

During the Farnborough Air Show, the Fleet Air Arm's first squadron of Scimitar Jet fighters thrilled the crowds with a supersonic flying display.

Then, ready for service, the squadron flew from Yeovilton to join H.M.S. Victorious, Britain's most modern aircraft carrier - sailing to join the Mediterranean Fleet.

After a series of dummy landing runs, the Squadron Leader, Commander John Russell (veteran of 480 deck landings) brought in his Scimitar: the heaviest plane ever to land on a carrier.

A perfect landing. Then came swift tragedy. The arrester wire ^{snaps} snapped...

The plane ^{careers} ~~careers~~ on - and ^{plunges} ~~plunges~~ into the sea...

~~It skidded on the deck~~

~~It stayed afloat, and the pilot's drama~~ ^{with it stays afloat and} in the cockpit. Commander Russell ^{struggles} is seen struggling to free himself ~~from the cockpit~~

~~The emergency drill worked perfectly.~~ ^{attached to} In seconds, a helicopter ~~was~~ ^{is} overhead. A ~~net~~ ^{rescue} ~~was~~ ^{is} lowered by rope ladder to ~~free~~ ^{rescue} the trapped Navy flyer.

~~But despite the swift approach of help, it was too late. The ill-fated Scimitar suddenly sinks.~~ ^{But tragedy rushes on. With help so close at hand} ~~Eye witnesses say it stayed afloat about two minutes, then disappeared beneath the channel. Commander Russell was married with two children. A last war pilot, he had a fine service record...~~

~~But~~ ^{but} though Victorious circled for an hour, ~~nothing was found.~~