

~~_____~~ The Air Show opened, as usual, at Farnborough. And the heavy rain couldn't mar the enthusiasm of preview day visitors as they reviewed a year of aviation achievement. *LOOKING QUITE AT HOME IN THE WATER WAS* the Fairey F.D.2 (with its swordfish nose). ~~_____~~ ⁽³⁾

~~_____~~ While it rained, the Static Aircraft Exhibition, ~~_____~~ *displaying* ~~its display of~~ mighty jet-engines provided statistical interest for the air-minded.

But, as always, the main attraction of this Show, (organised by the Society of British Aircraft Constructors) was the flying display. Here's the "Victor" - a four-jet bomber - now in super-priority production for the R.A.F.

Everyone wanted to see the Olympus-engined Canberra - the machine that recently raised the world altitude record to nearly twelve-and-a-half miles...

While the appearance of high-speed swept-wing jet-fighters ~~reassured~~ reassured onlookers that Britain's Air Force is not lacking high-performance machines..

On the opening day, the visitors were joined by the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden - who arrived in ~~modern~~ ^{appropriate} style - on a fact-finding ~~investix~~ investigation. ~~_____~~ *EARL MOUNTBATTEN - FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY - WAS ANOTHER VISITOR.*

In recent years, the helicopter has played an ever-increasing role in our National life. And, in keeping with this trend, the Fairey Jet "Gyrodyne" can function either as a helicopter or an autogiro...

Another Fairey product is the new Ultra Light Helicopter - which recently made its initial flight. Designed primarily for army observation - it's cabin position gives an unobstructed field of vision...

In this jet age of increasing speed - Britain is also improving her aviation safety standards. At Chelgrove, near Oxford, Squadron-Leader Fifield prepares to parachute from an aircraft - at ground level.

The plane, a two-seater Meteor jet moves along the runway. On reaching take-off speed (about 150 miles per hour) the ~~_____~~ flyer operates his automatic ejector seat.

The parachute opens - and he floats unharmed, to earth - the first man to make an ejector seat escape - at ground level.