

CABINET MINISTERS IWAMURA AND SUZUKI AND ADMIRAL TERESHIMA SOAK IN HOT BATH AT OMORI PRISON AFTER SCRUB WITH YELLOW SOAP (LOWER LEFT)

JAP WAR CRIMINALS AWAIT TRIAL

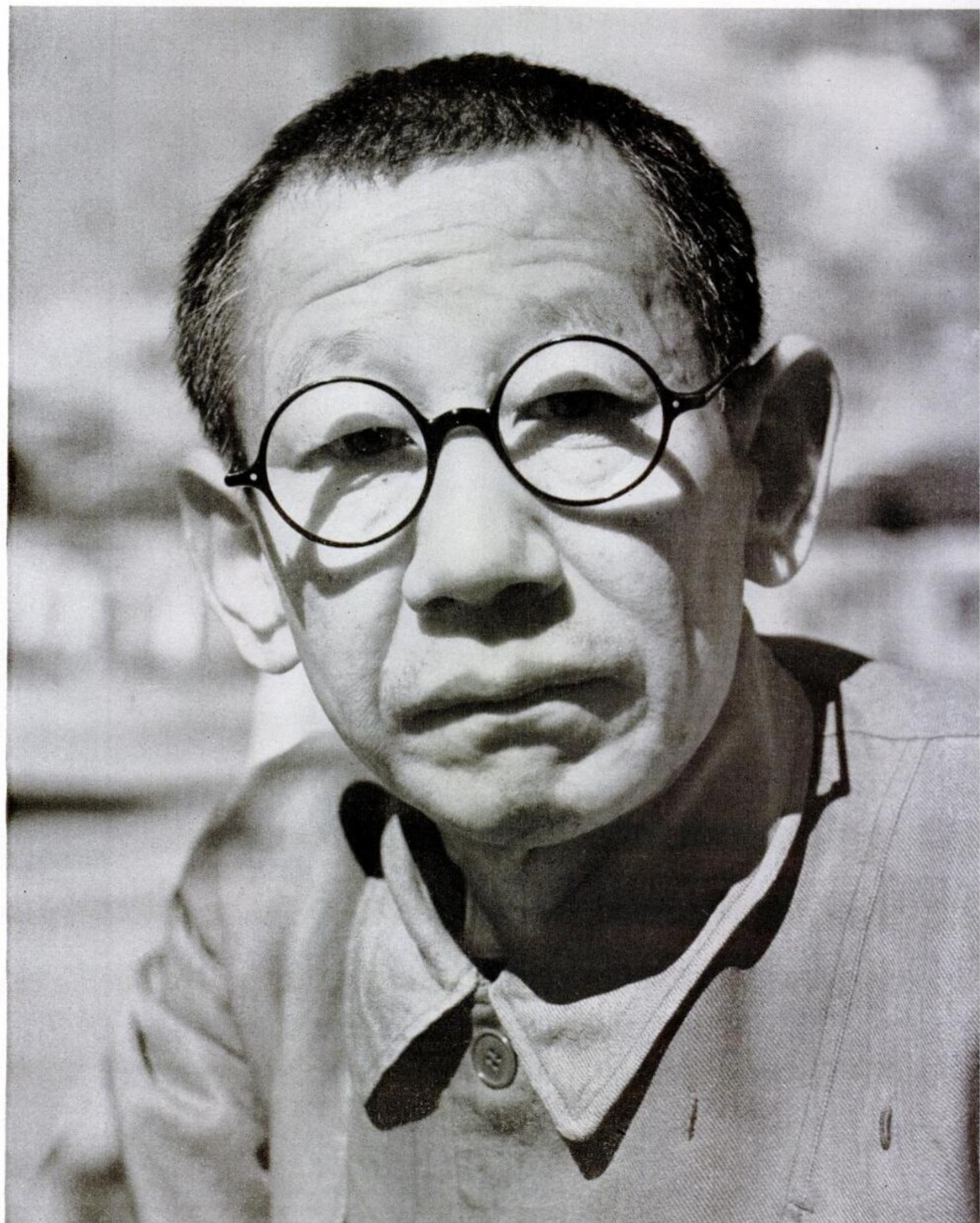
Americans hold 23 top specimens in cleaned-up Omori prison where Japs kept U.S. prisoners of war

The very top scum of the 2,000 Japs rounded up for war-guilt trials was deposited last month in the Omori Island prison camp in Tokyo harbor, an elite 23 of them. Found there by LIFE Photographer George Silk, they included some very great blackguards: Tojo the "Razor Blade," Homma of the Bataan Death March ("I don't think it was such a tough march"), Nagahama of Manila's torture chambers, Tokuda who killed tubercular Americans with injections of infected bile, Muira the "Copperhead" of prison camps in Japan, Hashimoto who sank the *Panay*, Colonel Suzuki of Shinagawa prison camp. They were all smiling and bowing and clowning for Silk, delighted by the treatment they were receiv-

ing, in contrast to their own past behavior which they knew so well.

