

Director of Plans, and Capt. Sherman, Chief Aviation Officer. Air Commodore Cuffe saw General Strong in the afternoon.

12. Individual reports of these discussions are attached as Appendices "A",¹ "B" and "C".

PART II

Common Defence Measures in Eastern Canada and Newfoundland by U.S. and Canadian Forces

The following questions were put forward by General Strong, Assistant Chief of Staff and head of the War Plans Division of the General Staff, U.S. Army. Suggested replies follow each question.²

- ...
- Q. 2. What part does Newfoundland have in the Canadian defence scheme?
- A. 2. (a) The steel industry of Sydney, N.S., gets a large proportion of its ore from Bell Island, which is north west of Botwood Bay.
- (b) The Newfoundland Airport, 50 miles south of Botwood Bay, has runways from 4500' to 4800' long and 600' to 1200' wide, and consequently is a suitable base for the heaviest type of shore based aircraft. This airport is of obvious use to us and conversely would be of great use to an enemy.
- (c) Botwood Bay is the western terminal of the North Atlantic flying boat route of Imperial Airways.
- (d) Various small ports, bays and coves on the coast-line of Newfoundland, if used as hostile submarine bases, would make more difficult the protection of the two entrances to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the focal sea areas off Halifax, N.S. and Sydney, N.S.
- (e) Our policy is to concentrate our defences at Botwood, the Newfoundland Airport, Bell Island and St. John's. At the present time there is one battalion of infantry distributed between Botwood and the Airport and one flight of Bomber (recc) Aircraft at the Airport. Two 4.7" guns are being shipped to Bell Island. St. John's is to be developed as an advanced operational naval base. Arrangements for its protection will be taken in hand as soon as the necessary equipment can be obtained.

¹ Non reproduit.

² Dans *Armes, Hommes et Gouvernements*, C. P. Stacey affirme que (p. 371) la majeure partie de cette réponse canadienne fut "verbalement" faite le 12 juillet; une réponse détaillée, rédigée substantiellement dans les mêmes termes que ce document, fut envoyée à Washington le 5 août.

¹ Not printed.

² C. P. Stacey says in *Arms, Men and Governments* (p. 335) that much of this Canadian reply was evidently given "verbally" on July 12; detailed written reply sent to Washington on August 5, was in substantially the same terms as in the above document.