

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

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