

64-CONFIDENTIAL

2 August, 1940.

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

Subject: Armed Merchant Vessels.

Reference: (a) Your letter dated 2 August, 1940 (WRL:cm).

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

GUNS: 1 - 4.7" Q.F. gun, mark V\* M 1916, No. 1365, telescopic and open sights, (20° + 10°) elevation, arc of train 280°. Located on after end of poop deck.  
1 Emplacement for H.A. gun, located on forward end of poop deck.

AMMUNITION: 38 - rounds S.A.P. shells; 6 practice shells and 34 powder charges semi-fixed.

SMALL ARMS: 2 - Ross rifles .303

AMMUNITION: 300 - rounds .303

MAGAZINE LOCATION: In lazaret. No means of flooding except hose through hatch.

FIRE CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT: Telephone from bridge to gun. Two Aldis daylight signalling lamps. One Barr and Stroud Range finder, mounted on top of bridge, no accessories.

GUNS CREWS: 1 - gun layer Royal Navy; 2 merchant seamen gunners; 1 certified "Merchant Navy Defense" Officer. Rest of gun's crew taken from regular ship's force.

REMARKS: 7 - smoke floats; 7 smoke float igniters; 40 steel helmets; 1 service gas mask; 40 civilian duty gas masks; 12 sets of decontamination equipment; 2 bomb proof shelters on wings of bridge. (Hull de Gausse) Wired.

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