



Sugamo Prison no longer exists except in official American and Japanese records, and in the memories of those who served time there as prisoners or guards. In its place now is a very expensive housing and shopping complex named Sunshine City, the location of the tallest building in Japan. In one corner of this complex is a small park where a large stone marks the location of the prison's gallows. A message in Japanese reads: 'Pray for Eternal Peace'.

Compared to other Japanese and American prisons, the life span of Sugamo was a short one. Constructed in the early 1920s and demolished in 1971, it was the best-constructed and most modern prison in Japan. The Japanese copied the architecture of Sugamo from some of the better European prisons.

Sugamo served two distinct functions during its existence. It held mostly political prisoners after its construction, and after the end of World War II, it held primarily war criminals — and their accomplices — who had caused the political prisoners to be imprisoned.

Located approximately six miles north-north-east of the Imperial Palace, near Ikebukuro Station in Toshima Ku, in Tokyo, Sugamo Prison was initially used for holding Japan's political prisoners. 'Political' included anyone the members of the military clique believed could interfere with their war goals. Into this category fell Communists, dissenters, spies, and anyone else whom the military felt should be imprisoned — for practically any reason. In 1938, a leader of the Tokyo-Yokohama Communist group, Shinichi Matsumoto, was picked up in a police round-up of suspects and kept in Sugamo Prison for a year without a hearing or trial. Many of Japan's leading publishers and journalists spent time in Sugamo for writing or publishing ideas detrimental to the aims and goals of the military. However, under Japanese administration, Sugamo was never fully occupied by prisoners.

The Japanese also executed prisoners there, two of the more important being Richard Sorge, a German spy for the USSR, and Hotsumi Ozaki, one of his top people. Ozaki was a Japanese citizen. Numerous others in this spy ring were discovered, tried, and imprisoned throughout Japan.

Sorge was an insider with the German Embassy, posing — with certified credentials — as a German correspondent. He provided two top German newspapers with many articles that pleased both the Germans and the Japanese. He had the complete confidence of

SUGAMO PRISON, TOKYO

By John L. Ginn

Germany's ambassador, General Eugen Ott, while he set up a ring of spies that covered China, Indochina, Manchuria, the Philippines, Korea, and virtually all of Japan's Far East conquests. Sorge provided the Soviet Union with thousands of coded messages, keeping the Russian government completely informed of Japanese military actions and plans.

Sorge and Ozaki were hanged on November

7, 1944. Other members of the spy ring were imprisoned for terms of varying lengths. Some later perished in other prisons for lack of medical attention, and some were released when the American occupation forces liberated Japanese prisons.



The trial of the major war criminals in Tokyo never received the worldwide attention that the Nuremberg trials did in Germany in 1945-46. Acting under the aegis of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE), the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, General Douglas MacArthur, issued instructions for the rounding up of suspected Japanese war criminals in September 1945. His brief was to arrest all those believed of being implicated in war crimes beginning with the Mukden incident in September 1931 (the take-over of the Japanese government by the army clique which led to the war with China), and to categorise those arrested into Class A, B or C according to the rank of the alleged perpetrator. Tokyo's top security Sugamo Prison was selected for the detention of the suspects whilst awaiting trial and by November a master list had been drawn up. *Top:* The main gate to the prison lay down this side road leading from the present day Kasuga Dori Avenue. *Above:* The prison was demolished in 1971 and in its place now stands the complex of Sunshine City, topped by the Sunshine 60 building. All present-day pictures were kindly taken for us by Yuichi Ishikawa.

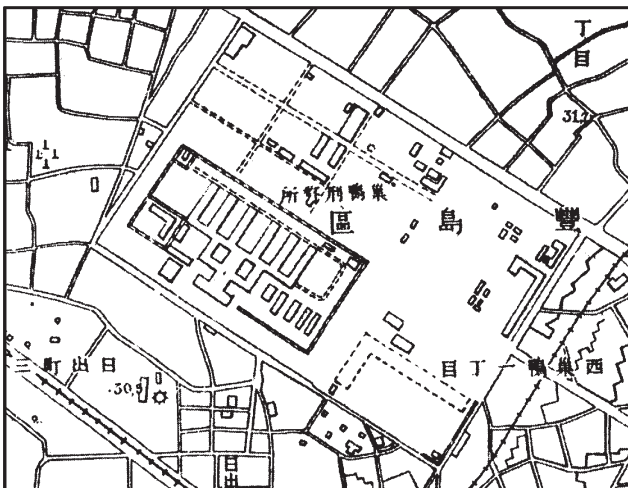


Other spies executed at Sugamo included five American agents. In July 1943, William J. Donovan, director of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), sent a six-man team into Japan as part of a B-29 bombing mission. They parachuted from the plane at night over Honshu, equipped with transmitters, Japanese currency, rations, and weapons. The Japanese soon realised that spies were reporting their convoy and troop movements to the Allies. Japan lost five ships in one convoy and four troop transports in another. Military units searched the countryside and eventually caught five of the OSS agents. They were taken to Sugamo, interrogated, and executed by hanging later in November 1944 — the same month as Sorge and Ozaki. (The sixth agent was never caught and continued to transmit ship movements to the US military. After the war he came in from the cold and served as a colonel with the occupation forces.)

