

THE GIULIO-SHIRLEY STORY:

Twenty-two-year-old Shirley Holmes was born with a hole in her heart - and for her, staying alive is a precarious thing. But the photograph she is showing her mother in their Portchester home is that of the man she is to marry - for Shirley believes in making the most of whatever years she may have. Her fiance is many miles away, in a barracks near Lake Como - a serving Italian soldier she fell in love with on holiday last summer. Here he is - Private Giulio Comparini. Shirley was going to Italy, to marry him; but when doctors said the journey might be fatal, the Italian Army moved fast. It gave Giulio 30 days' leave, £35 extra pay, and a return air ticket to London. And a V.I.P. send-off.

When they hear the news at Portchester, the hours seem to drag by for Shirley - but on the personal orders of Italy's Defence Minister, her man's on his way. The Press waits for Giulio at London Airport, for this love-story has captured the world's imagination. We'd liked to show you the young people together - but two London newspapers whisked them away, kept them apart for 24 hours, then arranged the meeting in secret. Here's wishing them years of happiness - when the newspapers have finished with them.