

77.

NPA GN1/3 320-35

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions

Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

[St. John's,] May 25, 1940

TELEGRAM 295

SECRET. Following for Admiralty repeated to Naval Service Headquarters, Ottawa. Begins. Apart from our anxiety for the safety of shipping using St. John's which has no defences, we have no means of forcibly preventing the entry of any vessels.¹

There is available here a 4 inch B.L. Mark 9 gun with ammunition and equipment which was removed from S.S. *King Edward* in order to make good the damage to her stern which this ship suffered by collision in convoy. This gun was mounted in the ship at Sydney, Australia in October 1939.

Permission is urgently requested for this gun and equipment to be placed at the disposal of the Newfoundland Government, on the assumption that *King Edward* due to complete her refit about the middle of June could mount another gun at Halifax to which port she must proceed to join a convoy.

In addition we would require a searchlight with range about 3000 yards and a range finder, and 40 practice projectiles, 40 high explosive projectiles with 80 full charges and 100 tubes. If approval obtained promptly training of Militia personnel as gun crew can be done by gun layer of *King Edward*.

78.

NPA GN1/3 320/35

Le gouverneur de Terre-Neuve au secrétaire aux Dominions

Governor of Newfoundland to Dominions Secretary

[St. John's,] May 26, 1940

TELEGRAM 298²

SECRET. The defenceless condition of this country causes public alarm in view of occurrences of recent days. The Prime Minister of Canada is reported to have stated in Parliament on May 20th. that Canadian Troops are assisting in guardianship of Newfoundland but we have received no information along these lines or any other. If the Newfoundland Airports are to be used as part of the defence of this country by Canadian Government it is probable that they will require to plan substantial erections and installations to be completed at earliest moment after negotiations have been finalized. We urge

¹ Au début de la guerre le gouvernement de Terre-Neuve avait mis sur pied un contrôle naval sous le commandement du capitaine Schwerdt, de la MR. Au début de juillet 1940, des mesures additionnelles furent prises pour contrôler les navires entrant dans le port de St. John's. Une aire d'inspection fut établie et tous les navires entrant dans le port furent priés d'attendre l'inspection du douanier en chef de Terre-Neuve.

² Ce télégramme fut répété au haut commissaire de Grande-Bretagne.

¹ At the outbreak of the war the Newfoundland Government had set up a naval control under the command of Captain Schwerdt, RN. Early in July 1940, further measures were taken to control shipping entering the harbour of St. John's. An examination area was established and all inbound ships were required to await examination by the Chief Preventive Officer of the Newfoundland Customs.

² This telegram was repeated to the High Commissioner of Great Britain.