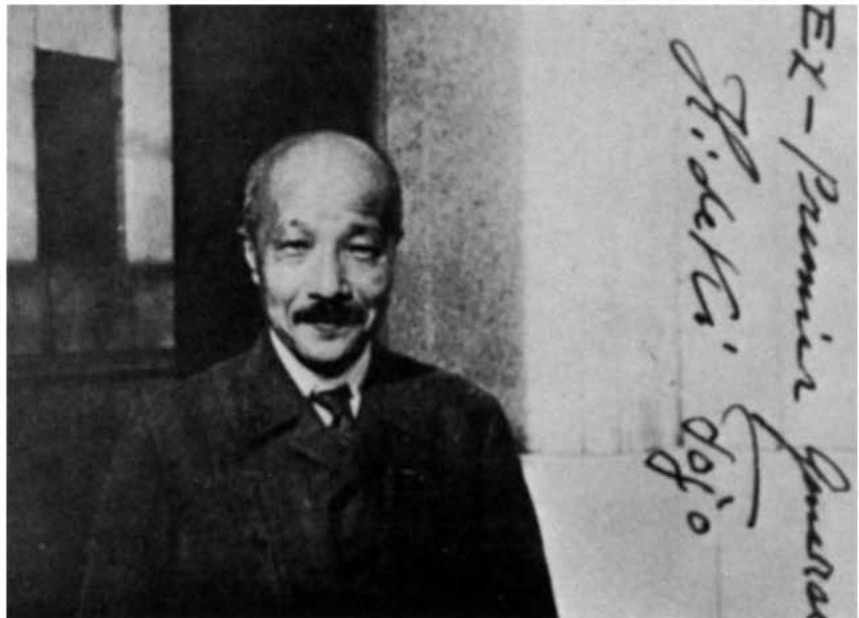
While under Japanese control, the prison was a single compound covering about six acres, enclosed by a thick, twelve-foot-high, reinforced concrete wall. The Japanese guards who served at the prison also lived within the compound. There they had their living quarters, kitchen, eating area, and minimal recreation facilities. The guards were supervised by a prison governor.



Top: Then — looking westwards along the north perimeter wall at the rear of the prison. Above: Now — on the left, the Mitsukoshi department store. Below: Apart from the site of the prison itself having been redeveloped, feeder lanes for the elevated Shuto Expressway No. 5 actually disgorge traffic directly into the Sunshine City complex.



General MacArthur delegated the arrest of the suspects to the Japanese police who were instructed to apprehend all those on the Class A list and have them report to Sugamo within ten days. Possibly, it was all part of MacArthur's plan to give them time to take the honourable way out but, in any event, the delay gave ample opportunity for the accused to commit suicide. Vice Admiral Takijiro Onishi, creator of the Kamikaze forces; War Minister Korechika Anami; General Shigeru Hondo, leader of the Kwantung Army military clique and planner of the Mukden incident; Field-Marshal Hajime Sugiyama; General Shizuichi Tanaka, the Eastern Army commander; Kumihiko Hashida, former Minister of Education; Chikahiko Koizumi, former Minister of Welfare and army surgeon general; and Prince Konoye, all elected to take their own lives. Right: The most well known of those on the 'A' list was General Hideki Tojo, Minister of War and Prime Minister at the time of Pearl Harbor. He attempted to shoot himself in the heart on September 11 but, in spite of receiving a near-fatal wound, he survived to be admitted to Sugamo on December 8, 1945.



After the defeat of Japan, the Allied occupation forces began rounding up suspected Japanese war criminals early in September 1945. While Army troops were readying Sugamo Prison, other troops from the 35th AA Artillery Group, reinforced with two batteries from the 579th AAA, were guarding war criminal suspects at Omori Prison — designated as XI Corps Stockade 2. This prison, much smaller than Sugamo, was located on Omori Island — land reclaimed from Tokyo Bay. During

