

England and France should Germany conduct a terrific air bombardment of aerodromes and aircraft factories in those countries.

6. If there is any possibility of increasing the number of squadrons allotted to East Coast Defence it is strongly recommended that one bomber-reconnaissance squadron and one fighter squadron be located at the Newfoundland Airport for the Local Air Protection of Newfoundland. Strong anti-aircraft defences consisting of guns, searchlights and sound locators should also be provided.

7. It is understood that Naval and Military assistance for the Defence of Newfoundland is not immediately available although the Militia Service has already made plans for the provision of an artillery unit with guns for the defence of Bell Island, Conception Bay.

8. The Joint Service Committee sent the attached signal, A. 582, on the 25th of May, 1940¹, recommending, as a temporary measure, that one flight of five Digby aircraft, No. 10 (BR) Squadron, with personnel, bombs and ammunition, be sent at once to the Newfoundland Airport for General Reconnaissance and Air Striking Force duties in Local Air Defence of Newfoundland. Lewis guns for aerodrome defence should also be sent. It was explained that the flight could undertake training at the Newfoundland Airport in addition to defence duties.

9. It is understood that accommodation can be made available at the Newfoundland Airport for the Officers of the Flight, but tents would have to be provided or temporary barrack and messing accommodation constructed for the Airmen. Since it is recommended that two squadrons be employed at the Newfoundland Airport it is considered that any temporary construction of barracks and messes for personnel undertaken should provide sufficient accommodation for this number.

10. Your further instructions are requested, please.

80.

NPA S-5-5-2

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions
Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

TELEGRAM 314

[St. John's,] June 3, 1940

SECRET. Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa, has wired me that Air Vice-Marshal Croil is visiting Maritime Provinces of Canada this week and while there desires visit Newfoundland. I have replied that the proposed visit is entirely agreeable to this Government. It is possible that he will initiate discussions as to the defence of Newfoundland. Such discussions cannot but involve the disposition of the Newfoundland Airport and Botwood air base for the duration of the war. The urgent necessity for a reply therefore to my messages Nos. 229 Secret of April 30th, 258 secret of May 14th and 298 secret of May 26th is apparent.

¹ Non reproduct.

² Not printed.