

ended up being hospitalised for almost a month. Eventually he was able to return to his training and to international swimming competitions, but it was never quite the same. The truth was that, after the trauma of the crash and his brave rescue effort, Shavarsh Karapetyan found he didn't like being in the water any more. He wasn't scared of it, but he hated it. He went on to win a few more medals, proving to himself and to others that he could still do it, but at just twenty-three years old the world's fastest underwater swimmer had had enough and he retired from the sport.

later that evening he collapsed with a fever, brought on by the cold and by the polluted water of the reservoir. He was also completely exhausted, and

fit young swimming champion. At home

diving down to the bus took its toll on this

Unfortunately, the strain of repeatedly

victims would have been much higher.

without Shavarsh and Kamo the number of

for the local community, but no one at the scene was in any doubt that before the crash, but sadly about half of them had drowned. It was a tragedy

Between them the pair managed to save at least twenty of the passengers