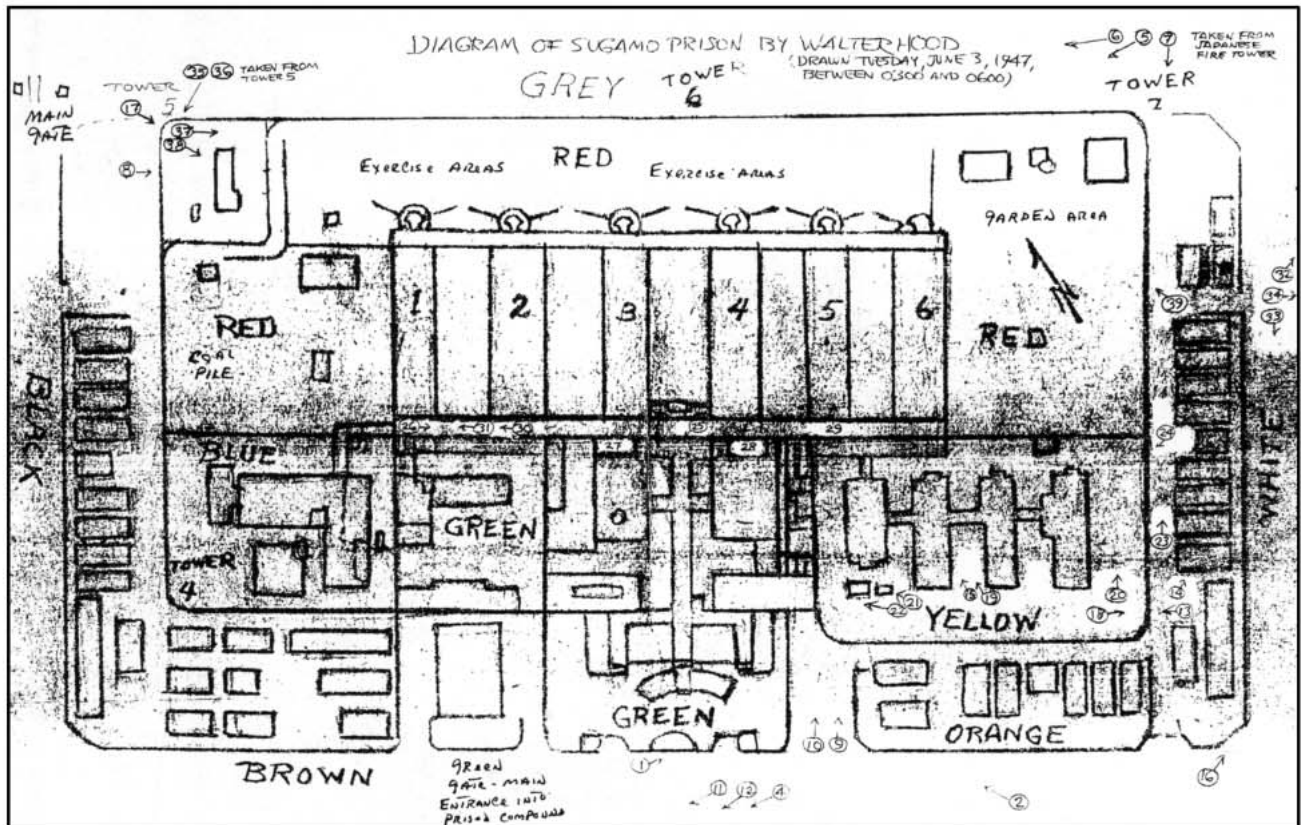
the war, this facility had been a notorious PoW camp for Americans.

On December 8, 1945, the overcrowded Omori prisoners were transferred to Sugamo Prison — known then as XI Corps Stockade 1. The two batteries of troops serving at Sugamo provided guard duty and security around the clock.

One of the first prisoners to be processed into Sugamo Prison was General Hideki Tojo, premier of Japan's war cabinet. Ironically, the

date and time listed on Tojo's basic personnel record was 14.40, December 8, 1945. This was exactly the same local time that Ambassador Nomura was sent into Secretary of State Cordell Hull's office in Washington, DC, in December 1941 to present Japan's final negotiation.

In March 1946, administration of the prison was assigned to the Eighth Army with headquarters in Yokohama. Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger was the commander.



During his research, John Ginn, author of *Sugamo Prison, Tokyo*, from which this article has been extracted, traced a Dr Walter K. Hood who in 1947 was serving as one of the US guards at the prison. He had been far-sighted enough to produce this plan and take numerous photographs, some of which are included here. Dr Hood explains that 'the use of color codes was to designate specific areas: BLACK for living quarters (mainly quonsets) for enlisted men; BROWN for service facilities such as the PX, Mess

Hall, Motor Pool etc; GREEN for the administration areas, offices and chapel, ORANGE for officers' quarters and club; BLUE to indicate the female part of the prison; YELLOW for the hospital; WHITE for the guard quarters and RED for the cell blocks. The latter were numbered from 1 to 6, Nos. 1-4 being for Class C prisoners, No. 5 for Class A and No. 6 for Class A and B suspects. Each block except No. 6 had three floors referred to as Corridors A, B and C with A being the first (ground) floor.'



Dr Walter Hood: 'My photo No. 2 shows the administration building looking north-west from the open field in front of the prison.'

The prison's administration building was centrally located on the south side. It consisted of six long wings, of which five were three-story tiers of cells, and one a two-story tier. It was provided with exercise and labour yards, service areas, a laundry, and an execution building. There was also a smaller building, known as the Blue Prison, within this compound for women prisoners.

On occupying Sugamo Prison, the Eighth Army provided almost 500 troops to staff it. By mid-1947, the round-up of war criminals had netted approximately 2,000 prisoners and protected witnesses.

Ironically, two of the prisoners brought to Sugamo were Procurator General (former Justice Minister) Tsusei Iwamura; and Justice Minister Hiromasa Matsuzaki. (A procurator general has about the same authority in Japan as the attorney general in the United States.) In the past, both of these prisoners had had supervisory control of the prison, and both were well aware of the painstaking efforts taken to make it escape-proof.

An outer compound, encompassing about 12 acres, was built around the inner one, enlarging the prison area by 100 per cent. The outer boundary was protected by a ten-foot-high, 14-strand, barbed-wire fence. The wire fence surrounding the outer compound of Sugamo prison was not there to prevent the escape of prisoners but to prevent the Japanese from stealing coal and food from the Americans. (During the early years of the American occupation there was an abundance of cold and hungry Japanese citizens.)

This compound contained all the amenities and facilities the US Army strives to bestow on its personnel. These included Quonset huts for quarters; a mess hall and post exchange; officers' and enlisted men's clubs; and a post theatre and baseball and football fields. The football field also served as a track for exercising and a parade ground for troop formations and ceremonies. There was an orderly room for the records and files of all personnel serving at Sugamo; a bowling alley (the first in Japan); an armoury; a motor pool; a snack bar; and a Red Cross Service Club at which monthly or bi-monthly dances were held and at which GIs could play ping-pong tournaments, checkers, and chess matches.

