

5 8 PM. ADD.. SCIMITAR CRASHES INTO SEA.

AN ADMIRALTY STATEMENT SAID:

A SCIMITAR AIRCRAFT OF THE FLEET AIR ARM CRASHED THIS AFTERNOON WHEN LANDING ON H.M.S. VICTORIOUS.

THE PILOT, COMMANDER J.D. RUSSELL, IS MISSING.

HE IS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE SQUADRON.

THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT IS BEING INVESTIGATED.

5 29 PM.        ADD.. SCIMITAR CRASHES IN SEA.

A FILM CAMERMAN WHO WAS ON BOARD VICTORIOUS TO SHOOT  
A FILM CAMERMAN WHO WAS ON BOARD VICTORIOUS  
O SHOOT THE FLY-ON OF 803 SQUADRON SAID:

COMMANDER RUSSELL PUT THE HOOK OF HIS SCIMITAR DOWN AND CAME  
IN TO LAND.

HE CAME IN ALL RIGHT AND THE ARRESTER WIRE PICKED UP THE HOOK.  
THE WIRE STRETCHED TO ITS FULL EXTENT. SUDDENLY IT SNAPPED  
AND THE SCIMITAR WENT STRAIGHT OVER THE BOWS OF THE CARRIER.  
THE PLANE FLOATED FOR A WHILE AND COMMANDER RUSSELL MADE A VAIN  
ATTEMPT TO GET OUT OF THE COCKPIT.

THE HELICOPTER PATROLLING BY THE SIDE OF THE CARRIER FOR  
THE FLY-ON HOVERED OVER THE DITCHED PLANE AND A MAN WAS LOWERED  
TO ATTEMPT TO FREE COMMANDER RUSSELL. BUT THE SCIMITAR SANK  
WITH THE COMMANDER STILL IN IT. FLYING WAS IMMEDIATELY CALLED  
OFF AND VICTORIOUS CIRCLED FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. THERE WAS NO TRACE  
OF THE PLANE.