As in any army, many of the responsible places in the Japanese high command are filled by men other than the senior generals—by lieutenant- and majorgenerals and colonels. At the end of the war such places included the Inspectorate of Aviation, as well as those of Vice-Chiefs of Staff, Vice-Minister of War and Director of the Military Affairs Bureau of the War Ministry. In the field armies, as a matter of course, we find many junior generals in positions of high importance.

One phenomenon conspicuously absent from the Japanese Army is the “boy colonels” and general officers in their thirties which most war-time armies produce in some numbers. The Oriental reverence for age is such that the Japanese do not consider promotion to high rank a suitable method of rewarding distinguished service by young officers; instead they confer awards and give choice assignments. The average age of the twenty-six full generals active in August 1945 was, at the time they reached general rank, nearly 49; and the younger men, even with the accelerated promotion of wartime, averaged only about a year earlier. The Japanese officer, be he never so brilliant, just doesn’t (unless, of course, he is an Imperial Prince) attain general rank before his middle forties. Prince Kan-in, for fifteen years until his death in May the doyen of the Japanese Army, did make major-general at 36; but that was forty-four years ago, and the younger Imperial Princes, even, have had to await the fortieth birthday or later. There are, it is true, the posthumous promotions often given to officers of any grade. As an example, there was the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Katō Tateo, one of the leading Japanese aces of the early days of the war even if we discount the official claim for him of “more than two hundred victories.” When he was killed in aerial combat in Burma at the age of 39, in 1942, and was made posthumously a major-general, he was one of the youngest on record.

Very rarely, also, if ever, was a Japanese officer promoted in grade
over his seniors. Promotions are governed by such slavish attention to the ranking list that even the most able officer can’t be brought to the top until his seniors have been promoted or retired. Of the active taishō at the war’s end, General Umezu is the solitary example (neglecting the Imperial Princes and a couple of officers once retired and recalled to active service) of an officer promoted out of turn—he, a fifteenth-year Academy-class man, was made a general while there were active lieutenant-generals of the fourteenth-year class.

The biographical sketches which follow introduce a number of the junior general officers—limitations of space confine us to the lieutenant-generals—of present importance, men without whose acquaintance we can scarcely consider ourselves to appreciate the full flavor of the high command. These include men in the “desk jobs” of the Ministry of War, the General Staff office and other branches of the high command, as well as some in field commands or of unknown whereabouts, who remain of interest by reason of their offices, their personalities or the parts they played on the stage of Japanese militarism. A few retired generals, chosen by like criteria, are added. All positions mentioned are as of the cessation of hostilities in August.

Lieutenant-General TERAMOTO Kumaichi (born 1889), as the Inspector of Aviation, at the end was officially the biggest figure in the Army after Generals Anami, Umezu and Doihara, the “Big Three.” He is little known outside professional circles, although he was an attaché at Washington in the late ’twenties. Teramoto’s background is typical of that of the high-ranking officers of the Army Air Force: originally a ground-force officer, he was one of the group of carefully-selected colonels transferred to the Air Force in 1937 with orders to “familiarize themselves with aviation matters” and to equip themselves to direct the aviation arm, which was growing increasingly autonomous. Teramoto served as commandant of aviation schools; became a lieutenant-general by late 1940; and since the beginning of the war has commanded flying divisions and air armies in various theaters of war. In April 1945 he was appointed Inspector of Aviation to succeed General Anami, becoming concurrently Commander of Aviation Headquarters as has lately been customary.

Lieutenant-General KAWABE Torashirō (born 1890) is one of the two Vice-Chiefs of the General Staff (unless the joint vice-chiefs system has been abandoned; no other incumbent has been announced recently). He is a converted artilleryman who (like his elder brother
General Kawabe Masakazu) has held many important high-echelon air commands and staff positions. His breadth of outlook and adaptability are best shown by the singular fact of his having been attaché to the U.S.S.R. and Germany successively—singular, because in the Japanese Army one is either a Russophile or of the great German-admiring majority. Kawabe was in Berlin, newly a lieutenant-general, when World War II began; recalled, he was named Chief of Staff of National Defense Headquarters, then Commandant of the Aviation Academy, Assistant Inspector of Aviation, and finally Vice-Chief of the General Staff in March 1945. To the distinction with which he served in these varied posts he can add whatever measure of glory can be found in the efficient conduct of the most humiliating task ever to fall to a Japanese soldier, leading the surrender mission to Manila. Whether his wide experience, his official position or his personality predominated in dictating his selection for this job, his business-like approach to the affair justified the choice.