Improvements to the prison itself began almost immediately after the Americans arrived. On the priority list were the heating, cooling, and ventilation systems and repairs to the medical facilities. The prison took on a new look as both the exterior and interior were painted with brighter colours. The grounds were landscaped, trees and shrubbery planted, and new buildings erected. Some of the improvements created confusion among the prisoners because they were required to move from one cell-block to another without explanation while repairs and improvements were made.



'I took this photograph [No. 5] of the six cell blocks of Sugamo Prison,' noted Dr Hood, 'looking west-south-west from a Japanese fire tower not on the prison grounds. The old wooden tower 6, near the mid-point of the north wall, is seen to the left of the foreground tower. A segment of the barbed wire fence that surrounded the prison grounds appears in the bottom right. I knew this area rather well, having climbed over the fence one night when I arrived in Ikebukuro after midnight due to poor train connections.'



A present day visitor can still sleep on the site of the cell blocks — if one books into the Prince Hotel!

In 1948, when the war crimes trials were being concluded, security was strengthened with guard towers, jeep patrols, and a main gate manned 24 hours a day by double guards. There were also special details to watch and guard the prisoners inside the prison and to transport Class A prisoners to Tokyo by bus, and Class C prisoners to Yokohama by army bus or truck, to be tried.

Class A war criminals were those accused of 'crimes against peace' — namely, the planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a declared or undeclared war of aggression; or a war in violation of international law, treaties, agreements or assurances; or participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the foregoing.

Class B criminals were those charged with conventional war crimes — namely, 'violations of the laws or customs of war'. Such violations included, but were not limited to, murder, ill-treatment or deportation to slave labour or for any other purpose of the civilian population of, or in, occupied territory; murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war or persons on the seas or elsewhere; improper treatment of hostages; plunder of public or private property; and wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity.

Class C criminals were those accused of 'crimes against humanity' — namely, murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed during Japan's war with China and World War II or persecutions on political or racial grounds in execution of, or in connection with, any crime within the jurisdiction of the tribunal, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where the crimes were perpetrated. Leaders, organizers, instigators, and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes were deemed to be responsible for all acts performed by any person in the execution of such plans.

In August 1947 the US Army newspaper *Stars and Stripes Review* published the following article about Sugamo Prison and its operation:

'Sugamo Prison, a network of modern, well-landscaped buildings of pale tan concrete, stands in a Tokyo residential section which has been reduced to ashes and wastelands by wartime incendiary bombing. It stands as an example to the world both of American justice and of humane, efficient prison management.

'Here the Provost Marshal Section of Lieutenant General Robert L. Eichelberger's Eighth Army has confined the 1,100 Japanese nationals accused or convicted of war crimes. Many former PoW guards and army generals, civilians and politicians are serving sentences



Corporal William Bickwermert, wearing the red and white insignia of the Eighth Army on his helmet, carries out a pass check at the main gate on Sergeant Ray Bullock and Sergeant Thurman Keeble. (See Walter Hood's plan on page 46 for the location.)



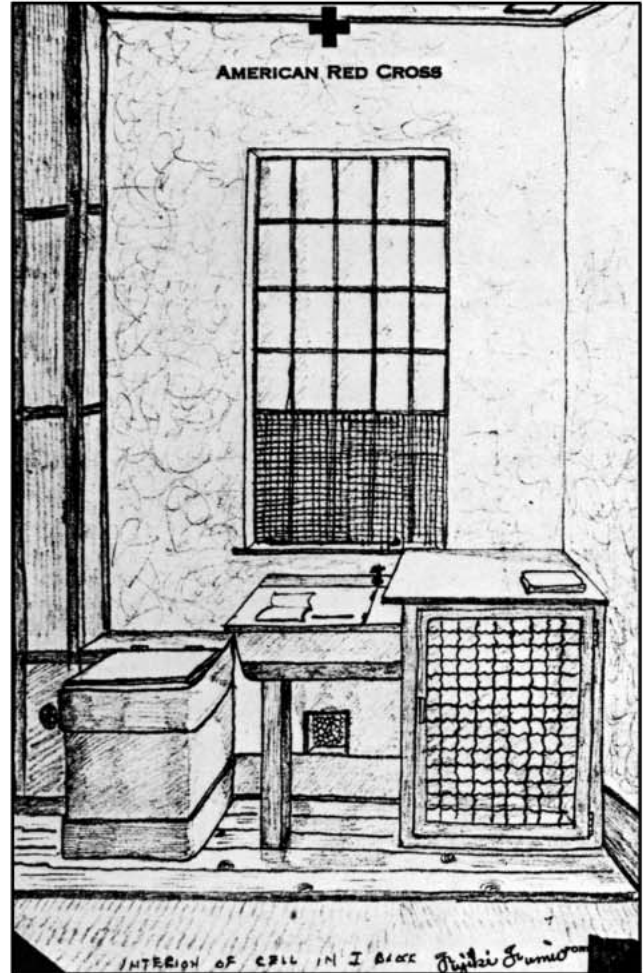
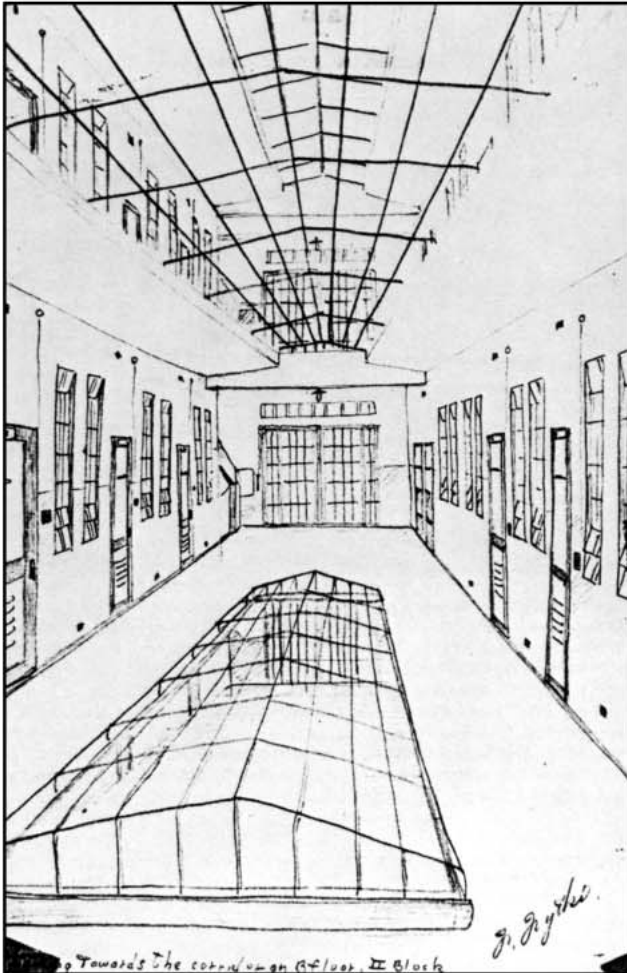
Once inside the outer compound, entry to the prison itself was via the Green Gate in front of the administration building.



