

# The Lady with a debt of love



Ann Brooke, the former Lady Crofton, yesterday

LOVE was a costly business for the former Lady Crofton. But it was fun while it lasted.

"He was so debonair and charming he literally swept me off my feet," she said yesterday, when she faced a bankruptcy court.

For the man in question, advertising executive Guy Brooke, had left her to foot the bill for their four years together. It came to £134,641.

Brooke became her third husband in 1971, she told the court in London.

It was only after the marriage that she discovered he was an unimpaired bankrupt, and she had to pay for all his extravagances to save him from prison.

"If you are in love with somebody you stand up for him and try to make the best of it," she said.

She realised it was wrong to take over his debts, but she had "done that all along the line."

Now they were living apart. She had not seen him for a year.

Mrs. Ann Brooke said she was now living with her parents in Eire.

She said she was divorced from Lord Crofton in 1956. Her second husband was barrister Robert Flach. That marriage also ended in divorce in 1971—the same year she met Guy Brooke.

"Guy was irrational and difficult," she said. "But he had a clever brain for thinking up advertising ideas."

### Terrible

They had flown to Europe and America on business trips. Once they hired a private plane to visit Scotland so that Guy could bring his dogs.

She agreed with the Official Receiver, Mr. Derek Thorne, that the trip had been an extravagance but it was not her idea.

She said: "I don't want to make him sound the most terrible person... I was very much in love with him—I still am."

Referring to one of her husband's ideas to bring American tourists to a property on the Island of Mull, she said Guy had thought in millions not thousands of pounds.

She admitted a deficiency of £85,271. But the Official Receiver said he wanted further information about her debts and the hearing was adjourned.

Afterwards, 49-year-old Mrs. Brooke said: "Guy conned me, but when you love a man you forgive him almost anything."

"I think he was attracted to us because we were English."

"Since then he had stayed with us four times. He almost regarded us as his parents."

Verdict: Suicide.

# German who loved Britain too much

GERMAN Army Lieutenant Hans Krickel loved everything about Britain.

His barracks room at Luton barracks was decorated with a five-foot by four foot Union Jack—the biggest he could find.

He often wrote to the Queen and members of the Royal Family and one of the highlights in his life he told friends, was when a lady-in-waiting once sent him a reply.

On one of his frequent visits to this country he persuaded friends to take him to Buckingham Palace, where he stood gripping the railing, hoping for a glimpse of the Queen.

But an inquest at Crewe, Cheshire, was told that when he was refused a posting in this country he decided to kill himself here.

### Sentiment

He first wrote a letter to his commanding officer at the Scharnhorst barracks, saying he was taking his life "for sentimental reasons."

Then he connected a hosepipe to the exhaust of his car in a quiet Cheshire lane and died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Mrs. Joyce Chapman, whose family had befriended the British-loving German said: "In many ways he was more British than we were."

Mrs. Chapman added: "He first met us in Spain on holiday two years ago. I think he was attracted to us because we were English."

"Since then he had stayed with us four times. He almost regarded us as his parents."

Verdict: Suicide.

# Avengers roar back



Sultan with Avengers Joanna Lumley, Gareth Hunt and Patrick Macnee

By James Murray

A NEW Avengers series costing an impressive £4 million was launched yesterday — and already it's on the verge of making a profit before even being seen.

The series has sold well enough at home to cover costs and it is expected to show a million dollar profit when it is sold in America. And again it is Patrick Macnee in the role of the immaculate Steed.

### Title

With him at the publicity launching yesterday were actress Joanna Lumley, who appears in the role as Purdey, and Gareth Hunt as Mike Gambit. Plus a lion cub named Sultan to help show the world it's an all-British affair.

Sultan won't actually be in the series, but the titles of the Avengers includes a motif of the British Lion with a Union Jack superimposed.

The last Avenger series shown on ITV was sold to 120 countries, and co-producer Laurie Johnson said today he was sure the new series would be sold to as many countries again.

The first programme—each costs about £130,000 to make—will go out in the ITV regions on different nights next week.

Mr. Johnson was one of the three original creators of the series, with Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens. Now, with French financial backing, they are making the new series after buying the rights back from EMI.

Their gamble that viewers would want the Avengers back seems to have paid off already.

# Jail for man who shot wife

Miner John Clayton, who shot and wounded his wife two hours after she divorced him, was jailed for nine years yesterday.

Clayton, 24, of Ferry Fryston, Yorks, had been found guilty at Leeds Crown Court of attempted murder.

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Production of Ford's new Cortina will be running at full capacity again today after the end of the three separate strikes.

