

SHIRLEY WEDS GIULIO:

Shirley Holmes, the girl with a hole in her heart - the girl who'd rather be happy than safe - is ready for a wedding that has made world headlines. Near Portsmouth, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Havant, she is to marry an Italian soldier and become Signora Giulio Comparini. This might be a fashionable wedding at Brompton Oratory, to judge by the attention it's attracting - for few young couples have started married life with the good wishes of so many millions. Let it rain - Shirley doesn't care.

Newly-married, with Shirley wearing the 100-guinea gown presented by a well-wisher, they come to the reception. The Italian army gave 23-year-old Giulio a month's leave to be here: And the Holmes family have taken him to their hearts. Brother Trevor is best man, and Shirley's mother and Uncle George are here with all their friends to start these plucky youngsters on their new life. Ten days after the wedding, Giulio must be back in barracks, with 15 months of his national service still to go. There are no married quarters there, and Giulio's family have only a two-roomed house; but Shirley's already shown the world that she's a determined girl. "I'll hitch-hike to Italy if I have to" she says - "but where Giulio goes, I go".