

58/78NAVAL PILOT KILLED:

Victorious is in service again after a twenty million pound refit, making her the most up to date aircraft carrier in the world.

All was now ready for Commander Russell to land his Scimitar, first of an atom bomber squadron to join the fleet. Then, to the horror of all the arrester-gear failed.

Russell went over the edge into the sea. He struggled to free himself of harness and open the cockpit. It was a desperate race against time for his very life. But for all he could do he was still trapped. Quickly as possible help was sent by helicopter. They lowered a man and hovered over the now sinking plane. Only a few feet separated Commander Russell and his would-be rescuer. But nothing could be done. The gallant pilot went to his death, only two minutes after he crashed. Helicopters searched for an hour before giving up.

It was tragedy on what should have been a memorable day. An enquiry was held to find out why the arrester-gear failed.