

Minutes of the
War Committee of the Cabinet
May 16th, 1942.

CABINET WAR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the War Committee of the Cabinet was held in the Privy Council Chamber on Saturday, May 16th, 1942, at 12.45 p.m.

There were present the following members:

The Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston),
in the Chair,
The Minister of National Defence for Air
(Mr. Power),
The Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley),
The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud),
The Minister of National Defence for Naval
Services (Mr. Macdonald),
The Minister of Justice (Mr. St. Laurent).

The Under-Secretary of State for External
Affairs (Mr. Robertson),
The Secretary (Mr. Heeney).

Japanese in Canadian Army

1. The Minister of National Defence submitted a report of the Adjutant-General, concurred in by the Chiefs of Staff, recommending that Canadian-born Japanese, enlisted in the Canadian Army, should be discharged.

It was felt that their presence in the Canadian Forces was inconsistent with the government policy of evacuating persons of Japanese origin from Coastal areas; for this and other reasons approval of a policy of discharge was regarded as important.

(Departmental memorandum April 30, 1942 - C.W.C. document 167).

2. The War Committee, after some discussion, referred the proposal to the Departments of External Affairs and National Defence for Air, for consideration and report.

Department of National Defence - appointment of Divisional Commanders

3. The Minister of National Defence reported that after careful consideration the names of Brigadier Potts and Brigadier Leclerc were recommended for appointment to command the 6th and 7th Divisions.