Lieutenant-General Wakamatsu Tadakazu (born 1893) is, like so many of the younger officers raised to prominence by war and now filling positions of great responsibility, an unknown quantity; he became Vice-Minister of War in July, coming in with Minister Anami, whom he survived. Prior to that he was once attaché at Budapest and was Director of the General Affairs Section of the General Staff Office when the war began; later he moved to the 3d (Transport and Communications) Section, where he remained (receiving his lieutenant-generalcy) until coming to his present office.

Lieutenant-General Yoshizumi Masao (born 1893) is the incumbent of the Military Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of War—the office, normally the charge of a major-general, has been filled by lieutenant-generals during the war years. Yoshizumi, an infantryman, is another unknown. Since April 1942 he had served as Director of the Ministry’s Mobilization Plans Bureau, which office he retained when he was appointed to the Military Affairs Bureau in March.

Lieutenant-General Sugawara Michiō (born 1888), one of the outstanding men in the Army Air Force, was last commander of the Training Air Force. When he became the sixth Inspector of Aviation, in July 1944, he was the first who brought aviation experience to the office: after service with the British Army in World War I, he embarked upon a career in aviation which has been long and distinguished. The chief positions which he has held include section chief in the old
Aviation Headquarters, back in 1937 (he had been on the staffs of several flying schools, even before that), command of air brigades, divisions and armies, and Commandant of the Aviation Academy, before becoming Inspector of Aviation. As a lieutenant-general (since 1939) Sugawara made a brilliant record in the Southern regions, being responsible among other things for the successful paratroop attack on Palembang in early 1942. His term as Inspector, coming at a time of ubiquitous misfortune to Japanese aviation, was brief; he was removed to the relatively inferior place of commander of the training air force in December 1944.

Lieutenant-General Prince Kaya Tsunenori (born 1900), a cavalryman turned mechanized, lieutenant-general since 1943, is Commandant of the Army Staff College. In the recent past he has held a number of high offices: commander of the Guards and Nagoya divisions, Vice-Chief of the General Staff from July 1944 to March 1945. There is nothing in his background to explain his fitness for such a responsible post as that of vice-chief of the general staff in wartime, and his appointment must be supposed to have been on the usual principle which brings Imperial Princes to high office. July 1944, with the fall of a government and a thorough-going shake-up of the high command, was a time when the Army badly needed to raise its stock with the nation. By the installation of an Imperial personage in the military high command any censure, doubt or debate would of course be forestalled, by his mere presence and blood. This time-honored maneuver not sufficing for long, Kaya was relegated to his present limbo in March.

Lieutenant-General Iimura Jō (born 1888), as commander of the Tōkyō Defense Army, had what appeared to be perhaps the chief defense responsibilities in Japan Proper. This is a new command, created in July 1945, and Iimura was its first and last commander. Curiously, he has been better known for his service in administrative posts (such as Commandant of the Staff College and first director of the Total War Research Institute, from 1940) than in field commands. He is accounted a brilliant staff officer (he was Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army in 1939) and administrator, but is known above all as the Army's leading expert on Far Eastern economics, and was reported in charge of the planning for exploitation of the territories conquered by the Southern Army. His foreign service was in Turkey.

Lieutenant-General Uchiyama Eitarō (born 1887), Central Army Commander since April, is an artilleryman and ordnance expert. He is
little known except that he is said to have distinguished himself as commander of armies in Manchuria and China since the beginning of the war, particularly in the campaign to open the railroad south to Hankow in 1944. He has been a lieutenant-general since October 1939.

Lieutenant-General YOKOYAMA Isamu (born 1889), an infantryman, has commanded the Western Army (Kyūshū) since November 1944. Before that he had had armies in Manchuria and central China, being best known for participation in the successful drives on Hengyang and Kweilin last year. He is considered an authority on Chinese economics.

Lieutenant-General HATA Hikosaburō (born 1890) is the officer who, as its chief of staff, was called upon to surrender the Kwangtung Army to Marshal Vasilevsky. He knew the Russians of old; he was once, seven or eight years ago, military attaché at Moscow. Upon his return to his army his knowledge was naturally put to use, Hata being made Vice-Chief of Staff of the Kwangtung Army in July 1941 (and lieutenant-general soon after). When he returned to it, as Chief of Staff, a few months ago, it was with the prestige of over two years as Vice-Chief of the General Staff under three chiefs, during which time he was concurrently Inspector of Transportation, and for a time Commandant of the Staff College. Hata had made a notable record as planner, administrator and staff officer, and better might have been expected of him than the Kwangtung Army displayed during its fortnight's war. Hata has kept close to his profession, not straying into politics, and little is known of his personality.

