## Tourists delayed by holiday hitch list

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

NEARLY 400 holidaymakers were stranded at Gatwick for more than 24 hours after a series of problems which included a crashed fighter plane and striking Greek air traffic controllers.

The Caledonian Tristar on which 393 passengers were due to fly from Gatwick to Preveza and Kefalonia in Greece was stuck in Malta because of delays caused by Greek air traffic control, the airline said. When it was given clearance to leave for Gatwick to pick up the passengers on Sunday, its crew was not allowed to fly it because they

had gone over their legal flying hours.

The passengers at Gatwick were put up in hotels and promised an early departure yesterday. When the plane arrived, it developed a technical fault. The airline was then informed that a military aircraft had crashed on the runway at Preveza, putting it out of use for bigger aircraft such as the Tristar.

It could land only at Kefalonia, where some passengers were heading. The airline then chartered a ship and last night took the other 263 passengers to their destination.

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