Two firemen were "poorly" in hospital, last night after being choked by poisonous fumes from fertilisers and weedkillers during a farm blaze at Haynes, near Bedford.

In top gear

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# 'QE2 raiders in bomb-belts plot'

By Jack Hill

I.R.A. terrorists planned to smuggle sticks of gelignite aboard the QE2 by draping them round their bodies, a court was told yesterday.

Already said to be on board the luxury liner were vital detonators hidden in a secret cabin compartment.

But the plan for "someone far away" to trigger off the 350lb. blast fell through at the last minute, said Sir Peter Rawlinson QC.

Sir Peter told Winchester Crown Court that a mystery woman was to have driven hold-alls full of explosive into Southampton docks where the QE2 was being refuelled.

Amid all the comings and goings of staff, crewmen and

workmen, the hold-alls would be taken on board," he said. The plan was dropped, added Sir Peter, because there were too many people around to make it possible to remove the explosives from their hiding place in a block of council flats.

### Hidden

Six Southampton Irishmen deny plotting to break the Explosive Substances Act.

They are Donald McQuaid, 33, of Shirley Towers; William Baker, 32, Emmerdale Road; Anthony Walsh, 39, of Acacia Road; Anthony Madden, 34, of Cossack Green; James Bennett, 39, of Hinkler Road; and Bernard McCaffery, 35, of Abdon Towers.

Sir Peter said that James Bennett—the alleged leader—told detectives the detonators were hidden in the hold-alls. They were never found.

Some of the men, he added, were in fear of their lives from top I.R.A. men because they spoke to police. Bennett is alleged to have said: "I've said too much... I'm a dead man if this comes out."

And McCaffery, who owned the store where the explosives were found, is said to have told detectives:—

"I've a wife here and parents in Belfast... I've got to weigh up whether I do 30 years or my family gets killed."

The case continues.

# Rush is on to serve Charles

By Gill Martin

BRITAIN'S tradesmen will be on the look-out for a very important customer in the New Year.

For if they can win over Prince Charles to their products, they could earn a new accolade: by appointment to the Prince of Wales.

It could apply to the makers of anything from haked beans and cherry brandy to silk shirts and sports cars.

Buckingham Palace announced last night that Charles's royal seal of approval will be granted in 1980, after the chosen few have given three years of "satisfactory and direct supply of goods or services."

All manufacturers' claims will be vetted by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association, which already checks up on about 80 firms who hold warrants recommended by the Queen, Prince Philip, and the Queen Mother.

Charles's first list could well include Aston Martin, the makers of his favourite sports car.

Also in line for a royal pat

on the back is his tailor Teddy Wilson of Epsom and Curtis. "I have been making his clothes since he was nine so if anybody qualifies I do," said Mr. Wilson.

Another possible in the sartorial warrant stakes is Turnbull and Asser, the shirt-makers.

### Expire

It has yet to be decided by the Palace and the Royal Warrant Association if the Prince of Wales's emblem of three feathers will be featured in the "By Appointment" seal.

In general, royal warrants are not awarded to bankers, solicitors, art dealers, employment agencies and firms which supply professional services, or goods through another outlet such as a Government department.

Until recent years tradesmen were allowed to use warrants indefinitely. Now they expire 10 years after the death of the "royal" who granted them.

# Terrorist gangs are jailed

NINE bombers were jailed for a total of 101 years at two trials yesterday.

At Birmingham five I.R.A. terrorists involved in a bombing campaign in the Midlands were each sentenced to 10 years.

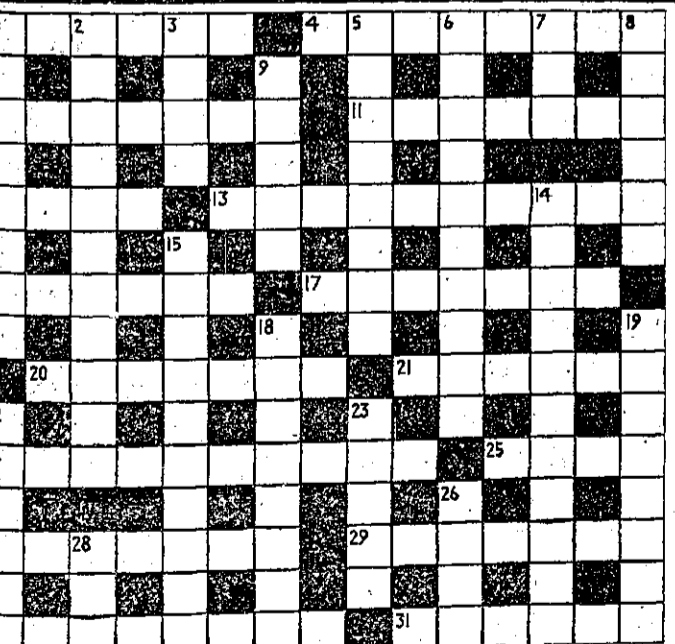
A Crown Court heard that they blazed a trail of "senseless devastation" planting 26 gelignite and fire bombs in four months.