The trial of the major Class A Japanese war criminals began on May 3, 1946 in a courtroom constructed in the former auditorium of the Japanese War College (due to be demolished in 1994) in



Tokyo. The trial lasted for two years and 98 days during which time the defendants were taken each day to the court in a blacked out coach, escorted by Jeeps.



As well as the Class A prisoners, some 2,000 other individuals were rounded up between 1945 and 1948 and held in Sugamo. Of these, 1,002 were tried by five-man military commissions appointed by the Eighth Army acting for the IMTFE. Trials began at Eighth Army HQ at Yokohama on December 18, 1945, the last one ending on October 3, 1949. The Class B defendants were

mostly high-ranking officers whose troops had committed atrocities, all the others indicted falling into Class C. One of the latter was Sergeant Fumio Fujiki, tried in Case 287 at Yokohama on February 13, 1948, and sentenced to six years hard labour. While imprisoned in Sugamo, he completed these drawings which accurately portray the interior.

ranging from a few months to life imprisonment at hard labour. But the majority are awaiting trial. Of these, many will be released without trial and others may be acquitted. Although new suspects are constantly being found and brought to the prison, it is expected that all prisoners will be either tried or released by early next year.

'The prison was originally built by the Japanese during the decade leading up to the war. Here prisoners awaited trials during months and often years of physical privation and brutal treatment from guards. Two years ago, Eighth Army Provost Marshal Section took it over for temporary confinement of war crime suspects.

'Today, from the outside, only high walls and watch-towers betray the purpose of these buildings. The windows, even the walls of the buildings, are clean. Trees and carefully cultivated gardens surround the buildings, with a large vegetable garden at one end of the premises.

'The interior displays a recent paint job and the cleanliness of a hospital. Prisoners are required to scrub their cells several times a week, and to keep them in order at all times. Each cell contains a table and chair, electric light, straw floor mat, and a covered lavatory.

'The prisoners themselves are in good health. They wear clean uniforms which are washed and ironed by a laundry on the premises.

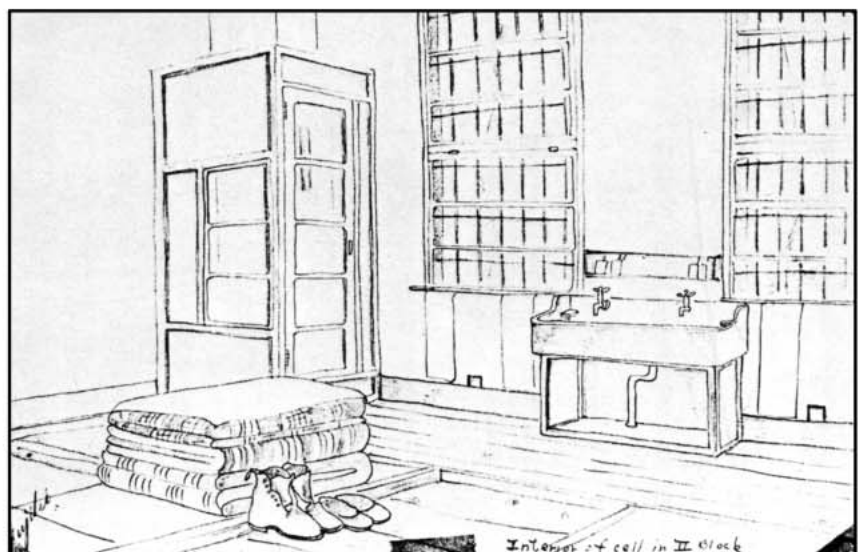
'The prison staff goes beyond mere accommodation of basic physical needs in trying to arrange for the prisoners a decent life.

