

Mid-Canada Air Raid Warning System Rising To Guard Against Any Surprise Attack by Russians

Editor's Note: A new defense line stretches 200 miles north of the U.S. border. This is the second line any attacker would have to breach to launch an attack into the United States and Southern Canada. The other is the so-called Dew Line. Charles Corddry, United Press military affairs writer in Washington, has just completed a 4,700-mile tour of the new line. Corddry has written a series of three dispatches describing the new line, and the obstacles that had to be conquered in building it. The first dispatch follows.

By CHARLES CORDDRY
United Press Correspondent
Cranberry Portage, Manitoba
—U.P.—Jet interceptors and guided missiles may be moved into the Canadian sub-Arctic in a few years to form a new forward defense line against Russian jet bombers and missiles.

Authorities seem confident that defense can be mounted in this bleak, sparsely populated territory even against the dread intercontinental ballistic missile—the city wrecker that will streak 5,000 miles in a half hour or less.

These prospects became known today following a tour by Canadian, British and American newsmen of the \$170 million electronic "burglar alarm" or warning line Canada is rushing toward completion by next Jan. 1.

The Mid-Canada Line, latest addition to the continental air raid warning system, stretches some 3,000 miles from Labrador's rocky coast to the Pacific generally along the 55th parallel 400 miles north of the U.S. border. It is 1,000 miles south of the \$400 million Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line at the top of the continent on the Arctic shore.

The M-C Line is distinguished by a continent-wide string of steel towers rising as high as 350 feet, with sensitive dish-shaped antennas on top. It will start operating at least six months or possibly a year ahead of the American-built DEW Line which was started later.

The Mid-Canada Line is 500 to 700 miles north of key industrial targets and Strategic Air Command bases in the Northern United States. Authorities say it will give at least one hour's warning of attack by Russia's Bison heavy jet bombers.

Future Plans
Because of Russian weapons advances, serious study is being given from a simple warning system to a full-fledged defense line with planes and missiles.

A hint of things to come was contained in prepared material handed reporters by the Royal Canadian Air Force, under whose direction the trans-Canada telephone system is building the Mid-Canada Lines.

"Any defense against the ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) will require forward defense lines," the RCAF said. "Thus northern warning lines 'will merely require to be modernized' to become defense lines. Canadian authorities believe the ICBM—as a practical, accurate weapon—is 10 to 12 years away."

Construction of the Mid-Canada Line represents a mighty conquest of the North. The 3,500 men on the job, including 294 Indians and 59 Eskimos, have overcome obstacles of terrain and climate that originally looked insurmountable.

The transportation job re-

quired not only such conventional means as rail, ship and air, but canoes, long tractor trains moving over snow, snowmobiles and "swamp buggies"—the tracked vehicles that move in the muskeg.

More than 200,000 tons of building materials, fuel and other items have been moved to Mid-Canada Line sites for buildings, electronic towers and other facilities making up the system. It is "one of the greatest construction projects ever undertaken in Canada," according to National Defense Minister Ralph Campney. And it is going far toward opening the North apart entirely from its security implications.

Some Facts
A six-day tour—with all dispatches read by RCAF officers before publication to prevent security leaks—can result in a complete appraisal of the warning line. But some facts can be given:

1. The Mid-Canada Line, unlike the DEW Line, is not a radar system that can track and pinpoint an invader's position. It is an electronic "fence," designed at McGill University, Montreal, to "confirm" an attack after the DEW Line has given first warning and alerted defenses on the U.S.-Canadian border.

2. It can detect planes at "heights above the ability of any present manned bomber to fly," the RCAF says. It can tell whether

they are going north or south. It can not give precise altitude or course.

3. When the line is breached, the electronic towers send signals to machines in which automatic pen recorders trace data on paper tapes. Tapes from the machines, which are located in the few "main" stations on the line, are studied by air officers. Appropriate warnings are flashed to interceptor headquarters and other forces controlled from the Pinetree Line.

4. The number of stations on the line is secret. But one may guess there are 85 to 100. Most are "intermediate" stations, consisting only of a tower and a steel-frame, concrete-floored building which houses diesel power units and offers living facilities for two civilian technicians. The plan is to have the intermediate stations operating automatically after the first year.

5. Main stations—small settlements comprising operations and administration buildings, barracks, mess hall and aircraft hangar—receive information, evaluate and disseminate it throughout the Continental Air Defense system. Since Campney has said a main station will have about a 100-man complement and the whole line will be manned by 800, there obviously are not many main stations.