Lieutenant-General NAKAMURA Aketo (born 1889). Nakamura, after a career which included as many of the big positions in the Japanese Army as any of his contemporaries has held, has been shelved during much of the war as commander of Thailand forces. After returning from Germany, where he had spent several years study in the early twenties, he worked up to the directorship of the Military Affairs and Personnel bureaux of the Ministry and, just before the outbreak of the war, commander of the Military Police. This is a place of much power; the Japanese Army's Kempeit is a very different thing from our Military Police (it combines the functions also of secret police, Gestapo and, to an extent, of civilian police, being charged with supervision of "thought-control" and other anti-subversive activities as well as the policing chores which we associate with the conception of military police). For some reason Nakamura didn't succeed—perhaps danger-
ous thoughts got out of control—and he was transferred to Thailand in January 1943.

Lieutenant-General Ikeda Sumihisa (born 1894). High-ranking Army officers, active as well as retired, have come more and more, during the past decade, to monopolize the key positions in the civilian government. Such a one is that of Director of the General Planning Board, which Ikeda has held since July. This post is one involving staff work (the Board’s functions were to draft necessary measures “for the more effective prosecution of the war on the home front,” including all internal affairs—education, agriculture, transportation, food-supply), for which Ikeda is well suited. He came to it from the position of Vice-Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, where he had been since 1941. In his new job, Ikeda remains on active services.

Lieutenant-General Iida Shōjirō (born 1888) is at present in an undisclosed position. He is one of the senior lieutenant-generals of the Army (his date of rank is August 1939) and was probably next in line for promotion to general. An infantryman, Iida made an excellent record in a number of responsible assignments; he was also said to be a favorite of both Sugiyama and Tōjō, which hasn’t done him any harm. He has been director of the Personnel and Military Affairs bureaux; just before the war he was in command in Indo-China, and thereafter moved into Thailand and Burma—where he was responsible for giving General Stilwell “a hell of a beating.” Iida got out of Burma, in time to save his reputation, in early 1943, served through most of 1944 as Central Army District commander, but has not been heard of in recent months.

Lieutenant-General Satō Kenryō (born 1895) must be looked upon as one of the ablest of the young officers of the past few years, though probably he has been a little too closely associated with the Kwantung Army clique for his own good. Satō is a firebrand, impetuous and impulsive, qualities which he has had ample opportunities to demonstrate. One occasion was when he was a member of the military mission which wrung from defenseless Indo-China the right to move troops through, to attack China from the rear, in 1940. Earlier, at home, he had attacked the Army’s hated enemies the plutocrats for thinking only of profit, “while the soldiers advance in China in 100° heat.” By virtue of his position as Director of the Military Affairs Bureau from April 1942 to December 1944 he did much of the sounding off for the Army during the war.
In the nineteen-thirties, Satō served a term as assistant attaché to the Embassy to the United States (he was stationed for a time at Fort Sam Houston), and the Army considers him one of its leading authorities on international affairs. He was remarkably early in reaching his present rank, in 1943, at the age of 48. He achieved another feat by surviving for six months in office the downfall of Tōjō, whose protégé and confidant he was. Satō’s present whereabouts are unknown.

Lieutenant-General Kuroda Shigenori (born 1887) is another formerly highly-placed officer now in eclipse. Kuroda, an infantryman, went from the position of Chief of Staff of the Southern Army, in May 1943, to become commander-in-chief in the Philippines, succeeding General Tanaka. He was superseded there upon the appointment of Yamashita to resist the reinvasion, in November 1944. Like so many of the leading Japanese commanders in this war, he has served terms as attaché at London and New Delhi, but little is known of him personally. His date of rank is August 1939.

Lieutenant-General Machijiri Kazumoto (born 1888) has had a curiously uneven career. Of noble family, after his graduation from Staff College he was detailed ADC to Field-Marshal Oku, one of the Russo-Japanese War heroes, and subsequently an Imperial aide-de-camp. Machijiri is violent in disposition, indifferent to fame, courageous—and careless; he was dismissed, in 1938, as Director of the Military Affairs Bureau, over the loss of some secret documents. He was reinstated (he held the position for three terms, serving on and off from 1936 to 1939), but he never fulfilled the prophecies of observers who considered him one of the promising men of the Army. He was afterwards Vice-Chief of Staff of the China forces, Inspector of Artillery, and for a time from November 1942 commander in Indo-China, after which he was lost sight of.