'Prisoners are encouraged to practise religion. Christian services are conducted for them, and a Buddhist altar with a Japanese priest in attendance is available to them.

'The Chaplain, Captain John A. Ryan, has obtained through the Red Cross many books written in both English and Japanese and has set up a rotating library for the prisoners. Although few of them can speak or under-

stand (oral) English, most can read and write it.

'Humane treatment of war crime suspects does not imply softness or inefficiency. Each soldier has well defined duties, which he must carry out correctly. A thorough system of guards has prevented even an attempted escape from the prison. Prisoners eat, work, or exercise at specified times. The complex





machinery of prison operations functions with precision.

'The staff follows careful procedures to prevent spread of disease. Every incoming prisoner is inoculated against the same diseases as is the American soldier entering the theatre. He receives a thorough physical examination and any necessary medical attention. A doctor remains on duty 24 hours a day in case of emergency.

'The mess personnel observe rigid regulations to ensure sanitation. The kitchen is kept immaculate. The Japanese workers are required to take showers and to don clean uniforms every morning before starting work.

'Colonel Francis W. Crary of St Louis, Missouri, commanding officer, considers that the success of Sugamo depends upon the character of the men operating it. He desires discipline and prompt, precise performance of duty from them. But he especially wants them to live up to democratic ideals. He operates the prison on the principles that a man is not guilty until convicted and even then remains a human being.

'Mr. E. L. Carr, noted author, sums up one's impression of the prison as follows: "The first impression a visitor gets of Sugamo Prison, Tokyo — where the Japanese charged with war crimes are imprisoned — is one of tremendous, purposeful, and kindly alertness on the part of the US officers and men charged with guarding the prisoners. They seem interested in their work, fully conscious of the possibilities of mistakes, and yet there is no sign of the arrogance and cruelty which stained the records of Japanese and Nazis alike. Every conceivable precaution is taken to be sure that Tojo and his accomplices meet their just deserts, but the routine of confinement is accomplished without whip-cracking or torture chambers. A visit to Sugamo makes one proud of democracy, and even prouder of the men it breeds."

In 1948 a prisoners' vegetable garden was established in the inner, and later in the outer, compound. This not only assisted greatly in providing better meals to the prisoners but markedly improved morale among them. Some of the prisoners had served time in other Japanese prisons. They told their guards that Sugamo was being operated in an improved and more humane manner than they had ever experienced before.

There were still many who complained about one thing or another, however. One frequent complaint was about the difference in the financial status between the American guards and the prisoners. They could see the Americans smoking at will and eating whenever they were hungry, while for the prisoners, both tobacco and food were rationed.



Perhaps the most famous prisoner at Sugamo to those Americans who fought in the Pacific Theater was Iva D'Aguiina (née Toguri) — better known as Tokyo Rose. She was an American citizen who became stranded in Japan when the war started. Because she later broadcast on Radio Tokyo's English language programme, she was arrested by the Americans in September 1945 and spent a year in Blue Prison (right) before being released for lack of evidence. Left: Here she is seen leaving the prison for the United States where she was re-arrested. She was pre-tried by the Press, convicted of treason in 1949 and sentenced to ten years, fined \$10,000, and stripped of her US citizenship. Having served 6½ years in prison, the miscarriage of justice was finally acknowledged in 1977 when President Ford granted her a free pardon.

Although the Americans were improving the conditions at Sugamo, they had no intention of allowing the prisoners to fare better than the Japanese civilian population.

Within the administration building was a large, centrally located meeting room. This room, converted into a chapel, or religious room, was used by both the prisoners and the Americans. The Americans used it on Sundays, and the Japanese used it during the week or whenever the appointed prison Buddhist priest, Dr. Shinsho Hanayama, decided to conduct religious services or perform last-rite ceremonies. Some American soldiers were married and others had their children baptised in this chapel.

Shortly before the Korean War began, an American officer, Captain Lonnie Adams, was assigned to Sugamo as prison officer. After meeting with his top NCOs and the lead-

ing inmates, he determined that prisoner morale was very low. He requested and received permission from the commanding officer to allow the prisoners more time in the exercise yards outside their cells, and improvements were made in the weekly Sugamo newspaper.

When the Korean War began in 1950, there was a shortage of soldiers at hand. This deficit was partially made up with GIs stationed at various military installations throughout Japan. At Sugamo, the officers were reduced from 40 to 7 and the enlisted men from more than 400 to less than 100. All executions of condemned war criminals had been completed by April 7, 1950. Shortly after that, prisoners serving terms were beginning to be paroled. At this time, the Japanese penal system began replacing some of the GIs with Japanese guards.



Looking across the road underneath the Shuto Expressway to where the Sunshine 60 building now stands squarely on the site of the old Blue Prison block.



While the IMTFE realised that there was no possible way of bringing to trial all those responsible for crimes committed across the Far East, China, and the Pacific Islands, the basic idea of the war crimes trials was, like Nuremberg, to set an example. The original 28 Class A defendants had been shortlisted from a total of 84 civilian and military leaders held at Sugamo, each of the Allied nations represented on the IMTFE being allowed to indict two Class A captives. Yosuke Matsuoka and Admiral Osami Nagamo died before the trial had finished and Dr Shumei

Okawa was committed to a psychiatric hospital. On November 4, 1948, the court reconvened after a six-month recess to hand down the verdicts on the remaining 25. Seven received death sentences: General Tojo (page 46); General Kenji Doihara (left), one-time commander of the Kwantung Army and member of the Supreme War Council; Baron Koki Hirota (centre), Foreign Minister at the time of the Nanking massacres; and General Seishiro Itagaki (right), Minister of War 1938-39, Chief of the Army General Staff 1939, later a member of the Supreme War Council.

