



Control tower at  
Gander Airport

recognized before the Second World War when the United Kingdom and Newfoundland Governments undertook to construct a civil airport at Gander for transatlantic flights. The airport lies in flat country in the northeastern part of the Island almost on the direct Montreal-London and New York-London route. It was extremely useful as a ferrying base during the Second World War, when it was under Canadian administration and was greatly improved. On being returned to Newfoundland in 1946, Gander was declared Newfoundland's civil international airport in accordance with the Chicago Conference of 1944. Under the terms of Union the airfield was transferred to the Federal Government of Canada. The field is widely used by civil aircraft on transatlantic flights.

"Blackouts" from fog or low clouds occur at Gander from 5 p.c. to 7 p.c. of the year, the number of days when fog appears amounting to about one-third of the year, and the region experiences heavy snowfalls. The new radar installation can, however, pick up aircraft within a radius of 100 miles. The field is linked with St. John's and Port aux Basques by railroad. The community is virtually a self-contained settlement of 2,000 to 3,000 persons having its own public services, churches, schools and hospital.

During the Second World War other fields were built for military use. The United States acquired under the Bases Agreement of 1941 a right to construct and maintain for military purposes fields at Argentia and Stephenville, while Canada acquired at Goose Bay in Labrador an area on a ninety-nine year lease to construct a military air base and acquired by purchase title to another area at Torbay near St. John's, for construction of a fighter-plane base. Goose Bay remains primarily a military field. Torbay, however, has since the War been a civil air field and is the terminus of Trans-Canada Airlines domestic service. By agreement between the Governments concerned, all these fields have been made weather alternates for transatlantic flying.