

# Atom Bombing Plane Base Planned by Army in Maine

### \$14,000,000 Field To Be on Shortcut Route to Europe

WASHINGTON (UP) — The Army's strategic bombing force was strengthened today by plans for a \$14,000,000 base for its atom-bomb carrying heavy bombers in Arrostook County, Me.

The Army Air Forces made an official comment on the purpose of the base, located in the northernmost part of the United States just four miles west of the Canadian border.

But the base site is located strategically across the shortest air invasion route between Europe and the United States.

(The Associated Press said the Arrostook decision replaced a plan for building a new U.S. air base in Newfoundland. The press service also noted that the last U.S. troops left Iceland several weeks ago, apparently marking an end to U.S. hopes to maintain a foothold in the North Atlantic.)

Gen. Carl Spaatz, Army Air Force commander, has said there is a need for additional bomber bases for a "rainbow and ready" air offensive against any possible European aggressor.

The AAF, he said, must be in a position to strike the "vital areas" of an aggressor's home front before his attack begins.

The Strategic Air Command under Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney, expert on the long range bombing of Japan, was set up for the purpose of delivering this offensive.

The Arrostook County base will be the northernmost base of the Strategic Air Command in the United States.

The B-29's that atom-bombed Japan and the still more powerful B-50 Superbombers will be based there, AAF officers said. The B-29 has a range of 6000 miles and the B-50 a range of 10,000 miles. Spatz has said planes with a 15,000-mile range will be available in a few years.

He pointed out that a plane with the range of a B-29 could take off from a far north base, fly across the polar region and attack any of the great industrial centers of the world.

The AAF said construction of the new base will begin about June 15 and is expected to be completed by the fall of 1948.

It will be located about 30 miles northeast of the base at Presque Isle, Me., marking the end of a bank of transatlantic flights during the war.

The AAF said it was cheaper to build a new base with longer runways and wide runways than to remodel the existing one at Presque Isle.

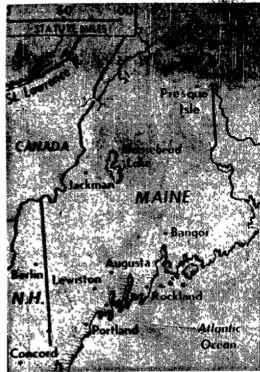
The location fits in with the AAF plan to locate its bases in isolated areas so they will not draw retaliation as they do large population concentrations.

The plans call for a runway 300 by 10,000 feet, taxiways 100 feet wide, parking aprons 100 to 200 feet and a hangar 300 by 370 feet.

There will also be a water supply system, sewage disposal plant and power facilities, capable of serving 2000 men. The base facilities will be completed later, the AAF said.

Plans call for an operations building, control tower and barracks with dining hall facilities for a security detachment of 200 men.

The Army said local labor and construction materials will be used as far as possible.



**BORDER TAKEOFF:** The proposed new heavy-bomber base for the Army Air Forces will be four miles northwest of Presque Isle, Me., (arrow) close to the boundary of Canada. (AP map)

# Arab Says U.S. Stand Fuels Holy Land Fire

PLUSHING, N.Y. (UP) — The Arab nations, carrying 16 the floor of the assembly their fight to force the United Nations to act now on Palestine, accused the United States of siding with the Jews.

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# Man Who Shoots 'Peeper' Held for Attempted Murder

LAWRENCE (UP) — A man, who said he shot several shots to kill a peeper, was held in District Court today on a charge of assault with intent to murder.

Raymond Thoberge, 37, was found lying face down in an alley last night with a bullet in his back.

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jamescarrion  
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