Captain Adams called a meeting of prisoners and told them of his manpower shortage and that he had two choices: he could either lock them up and keep them locked up, or they could elect to govern themselves. They quickly told him that they could govern themselves without any problems. They did so, and there were no major disciplinary problems.

Some of the inmates volunteered to assist in any way with the Korean conflict, including combat. Three hundred were put to work at a large hydroponic farm near Tokyo and greatly increased vegetable production. Other inmates volunteered to work on a project constructing wooden pallets for the war effort and consistently surpassed the production goals initially set by Captain Adams and later by themselves.

At the same time, Captain Adams was making life more bearable for the prisoners. The prison hospital was enlarged, an X-ray machine and X-ray technician were put in place, along with a medical laboratory and facilities for tuberculosis patients. A school was built, and an education program was begun. Dr Tochima, the Buddhist priest who replaced Dr Hanayama, greatly assisted Captain Adams in organising the school. Classes were conducted in automobile mechanics, library science, the abacus, art, photography, tatami and shoemaking and repair, and English.

As the American medical personnel at Sugamo were phased out for the Korean War effort, Japanese doctors and medical technicians were brought in. There was even an obstetrician on duty. Sugamo was about halfway between several large American housing complexes and Tokyo, and after many pregnant American wives failed to make it into Tokyo in time for delivery, arrangements were made to have a qualified doctor at the prison hospital. He was kept relatively busy.

Room was also found for a prison library, and donations of books reached five thousand by 1950. A goldfish pond and an aviary were established, with the Japanese people donating fish and birds in abundance. An entertainment program was initiated to bring theatre productions to the post theatre. Sumo wrestling matches were conducted on the football field in the outer compound, and track meets and May Day exercises were attended by the majority of the inmates.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST SENTENCES FOR THE CLASS A JAPANESE DEFENDANTS

	Count										Sentence
	1	27	29	31	32	33	35	36	54	55	
General Sadao Araki	G	G	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	Life
General Kenji Doihara	G	G	G	G	G	NG	G	G	G	NG	Death
Colonel Kingoro Hashimoto	G	G	NG	NG	NG	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
Field Marshal Shunroku Hata	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NG	NG	NG	G	Life
Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma	G	G	G	G	G	NG	NG	G	NG	NG	Life
Baron Koki Hirota	G	G	NG	NG	NG	NG	NI	NG	G		Death
Naoki Hoshino	G	G	G	G	G	NG	NG	NI	NG	NG	Life
General Seishiro Itagaki	G	G	G	G	G	NG	G	G	G	NF	Death
Okinori Kaya	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
Marquis Koichi Kido	G	G	G	G	G	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	Life
General Heitaro Kimura	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NI	G	G	Death
General Kuniaki Koiso	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NG	NG	G	Life
General Iwane Matsui	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NI	NG	NG	NG	G	Death
General Jiro Minami	G	G	NG	NG	NG	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
General Akira Muto	G	G	G	G	G	NG	NI	NG	G	G	Death
Admiral Takasumi Oka	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
General Hiroshi Oshima	G	NG	NG	NG	NG	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
General Kenro Sato	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
Mamoru Shigemitsu	NG	G	G	G	G	G	NG	NI	NI	G	7 years
Admiral Shigetaro Shimada	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NI	NG	NG	Life
Toshio Shiratori	G	NG	NG	NG	NG	NI	NI	NI	NI	NI	Life
General Teiichi Suzuki	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NG	NG	NG	Life
Shigenori Togo	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NG	NG	NG	20 years
General Hideki Tojo	G	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NG	G	NF	Death
General Yoshijiro Umezu	G	G	G	G	G	NI	NI	NG	NG	NG	Life

G—Guilty NG—Not guilty NF—No finding NI—Not indicted on a specific count

Count 1 — were leaders, organisers, instigators, or accomplices in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to wage wars of aggression and wars in violation of international law.

Count 27 — waging unprovoked aggressive war in China.

Count 29 — waging aggressive war against the United States.

Count 31 — waging aggressive war against the British Commonwealth.

Count 32 — waging aggressive war against the Netherlands.

Count 33 — waging aggressive war against French Indo-China.

Count 35 — waging aggressive war against the USSR in Siberia.

Count 36 — waging aggressive war against the USSR in Mongolia.

Count 54 — Ordered, authorised and permitted inhumane treatment of prisoners of war and others.

Count 55 — Deliberately and recklessly disregarded their duty to take adequate steps to prevent atrocities.