Lieutenant-General Shibayama Kenshirō (born 1889), a Transport Corps officer, is considered one of the Army’s great China experts, having passed a large part of his active career on the continent—he was “advisor” to the attaché’s office in China for some years, and in 1943-44 was Vice-Chief of Staff of the China Expeditionary Army. Otherwise, he has served in the Ministry, as Inspector of Transport, and as Vice-Minister of War for the life of the Koiso government, July 1944-April 1945. Shibayama’s plebian appearance and manners belie his profound knowledge of international affairs; these, and his forthright manner and lack of finesse, have probably held him back.
General Koiso Kuniaki (born 1880). Koiso suddenly attained celebrity in 1944 as Premier of Japan; but he had long been known within Japan as one of the strong men of the Army. As a member of the Twelfth-year Class of the Military Academy he was a classmate of Field-Marshal Sugiyama and Hata, and with them he left the Army Staff College with the Class of 1910. His career ran for a time as brilliantly as theirs; he was promoted from the Directorship of the Military Affairs Bureau, in 1931, to the Vice-Ministership of War, which in turn he quitted at his own request in favor of the lesser position of Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, in 1932, after the "Manchuria Incident" had got well under way. There he remained for two years, then after a term as divisional commander (his postponed required service upon promotion to lieutenant-general) became Commander-in-Chief of the Korea Army, where he remained from December 1935 to July 1938. He had meanwhile become a general in November 1937—being signally honored, so it was considered, by fortuitously being the hundredth general to be created.

Unhappily for Koiso, he had become embroiled in the factionalism which was rife in the Army during the late 'twenties and early 'thirties—and, as it proved, had chosen the wrong side. The relatively liberal party of General Ugaki was finally routed by the radical followers of General Araki, "the Loud Trombone of Destiny," and Koiso was (in common with many other liberally-inclined officers) retired, the immediate occasion being the beating which his Korea Army took from the Red Army at Changkufeng in July 1938. He has not, however, wanted for occupation since; he was Minister for Overseas Affairs in 1939 and 1940, and was Governor-General of Korea from June 1942 until his call to the Premiership came in July 1944.

Koiso won for himself, by his ruthlessness with the never-too-submissive Koreans, the sobriquet "the Tiger of Korea." Aside from his qualities as a subjugator, he is clear-headed, cautious, a powerful intellect and a driving force. An advocate of Japanese designs for expansion, he was none the less noted while he was in the service for his abstention from politics. He was one of the foremost leaders in developing the Army's "new economy" for Manchuria.

General Nishio Toshizō (born 1881) is perhaps, so fast does the world move, hardly remembered now; but until the spring of 1941 he had been very much in the forefront of war in the Orient. For just two and a half years from September 1939 Nishio was Commander-in-
Chief of the armies in China, and one of the powerful men of the Army. But the war in China failed to come to an end, and Nishio was relieved in March 1941; and some time after the autumn of 1942 he was unobtrusively retired.

Nishio as a captain went as attaché to the Embassy in Berlin; was then Director of a bureau of the War Ministry, Chief of Staff of the Kwantung Army, 1934-36, Vice-Chief of the General Staff at the beginning of the China war, divisional commander in China, Inspector-General of Military Education, general in 1939. During these years he seemed marked to dominate the Army; he was a brilliant strategist (second to Hata in the Staff College Class of 1910) and a successful commander; he holds the rarely-bestowed Order of the Golden Kite, First Class. For the drudgery of staff-work he had no stomach; but with his long-time chief of staff, Itagaki, poor commander but masterly planner, he made a perfect team. "Let Itagaki do the deskwork," he used to say; "I'll attend to the fighting." Saying so much was a concession for Nishio, known from his dislike for discussing military business and from his dourness as "the Silent General." Not only was Itagaki his man—he made him Minister of War, in 1938, over the heads of several irate seniors—but Tōjō also was largely the creation of this manipulator of the Kwantung Army. Nishio’s aversions are better known than his preferences; he is a noted hater of Communism, and of Japan’s great monopoly of plutocrats.

When Nishio’s fellow-Kwantung Army graduate, Koiso, became Premier, Nishio again entered upon the scene as Governor of Tōkyō Metropolis—a war-time novelty erecting a sort of “city-and-county” government for the capital of Japan, the world’s third city. Nishio resigned that office in August, and is momentarily a private citizen again.

