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GUIDED MISSILE.

Britain's air-to-air guided missile, the Fairey Fireflash, shows its paces to the public through these research films - just released from the top-secret files.

Launched from a fighter against a pilotless target plane, the Fireflash tracks down its prey - and destroys it.

Once the missile is launched, it's homing mechanism is authentic and relentless.

The Fireflash, first missile of its kind to be supplied to the R.A.F. is fitted with the wingtip of a Meteor jet fighter.

The radio-controlled target plane takes off, as the Meteor prepares. These deadly missiles are designed for use against high-performance enemy bombers. They can be launched at great range, thus avoiding both a lengthy chase, and enemy counter-fire.

In the control room, an officer watches the automatic plotter, while a sergeant operates the target plane. High above, the target plane responds automatically to the control signals.

All is ready for the attack to begin. The Meteor pilot locates his quarry; all he has to do is to get the enemy in his sights, and launch the Fireflash. Once it's launched, nothing the enemy can do, will save him. A powerful addition to the armoury of Britain's air defense.