Also pictured on the steps of the Ichigawa court building, General Heitaro Kimura (left), Vice Minister for War; General Iwane Matsui (centre), Commander in Chief of the Central China Area

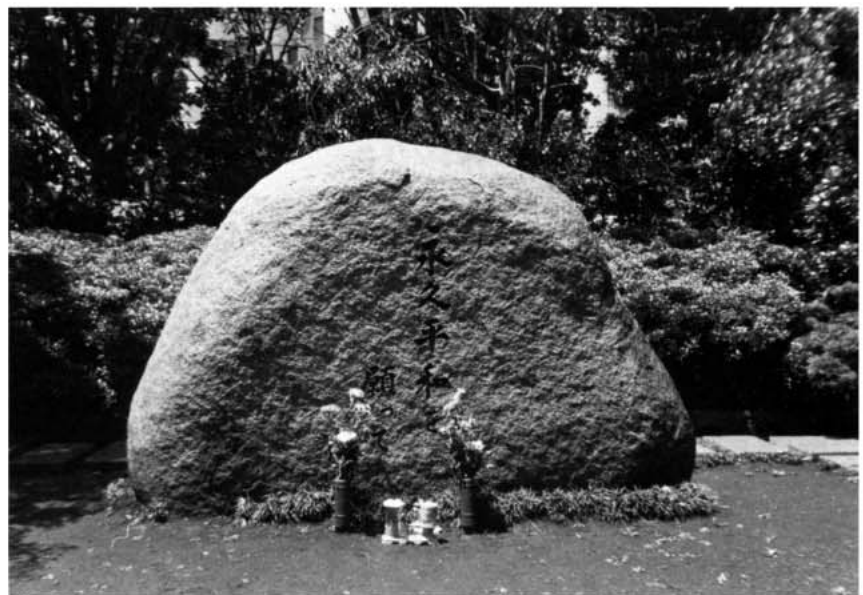
Army which captured Nanking in December 1937; and General Akira Muto (right), commanding the 2nd Imperial Guards Division responsible for atrocities in Sumatra.

During the first year of the Korean War, many Korean and Chinese spies serving as maids, waiters, waitresses, and clerks were arrested near American military headquarters buildings and in nearby hotels and restaurants throughout Japan. Sugamo received 60 women prisoners, whom Captain Adams confined in Blue Prison. At that time he was using Japanese women as prison matrons, but later these were replaced by matrons from the federal penal system in the United States. Male spies were housed in cell block No. 5, guarded by incoming Japanese replacement guards. These prisoners were tried and sentenced or acquitted.

In September 1951, all the foreign nationals being held at the Eighth Army Stockade were transferred to Sugamo. The 'Big Eight' stockade was located about five miles south-east of Sugamo, and before the end of the war it had been called Toyotama Prison. The transfer involved almost 300 prisoners, who were confined in cell block No. 1. These prisoners were held until shortly after the peace treaty with Japan was signed, at which time they were transferred to a Japanese prison south of Yokohama. They were mostly Korean and Chinese. However, there were some Filipinos, Indonesians, and other Orientals convicted of murder, robbery, rape, petty theft, and dealing in narcotics. Many of them were on narcotics at the time of their transfer.

By the time that the Japanese peace treaty was signed in September 1951, the Japanese were in almost total control of the prison. They were gradually moved in and trained to run Sugamo Prison as American personnel were transferred out and were in complete control by May 1952. The numbers of prisoners released on parole increased. By 1956 the total number of war criminals was down from more than 2,000 to 383. These were all long-term prisoners convicted of the most serious offenses. By December 1958, Sugamo's doors and gates were closed, the remaining prisoners pardoned, and its official use as a prison ended. There was no ceremony, no newspaper notice, and no photographs.

Following the rejection of petitions for those sentenced to death, the executions were set for 12.01 a.m. on December 23, 1948. The execution block (centre) was situated in the extreme north-west corner of the Sugamo prison compound. The chief hangman was Lieutenant Charles Rexroad, the Theater Executioner. Right: Today a memorial stone has been set up in a small garden which now occupies the site of the gallows. Its message is simple: 'Pray for Eternal Peace'.





The last officer to leave Sugamo was Captain Lonnie B. Adams, Jr. He reported: 'You would never have known that the prison had changed over from the Americans to the Japanese unless you had actually been there.'

There are no records of anyone ever escaping from Sugamo while it was under US military jurisdiction. Slightly more than 2,000 war criminals and protected witnesses were held there for varying periods of time. There were several suicides and several attempted suicides.

In 1971 the prison was purchased from the Japanese government for \$17.7 million by the Japan Urban Development Company. In its place rose a housing and shopping complex, relieving pressure on a congested area of Tokyo.

None of the Class A prisoners given life sentences served their full term and all had been paroled and pardoned by 1958. Another 40 Class A prisoners were released without trial. Of the 371 trials at Yokohama involving Class B and C accused, 119 ended in the death penalty of which 53 were carried out at Sugamo. Today nothing remains, the dominating feature at Sugamo being the 60-storey-high tower block of Sunshine City.

Sergeant Fred Barwise from Florida, an ex-GI from Sugamo on his way from the States to Vietnam, stopped in Tokyo for several days in 1971. He decided to pay a visit to his old stomping grounds. He reports: 'I went out to see Sugamo, and the wrecking ball was set up and demolishing the walls. However, the NCO Club, theatre and most of the buildings near the main gate were intact. I turned around, walked out the main gate, and thought to myself: "Fred, you could very well be the last Sugamo GI to see Sugamo."'

This article is extracted from John L. Ginn's book Sugamo Prison, Tokyo, An Account of the Trial and Sentencing of Japanese War Criminals in 1948 by a U.S. Participant published by McFarland & Company, Inc. Readers interested in purchasing a copy of this excellent account of the Pacific war's equivalent to the Nuremberg trials of Europe should write to the publishers at PO Box 611, Jefferson, North Carolina, 28640 or telephone 919-246-4460. Price of the book is \$37.00 post paid, and credit card purchases are accepted.

