

- (ii) *Estimated Scale and Form of Attack by Sea, Land and Air, and*
- (iii) *Probable Forms of Attack to be Guarded against*

*Scale and Form of Attack*

54. The scale and form of attack to which Newfoundland may be considered liable can be taken to be as follows:

- (a) Raiding attack by cruiser, with the intention of creating moral effect and doing as much damage as possible in a short time. It appears possible that a weak enemy raiding naval force escaping into the Atlantic and unable either to return home or to break away to the southward might, if the far more valuable shipping of the North Atlantic had been withdrawn or placed under convoy, find a possible final adventure in the destruction of St. John's, the Bell Island iron mine and the numerous cable terminals near St. John's and in Conception Bay; all of which would have a propaganda value altogether out of proportion to its military importance, since St. John's is a British capital Overseas, the iron mine is a source of ore in immeasurable quantities, and the destruction of the cables would have repercussions upon almost the entire world.

- (b) Attack by a small Raiding Force such as might be landed by one or two cruisers with a view to the destruction of vulnerable points, e.g.:

The town of St. John's, its electric power stations, the water works, and the cable offices and terminals at St. John's, Hr. Grace and Bay Roberts.

- (c) Attack by Armed Merchant Vessel—

- (i) By gunfire.

- (ii) By mine-laying in the approach to St. John's Harbour.

- (d) Attack by Submarines—

- (i) By gunfire at moderate or close ranges.

- (ii) By mine or torpedo on shipping sheltering in St. John's or other Harbours.

- (e) Attack by Aircraft—

- (i) From aircraft-carrying vessels.

*Attacks by Cruisers, Armed Merchant Vessel, Submarine or Aircraft*

55. As there are at present no defences, vessels armed with modern guns of any size could carry out bombardment of St. John's or of practically any other place in the Island by direct observation; the object of such an attack would be to set fire to the town or to damage shipping lying in the harbour, oil fuel installations, dock, etc., and to create moral effect.

56. Owing to the smallness of the channel leading into St. John's Harbour it could easily be blocked or defended by observation mines, &c.

57. The type of aircraft carried by cruisers is not suitable for bombing purposes, and it seems unlikely that aircraft carriers would ever be in the vicinity. Therefore attack by this means is unlikely.