Some 600 American prisoners of war had been held at Omori for years. They had starved, slept on vermin-infested mats, fought rats and the diseases that came from lack of sanitary facilities. The buildings had been allowed to fall apart and many prisoners had died. With tired decency the Americans repaired and whitewashed the buildings, installed toilets and baths, used DDT on the bugs. However, the Jap generals and admirals were taken off the diet of beef, bacon, eggs and peaches they had enjoyed in Yokohama prison and put on the diet of rice, dried fish and whalemeat found at Omori, plus American cof-

fee, sugar and rock candy. They were given the same thin blankets, deloused, that they had given the Americans. They were expected to clean, launder and pick up for themselves. They had to answer several roll calls a day but otherwise they were let alone in their compound. From time to time notable Jap war criminals will be added to their number, such as the notorious secret police leader, Genki Abe, captured last week. In good time they will be put on trial for their remarkable record of atrocities and war crimes. Already General Tomoyuki Yamashita, the conqueror of the Philippines, was on trial for his life before a military court in Manila, charged with responsibility for murder, rape and massacre.



A leader of the Black Dragon Society glares balefully at the camera. He is Colonel Kingoro Hashimoto, who ordered the bombing of the U. S. gunboat *Panay* in 1937 and is celebrated as a hater of whites. He looks like a movie version of a Jap villain but is the real thing. The Black

Dragon Society was the bloodthirstiest of all Japan's jingoistic secret societies. It instigate all Japan's modern aggressions as well as the assassinations of relatively liberal Japanese. Hashimoto was chief of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, Japan's fascist superparty.



General Masaharu Homma, who threatened to kill General Wainwright and the 10,000 Americans who surrendered on Corregidor and gave the orders for the Bataan Death March, agreeably shows a GI guard how to write his name in Japanese characters in the prison courtyard.



A joke about waistlines is enjoyed by Admiral Shimada, navy minister at the time of Pearl Harbor, who tightens belt of Nobosuke Kishi, minister of commerce at time of Pearl Harbor (left), and tells him he is losing weight on the Omori prison diet. Right rear is Colonel Suzuki.



Sewage system, installed so that Omori camp will be in accord with the Geneva Convention, replaces the virtually nonexistent facilities provided U. S. prisoners at Omori. Here Minister Kishi looks on amazed. Jap soldiers do the manual work while the Americans direct them.



The villain of Manila, Lieut. Colonel Seeichi Ohta, who gave the order for Jap soldiers to massacre civilians with sword and fire rather than waste ammunition on them, clowns on a log in Omori (above). Below: Okinobu Kaya, minister of finance at time of Pearl Harbor, who still wears banker's striped pants in prison, advises Captain Norton to have a child "so high."





AFTER TOJO FINISHES LUNCH OF FISH, SOY BEANS AND RICE, HE TURNS TO STRIKE UP CONVERSATION WITH FELLOW WAR CRIMINALS. BUT NOBODY ANSWERS HIM

WAR LORD TOJO IS TREATED WITH SILENT CONTEMPT BY CAMP'S OTHER PRISONERS

The most unpopular man in the Omori camp is Hideki Tojo, the man who led them all in the war as premier and war minister. Now, because they consider that he failed in the war and shamefully bungled his suicide in September, all but the most despicable of his fellow-prisoners ignore Tojo. They seem to feel that he is technically dead. They do not admit him to their walks in the prison compound. They do not play "Go" with him. When he seats himself at meals, they scrupulously

avoid his table. And when he walks out of his barrack they casually get out of his path. Rarely will another Jap even give his questions a curt "Yes" or "No."

Tojo has been given a physical examination every day and has gained a few pounds since his arrival in October at the camp. He willingly posed for LIFE Photographer George Silk, saying, "I want to be a good loser." But, although other prisoners were willing (see 1/29), he refused to be photographed while taking a bath



Physical examination of Tojo shows scar of the bullet wound under left breast. He weighs 94 pounds. Penicillin saved him.



Only companion to talk to Tojo is Black Dragon Member Hashimoto, suggesting Tojo was secret leader of the Black Dragon.



Writing his memoirs, Hideki Tojo spends his days largely alone in his tiny cubicle at the very end of empty barrack

TOJO AWAITS HIS IGNOMINIOUS END
IN HIGH BUTTON SHOES AND SOLITUDE