Some Jamming Possible
6. Jamming of both DEW and

Mid-Canada stations can be done to some unknown extent, because both use electronic waves for aircraft detection. But authorities say they have built in the best antijamming techniques known. Any large-scale jamming effort would itself be an attack warning.

7. In order that identification of aircraft will work, controls will have to be imposed on friendly planes flying in the Mid-Canada area.

The Mid-Canada Line was proposed by U.S. and Canadian military authorities in late 1953 and decided on in early 1954. Trans-Canada telephones got the con-

tract in mid-1954, spent a year in arduous surveying and siting work while the RCAF carried out aerial photography and mapping, and by mid-summer, 1955, construction work was underway.

Canadian authorities are convinced that the existence of such warning lines is a prime deterrent to war. They believe that if Russia can not attack the continent by surprise it is far less likely to try attacking at all. They reject the claims that the warning lines are Maginot Lines about to become obsolete.

Tomorrow: Operation Helicopter.

Sex Crime Group Recommends Bureau

Portland—(U.P.)—The Legislative Interim committee on sex crime prevention has recommended yesterday the establishment of a central state bureau of identification and investigation in Oregon.

The committee, by unanimous vote, also suggested that all law enforcement agencies in the state at all levels report to that bureau all arrests in which the defendant is accused and booked, with exception of traffic violations. It also was recommended that fingerprints of arrested suspects in felonies and all sex crimes accompany reports of such suspects to the bureau.

State Sen. Carl Francis, Dayton, committee chairman, sug-

Portlander May Head World War 1 Vets

Portland—(U.P.)—A Portlander today appeared headed for the top post of the Veterans of World War 1 of the U.S.A. now holding their national convention here.

Delegates from every state in the union said no opposition had developed for the candidacy of Harlan W. Barnes as national commander. He would succeed Harry J. Miller of Watertown, N.Y., who is presiding at the 1956 convention.

More than 2000 delegates, plus 355 auxiliary delegates, had registered for the four-day convocation. Principal business of the

convention was to be promotion of the organization's plan for a \$100-a-month pension for all veterans of the first war.

Portland Schools Note Big Enrollment Boost

Portland—(U.P.)—Portland schools reported whopping increases in enrollment Monday when there were 67,858 enrolled in the public schools of the city.

That is 2,163 more than were registered one week ago when fall classes began. It is 3,200 more than were in classes at the end of the first week one year ago.

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday, other days 5:30 previous day.

GUNS
10% DOWN
LAMPORTS

On Approved Credit
226 E. Main

ANDY'S Fall Special!

4 Warmwaite BLANKETS
Double Bed Size — Double Use
REVERSIBLE

Only a sensationally NEW interweaving process makes these distinctive 2-in-1 Blankets possible. They're being introduced for the first time at this special price through the cooperation of the nationally famous maker (see below).

JUST LIKE 8 INTERWOVEN BLANKETS
DOUBLE DUTY & BEAUTY

At time of manufacture, 2 different color blankets are interwoven, making one THICK blanket.

GOLD ON ONE SIDE REVERSES TO GREEN

ROSE ON ONE SIDE REVERSES TO BLUE

ALL FOR \$1 A WEEK

EASY CREDIT
4 BLANKETS \$29.88 IN 8 COLORS

MADE BY NATIONALLY FAMOUS BLANKET MILLS

You'll recognize the famous name. But because of the low introductory price it isn't advertised here. All FOUR are full double bed size, 72" x 84", the warmth, comfort and luxury of finest blankets—at about half the price.

This price is only effective while our direct mill shipment lasts!

Copyright Merchandise Selectors Inc.

PHONE TODAY

MAIL COUPON NOW OR SHOP IN PERSON!



Phone 2-2970

ANDY'S—15 N. Central, Medford, Ore.
Please lay away for me the FOUR "Warmwaite" REVERSIBLE Blankets at the special price of \$29.88 for ALL FOUR. Two to be Blue one side and Rose on back; two Gold one side and Green on back. I agree to pay \$1 weekly.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Phone _____
Employer _____
How long _____
Employer's address _____

ANDY'S 15 North Central
YOUR FRIENDLY CREDIT JEWELER

OPEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT 'TIL 9

CARPET!

Roll Ends and Remnants—

40% OFF

Bring in Your Room Sizes!

We Have a WIDE SELECTION!

• OPEN WEDNESDAY NIGHTS •

DYKE'S FLOORCOVERING
227 E. 6th • Ph. 2-5168