

A PILOT'S SACRIFICE

It happened on the sands of Scarborough, a town on the North Sea coast of North Yorkshire, England. With a population of about 50,000, Scarborough is the largest holiday resort on the Yorkshire coast.

Author Roger Carswell tells about the incident in his book, *How Small a Whisper*.

Carswell was leading a beach mission with children when a Royal Air Force Lightning jet flew by, skimming the surface of the sea before it turned and flew inland. A minute or two later, it returned and went into a steep incline over Scarborough Castle.

“I thought the pilot was doing a stunt,” Carswell said. “Then, to our horror, the plane flipped and dropped to the sea. It crashed less than 200 yards away from the beach. The pilot was killed.”

The next day, the newspaper headline on the crash was, “Pilot Gives Life to Save Crowds.” The story reported how – when his plane began to fail – the pilot chose not to eject himself and risk having the plane crash onto the crowded beach, but instead steered it away from the mass of people on the beach.

We admire the courage and the humanitarian persuasion demonstrated by the pilot. He made the supreme sacrifice to protect the lives and the futures of countless people on the beach.

When the pilot climbed into the plane that day, he had no idea that he would sacrifice his life to save others.

By contrast, Jesus Christ deliberately left heaven and came to earth with the express intention of going to a death to save all who would believe in his name.

His mission: to protect *our* lives and *our* futures.

He (Christ) died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again (2 Corinthians 5:15 NKJV).