

facilities had been provided at Botwood for flying boats. Apart from this, the Island was as unprepared for war as it had been in 1914.

Immediately on the outbreak of war, arrangements were made to recruit personnel for the United Kingdom forces and for a local defence force, but virtually no arms or training equipment were available. Gander and Botwood were made available to the Royal Canadian Air Force for patrolling coastal waters, and from time to time small patrol forces based at Dartmouth, N.S., used these bases.

The military collapse in Western Europe in the spring of 1940 immediately altered the situation. From the standpoint of North American defence, an undefended Newfoundland was now a serious hazard, and with the consent of the Newfoundland Government Canadian troops were despatched in June for the defence of Gander Airport. Canadian forces were gradually expanded and posted at other strategic points. Newfoundland's local defence forces were also increased and placed under Canadian command. By agreement with the Newfoundland Government, Canada took over Gander and Botwood air bases for the duration of the War and greatly enlarged and improved them. In 1941 Canada acquired a ninety-nine year lease to an area at Goose Bay, Labrador, for the construction of a military air base which should be available to the United States and the United Kingdom air forces during the War and for such time thereafter as was deemed desirable in the interests of common defence. Canada also constructed an air base at Torbay near St. John's, primarily for fighter aircraft for the defence of the St. John's area and, by agreement with the Newfoundland and United Kingdom Governments, constructed a naval base at St. John's on behalf of the British Admiralty, management and operation of the base during the War being the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Navy.

The United States, no less than Canada, felt compelled to take a hand in the defence of the Newfoundland region following the military collapse in Europe in 1940. In September, 1940, the United Kingdom Government announced that the United States would be granted areas for the construction of bases in the West Indies, Bermuda, and Newfoundland, and a treaty providing for these bases was signed between the two Governments on Mar. 27, 1941. A protocol annexed to the Bases Agreement and signed by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada provided for the protection of Canadian interests in the defence of the Newfoundland region. Under the Bases Agreement the United States acquired three areas in Newfoundland, on which it rapidly constructed bases: one adjacent to St. John's, where an Army garrison base, Fort Pepperrell, was constructed; a second at Argentia on the west side of the Avalon Peninsula, where a gigantic naval and naval air base was developed; and the third at Stephenville on the west coast, where a staging airfield, Harmon Field, was constructed.

As a result of the extension of Canadian and United States defence activities, Newfoundland became one of the heavily fortified areas on the continent. But it was much more than a defence bastion