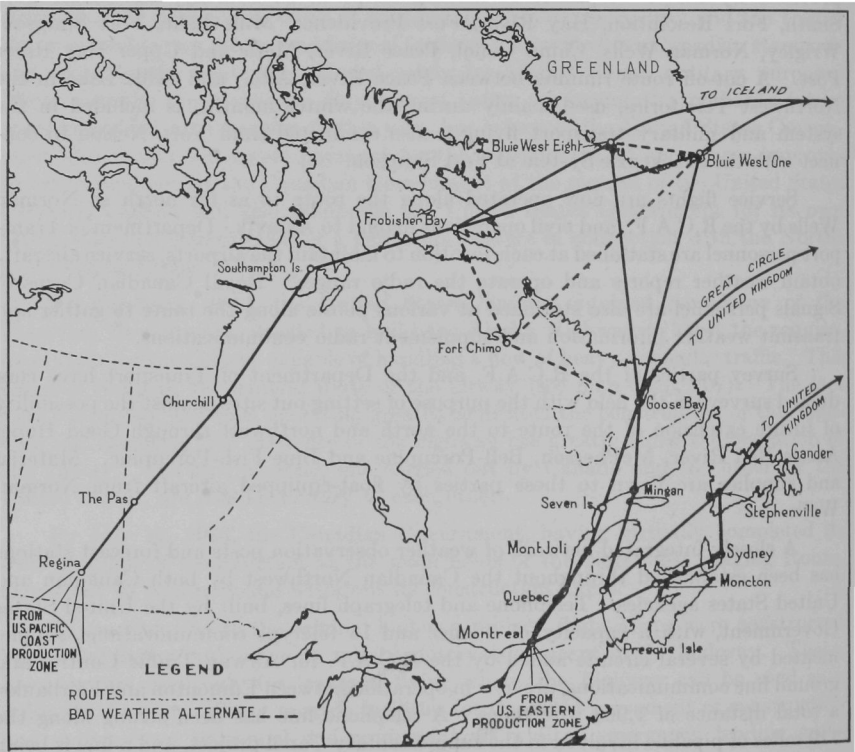


1939. There were no facilities for ferrying short-range bombers or fighters, which were beginning to come off United States assembly lines in considerable volume, and the United States investigated the possibilities of establishing airfields in Greenland and Iceland. For many months prior to United States involvement in the War, Canadian and United States troops had been manning co-ordinated defence posts. The Armed Forces of both nations were stationed in Iceland and in April, 1941, the United States assumed responsibility for the defence of Greenland and constructed airfields which were to be available to other "American Nations", which term included Canada.

THE MAIN CONNECTING LINKS OF THE NORTHEAST STAGING ROUTE



Since aeroplanes could not be transported across the Atlantic in sufficient numbers or safely through the sea lanes, it was imperative that, with the least possible delay, an air-base be opened from which aircraft arriving direct from the assembly lines of the United States and Canada could be flown across the short North Atlantic route by way of air bases in Greenland and Iceland to the United Kingdom. In June, 1941, a site was discovered at Goose Bay, Labrador, and a preliminary survey was made. By agreement with the Government of Newfoundland, construction was begun by Canada almost immediately, and the field was in