

## Pride of VC's widow

# 'H' always led from the front

Mrs Sara Jones talked proudly yesterday of her dead husband Colonel "H" Jones being awarded the Victoria Cross for his action at Goose Green, on the Falklands.

"We are tremendously proud and delighted that "H" has got the VC, she said. "It's a marvellous honour, but what is far more important is that he died doing what had to be done.

"He knew what was needed and went into action without hesitation. It was typical of "H", Mrs Jones said she had no regrets about what he had done. "He always led from the front. It was characteristic."

Mrs Jones said she drank champagne toast to "H" when she heard last Wednesday that he had won the VC. Earlier in the day she had been at the Conservative Party Conference at Brighton where she had spoken to Mrs Thatcher, but no one had mentioned the VC there.

"It was a great relief when I heard", she said "we opened a bottle of champagne and drank to him. He would have expected it of us."

Later the same evening there



**Mrs Jones yesterday: We are proud and delighted.**

were more champagne toasts to Colonel "H" and the heroes of the 2nd Battalion when Mrs Jones went to dinner with the man who parachuted in to the Falklands to take over the

battalion, Colonel David Chaundler, and his wife, Geraldine.

Mrs Jones said: "He would have been extremely proud of this honour. Not for himself, but for the battalion. He loved the Parachute Regiment. The honour really belongs to the battalion, not to him alone. And he would have been the first to point that out."

Mrs Jones said she was really pleased for their two sons, David, aged 16, and Rupert, aged 12. "The boys are both away at school and I told them on the telephone on Friday night. They were thrilled. I'd love to have seen their faces."

"He was a very impatient man and if something needed doing he would do it. Even when we were playing board games he would move everyone else's counters to hurry things along.

"He would have been impossible to live with if he hadn't gone to the Falklands. We were on a skiing holiday when the news broke of the Task Force and he couldn't get home quickly enough. **List of awards, page 4**

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