

(b) ARMY -

Arrangements have been made for the withdrawal from Goose Bay of all Army operational personnel except personnel required by the R.C.A.F.

It has been decided to continue, in co-operation with the Department of Transport, the operation of the radar sets at Goose Bay, Gander and Vancouver for the purposes of securing upper wind data (Rawins).

In order to free more magazine and storage accommodation and to avoid caretaking commitments next summer, the 10 inch guns and ammunition at Botwood, having been declared surplus to operational requirements, will be disposed of. The accommodation will also be released for disposal.

During March, 21 finds of material connected with free Japanese balloons were reported. This compares with a total of 8 separate recoveries of such material previously reported. No damage has been caused by these balloons yet but, with the dry season approaching, the incendiary threat to the forest and crops might be serious. To meet such threats, the Department of Mines and Resources has notified provincial forestry officials in the western provinces and Ontario about these balloons. A special interdepartmental committee has been organized to deal with possible "BW" aspects of these balloons and appropriate plans are being formulated.

(c) AIR FORCE -

Eastern Air Command carried out a number of attacks against enemy submarines - with unknown results.

Western Air Command destroyed one free balloon of Japanese origin.

III - Organizational Developments

(a) NAVY -

Escort Group #16 (H.M.C. frigates "Springhill" S.O., "Charlottetown", "Stettler", "Kirkland Lake" and "Antigonish") arrived at Londonderry on the 18th to operate under the control of Commander-in-Chief, Western Approaches.

Fairmiles which were hauled out and paid off for the winter months are to be re-commissioned and returned to service as weather and base facilities permit. Four were re-commissioned in March.

Arrangements have been made for the transfer of two British submarines to the R.C.N. for use as bottom Asdic targets.

(b) ARMY -

No. 1 Canadian Flame Warfare Technical Staff has been formed overseas to provide instructors and inspectors for flame throwing equipment. These weapons are of a new type and considerable training in their use is required.

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