

WAR DEPARTMENT  
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION G-7  
WASHINGTON

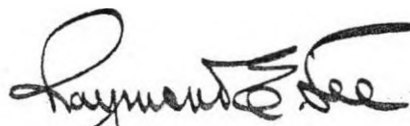
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February 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Subject: Evacuation of Alien Enemies from the Canal Zone to the United States.

1. On January 21, the Provost Marshal General cabled General Andrews saying that it was reported that internees in Panama and the Canal Zone were confined in such a location that it was possible for them and their visitors to see the traffic through the Canal, and he was asked if he would recommend evacuation of all alien enemies, who had been detained, to the United States.
2. On January 23, the Commanding General cabled the Provost Marshal General agreeing to this proposal and stating that the number involved would be 522 men, 81 women and children and 591 dependents.
3. It was not until February 8 that the State Department concurred in carrying out these measures. On the same date, the Provost Marshal General originated the staff study to carry out this project for which he has not yet obtained approval, but which he states he will press.
4. Officers you have been to Panama and know the location of this blockade say that it is possible to view the Canal from this location, but they do not believe the passage of ships can be observed due both to obstructions, and to the fact that ships are passed through the Canal only at night.



RAYMOND E. LEE,  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,  
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

Above told to Secretary of War verbally Feb. 17. He directed that P M G be informed that ~~no~~ interning these people in the U. S. was more important than moving Japanese from West Coast. R E Lee