

# Rescue of yacht 'a calculated risk'

14/12/1992

NEWS

**By Fiona McDonald**

THE Richards Bay National Sea Rescue Institute "took a calculated risk" by towing local yacht Shangdu to safety at the weekend after she had taken on a great deal of water while making her way to the Mozambican islands.

The two vessels battled their way through heavy seas and strong winds, with the 16,3 m ferro-concrete yacht wallowing heavily.

The drama ended at dawn on Sunday when the Shangdu moored in Richards Bay — with her deck less than half a metre above the waterline.

Station 19 commander, Mike Patterson, said yesterday their 12 m Spirit of Richards Bay put out at 10pm after receiving a distress call from the yacht, owned by Mr Chris Brydon of Durban.

The vessel was under charter to Mr Bob Walker of African Island Sailing, who was to have hosted a 14-day dive trip off Bazaruto Island.

"At St Lucia we hit a storm and the swell was heavy — five to six metres. The winds were gusting up to 40 knots."

Locating the yacht, "Spirit" went alongside with the intention of taking the crew off.

However, "there were outboard motors, diving equipment, gas bottles and a lot of other stuff... so we decided to take her under tow instead".

With the "Spirit" hampered by both the heavy seas and the yacht — still taking on water in spite of efforts to pump her out — "we estimated it would take four to five hours to make port" he said.

The NSRI base was then radioed to send out an inflatable with an extra pump to clear the water.

● The NSRI crew aboard the Spirit of Richards Bay was coxswain Mike Patterson and crew Nalen Padayachee, Mike Hall, Sergio D'Abreu, Jan Woudstra, Gerard Kortebout and Harvey Moir. Aboard the inflatable were Mark Hughes and Bradley Kortebout, while on the yacht were skipper Michael Glatz, Steve Walker, Dion Duvenage and Aaron Peter Mitchell.