General Tōjō Hideki (born 1884). Tōjō will doubtless be remembered as a man who nearly scaled the heights. Taciturn, hard-headed, ruthless and keen—he is called "Kamisori," "the Razor"—off to a good start in life as the son of a lieutenant-general of the Russo-Japanese War, Tōjō lacked the intellect of a Nishio, the color of an Itagaki. His forte was organizing, planning; whenever during the crucial decade or so just past a big planning job has been needed, Tōjō has been on hand. Nishio brought him in as commander of the kempei—the military police—of the Kwantung Army, and he stayed on as its chief of staff in 1937-38, when the China war was starting. Thence
he moved to Tōkyō as Vice-Minister of War, and in December 1938 became the first Inspector of Aviation when that office was created. In July 1940 he succeeded Hata as Minister of War, which position he retained upon becoming Premier on 18 October 1941 for the management of the Greater East Asia War.

To the Occidental the selection as Premier of a man notable for neither personality nor intellect may seem remarkable; but it was characteristic of the Japanese, who esteem individualism less and regimentation more than we. When the Army arrived at the point of taking over the government, it delegated the task to a man who would be a willing and, so to say, an anonymous tool, who would act on no personal ambition. In the end, it worked out otherwise; Tōjō, serving finally as Premier, Minister of War, Minister of Munitions—in control of all heavy industry, fuel production, armament manufacture—President of the authoritarian party, the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, and, at the last, Chief of the General Staff, was all but a dictator in the Western sense. The fall of his government, in July 1944, can be traced to many different causes, but primarily of course to the war disasters, which he, with the Japanese sense of personal responsibility, felt compelled to expiate personally.

Tōjō's fall was complete; not only was he stripped of all his positions in the government, but the Army retired him. This will have been done with sardonic solemnity by the new Minister of War, Field-Marshall Sugiyama, whom Tōjō had ejected from his place as Chief of Staff in February 1944.

Lieutenant-General Ōshima Hiroshi (born 1886) was Japan's recent ambassador to Germany and is now a prisoner of the United States. Ōshima was a natural choice for liaison with Germany; his father, Lieutenant-General Ōshima Ken-ichi, was long connected with Germany as student and attaché, and apparently took a German wife (the son is big, blond and Prussian in appearance). From 1921 on Ōshima has been almost continuously in a German atmosphere: he was a student there with Yamashita, later attaché and twice—in 1938-39 and again after his retirement—ambassador (from February 1941). His associations in the Army are interesting: he was a classmate at Military Academy not only of Yamashita but also of Okabe, Fujie and Anami, and at Staff College of Tōjō, Homma and Yamashita. By personality—he is courteous, urbane, gregarious and discreet—no less than by his
perfect command of German he was well-equipped to deal with Japan's European ally.

Lieutenant-General Homma Masaharu (born 1888) is the outstanding example of a celebrated general of this war who has dropped completely from sight. After his relief from the Philippines command by General Tanaka, in August 1942, no announcement of his reassignment was made—though rumors multiplied; actually he was quietly retired at that time. His retirement may perhaps seem remarkable, in view of his being the conqueror of the Philippines for Japan, and a young man yet, as generals go. It must, however, be remembered that his casualties in the Philippines campaign were extremely high; and despite the cheapness with which life is held in the Orient, the Japanese commander whose casualties are great has never received the rewards which would otherwise have come his way.

His retirement notwithstanding, Homma was a successful military man. He is a big man, polished and intelligent, with an outstanding personality. He may be considered the Army's chief English expert—and its chief Anglophobe, this the requital for a cordial reception during his terms as attaché in London, during World War I (at which time he studied at Cambridge) and in 1930-32; as attaché in New Delhi in 1920; and as visitor to England (Aide-de-Camp to Prince Chichibu, the Emperor's brother) for the 1937 Coronation. Homma's chance to vent his spleen on the British came when he was in command of the garrison at the Japanese Concession at Tientsin. The British also had a concession at Tientsin, and Homma conceived the notion that he would force England to settle all impending controversies with Japan —such as the use of the Burma Road to supply China—by pressure on the concession. He accordingly declared a blockade; forced British men and women to undress in the streets for search, upon entering or leaving; had to open every bottle of milk, lest it conceal a bomb; and in general improved the occasion by much suave but minatory talk. Homma is a noted talker-out-of-turn, which may have affected his career. Four of his Military Academy classmates—Imamura, Tanaka, Kawabe and Kita—have reached full general grade; Homma, perhaps ablest of the lot, was a lieutenant-general from 1939. His occupation since his retirement has consisted of more talking: he has held forth, by radio, to the people of the Philippines, whom he "liberated."

Concluded