

GIs & Japanese Girls



FRATERNIZATION between American GIs and Japanese girls has been practiced ever since the end of hostilities in the Pacific, and no one—except the girls they left behind in the states—got very much excited.

GI marriages, including many in Europe through two wars, have been common, and there have been many war brides and families transplanted to U. S. soil. These most likely will continue as long as we have wars away from home, for love will find a way.

Naturally, there have been some problems, as illustrated in the recent movie, "Japanese War Bride," which revealed complications but solved nothing. But, all in all, fraternization has just been good normal fun, as you will note from the photos herewith.

Now a new phase of GI conduct on foreign land has reared its ugly head, and it has shocked civilians as well as the military in both the United States and Japan. It all began when Mrs. Tamaki Uyemura, member of the national public safety commission which supervises Japanese police activities, made a public plea to Mrs. Matthew Ridgway, wife of the then Allied Supreme Commander in Tokyo. The statement of Mrs. Uyemura, who also is head of the YWCA in Japan, was the most critical attack on GI morals since the war's end in 1945.

Accusing our GIs of "corrupting Japanese morals," and of patronizing Japanese prostitutes to the extent



GIs and friends in Hibiya Park, a stone's throw from the Emperor's Toyko palace. Custom is to remove shoes.

Fraternization Hasn't Raised Too Many Eyebrows, But Charge of "Corrupting Morals" Now Does



Sitting out a dance in Tokyo, listening to music.

that prostitution has become one of Japan's chief income-producing industries, Mrs. Uyemura had this to say in her letter in Japan's Woman's Forum:

"Step into Tachikawa (a U. S. air base center in Tokyo's western suburbs), for one instance. You will see hundreds and thousands of women lining up on the streets. American soldiers hang around until they pick up one each from the lines and go somewhere.



In Metropolitan Dance Hall in Pusan, Korea.



Sightseeing on the Tokyo Palace grounds.



GI jitterbugging with a Geisha girl in Tokyo.

“Such prostitutes now total between 70,000 and 80,000 in Japan and earn \$200,000,000. This is a big business—next to the Korean war business which totals \$400,000,000.

“When an air wing was based at Iwakuni (in western Honshu, Japan’s main island) last Spring, some 3,000 Japanese prostitutes swarmed to the base. Many Japanese children worked as procurers and were paid 200 yen (55 cents) for each soldier.

“Many innocent Japanese girls worship westerners. They try to speak English and to be friendly to the Americans.

“These girls are quickly seduced and eventually become prostitutes. These girls have reportedly mothered 200,000 illegitimate children, and deserted many of them during the past six and one-half years. The oldest of these occupation-born children join school next year.”

The GIs, meanwhile, wish they could go home.

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