

NINTH RECOMMENDATION

The Board learned from Messrs. Emerson and Penson that the Government of the United Kingdom is now arranging to send approximately one thousand captured German airmen to Newfoundland for imprisonment there and that the Newfoundland Government is now beginning the construction of barracks for this purpose about five miles inland from the shore of Conception Bay.

The Board feels strongly that the incarceration of German prisoners in Newfoundland would present a serious military hazard which might jeopardize the Defence Scheme for Newfoundland which the Board is now preparing and thus menace the safety of Canada and the United States.

In these circumstances, the Board earnestly recommends to the Canadian Government that discussions be initiated with the Governments of Newfoundland and the United Kingdom with a view to bringing about an alteration in this plan by the diversion of these German prisoners to some less dangerous destination.

FOURTEENTH RECOMMENDATION

Montreal, January 21, 1941

United States Air Units for Newfoundland

That most urgent priority should be given to the provision of facilities for at least one United States squadron of patrol planes at Halifax and one United States squadron in the Botwood area.

FIFTEENTH RECOMMENDATION

Montreal, April 16, 1941

Newfoundland Fuel Storage

The Board reviewed the problem of fuel supply required for aerial operations from the Newfoundland airport and in the Lewisporte-Botwood area. Previous estimates contemplated storage for 1,600,000 gallons (of which 600,000 gallons, one month's supply, would be located at Newfoundland Airport) premised on continuous supply by rail from St. John's. It has now been determined that reliance on continuous rail supply during the winter is unsound. Facts were adduced to show that a minimum storage capacity of 2,600,000 gallons will be essential before the close of navigation in the Botwood area next winter. Discussion clearly exposed the urgency of providing the increase in capacity.

It was also pointed out that not only is the increase essential for defence operations but is equally necessary for overseas ferrying of aircraft.

The Board agreed as its fifteenth recommendation that Canada provide the increased aviation fuel storage capacity required by prospective needs in the Newfoundland Airport and Lewisporte-Botwood area in accordance with the responsibilities accepted by the Canadian Government; and that the United States Government assist in the procurement of the necessary priorities to permit this recommendation to be carried out within the time specified.