

Fairey "Fireflash" Film

Before the main title of the film we see three views of a Fairey Firefly radio controlled target being destroyed by a Fairey Fireflash round. These shots give a fair idea of the time required for such an action.

After the titles a test missile without war-head, is seen being wheeled to the aircraft. It is fitted to the zero-length launcher and the various firing and control circuits are checked by civilian technicians and members of the R.A.F. on guided weapon training.

On the ensuing flight an R.A.F. pilot is accompanied by a civilian who will check the various control circuits in flight. This test round is representative of many fired during the development of the weapon. We see the Fairey Fireflash fired towards a manned Meteor out of range many miles ahead. This photographic record is taken through a powerful telephoto lens which shows the target as a large dot in the sky.

Satisfied with the performance of development rounds, we then see another Fairey Fireflash, this time with a live warhead, being prepared on the aircraft.

While this Meteor is being prepared the photographic Meteor is being re-fuelled and an unarmed Firefly is seen to take off under radio control. This is the target. Next the Meteor with its live round and the photographic aircraft take off and the trial is on.

In the control room at a firing range somewhere on the U.K. coast the movement of all aircraft on the operation is plotted automatically by pens on an illuminated chart.

All aircraft are directed by the range control officer, the R.A.F. sergeant standing next to him "piloting" the Firefly target from the ground. A preliminary run is made over the firing course to check timing and to ensure that the engagement will take place within the range safety area.

With the photographic aircraft keeping station 100 yds behind the firing aircraft, a second circuit is made and at the appropriate moment the controller, in contact with the pilots above, counts down "5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - Now". The aircraft are now in the correct area and for the benefit of the accompanying aircraft the pilot switches on his R.T. and counts down "5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - Now". At this instant Fireflash leaves the launcher and makes for the Firefly target. As soon as it is within striking distance the warhead explodes, knocking out the target and setting it on fire.

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