Donald McLaughlin, 26, of no fixed address; Alexander Christie, 27, of Wolverhampton; David Owen, 28, of Birmingham; Michael Kelly, 29, of West Heath; and Peter Toal, 24, of Birmingham, were convicted of plotting to cause explosions.

At the Old Bailey four Protestants were jailed from 10 to 15 years for their part in the bombing of Biddy Mulligan's bar, in Kilburn, North London.

Plot organiser Samuel Carson, of Bangor, Co. Down, received 15 years. Alexander Brown, 18, of Bangor, who planted the bomb received 14 years, electrician Noel Boyd, 29, of Belfast, was jailed for 12 years, and Archibald Brown, 40, of Glasgow, got ten years.

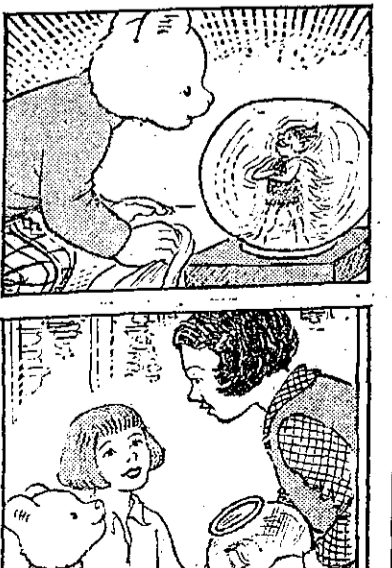
# THE LARGE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- When the girl's given a month it does horrify one. (8)
  - Pitch and toss outside in the garden, perhaps. (8)
  - There's a very nice one in "solvent". (7)
  - Take off one on the road to the salted. (7)
  - Asked, in poor English. (4)
  - Concavities used to reduce swellings. (10)
  - Have on board, by the received 15 years. Alexander Christie, 27, of Wolverhampton, David Owen, 28, of Birmingham, Michael Kelly, 29, of West Heath, and Peter Toal, 24, of Birmingham, were convicted of plotting to cause explosions.
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- DOWN
- Shrink away from: that's the disadvantage. (8)
  - Likelihood there is of being able to squeeze through that chink? (7, 4)
  - With nothing in it, the drink is bitter-tasting. (4)
  - They're coming to visit, try to catch one out! (8)
  - Just what you won't do when sowing seeds of doubt. (3, 3)
  - She brought up to me an American coin. (3)
  - Amazed about it being slippery. (6)
  - It flies the woman over. (3)
  - Esc twin beds? (5, 6)
  - Ensure that one has had (10)
  - Drove in a frenzy! (8)
  - People wonderful to look up if you visit Spain? (8)
  - We're told there's a market for the tarts. (6)
  - Calm when everybody reaches agreement. (5)
  - An excellent penalty. (4)
  - The juice is a thick one. (3)
- YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
- ACROSS
- C-oracle. 2. Pearl. 3. Reptile. 4. See-pearl. 5. Spirit. 6. At-test-ed. 7. In-got. 8. Mass.-sore. 9. Art dealer. 10. So-be. 11. Monarchs. 12. Prison. 13. On account. 14. Nur-E. 15. Seekers. 16. Greatly.
- DOWN
- Christina. 2. Reptile. 3. Committee. 4. (L) East. 5. Pretty sure. 6. E-un-ge. 7. Starter. 8. Beled. 9. Small hours. 10. Assertive. 11. S-trance-ly. 12. T-on-nage. 13. Blouct. 14. Moor's. 15. Ruc-he. 16. S-tag.

# Rupert and the Chieftain's Quest—28

The glow becomes brighter and with it takes shape. "Look! It's the pisky!" cries Rupert. "We thought very hard about him, Morwenna!" In a few moments the figure fades and the glow is no longer aglow, but the lady has seen the little creature clearly. "That was simply wonderful!" she gasps. "Now I know what a pisky is like. My child models were quite wrong, but I'll make some new ones. And the first two shall be for you both!"



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