

VOORTREKKER AMONG FAVOURITES FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENT ACROSS ATLANTIC

# "VRYSTAAT" SPINS FOR DALLING

## S.A. sailor sets off on lonely 3,000-mile yacht race

By JAMES HAWTHORN

PLYMOUTH, Saturday.

**BRUCE DALLING** set sail from Plymouth at noon today aboard the Voortrekker in the 3,000-mile solo yacht race across the forbidding North Atlantic to Newport, Rhode Island. Ringing in his ears was the shout of "Vrystaat" roared out by the small band of South African supporters who gathered at the Millbay Docks to watch the start of the loneliest yacht race in the world.

Before boarding his sleek, white 50 ft. ketch, the bearded Dalling asked the SUNDAY

TIMES to give this message to South Africa: "I'll be in there doing my best." Not many words, but then the overriding impression about Dalling is his modesty.

He told me that he had been overwhelmed by the good wishes sent from all parts of South Africa and Rhodesia and from many people in Britain.

As we stood aboard the Voortrekker a messenger brought Dalling a handful of telegrams and a bottle of Irish whiskey with a good luck note. "See what I mean," he said. "I'll take this with me," added Dalling, tucking the bottle under his arm, "and I also have some K.W.V. brandy for the cold weather. All strictly for medicinal purposes," he chuckled.

There will be no biltong to chew during the lonely hours, days and weeks when the cruel sea could pose a greater challenge to Dalling than any of his competitors.

"Unfortunately our biltong was finished on the voyage from Cape Town," said Dalling. The only fresh food he will take will be eggs and fruit. The rest will come out of tins.

Bidding farewell to Dalling was his sister, Mrs. Carole Chamier. Her husband, Mr. Anthony Chamier, is in the British Foreign Service.

Mrs. Chamier has spent more than a week in Plymouth running errands for Dalling, a for-

mer inspector in the Hong Kong Police.

Dalling, Bobby Bongers and Gordon Webb spent a hectic final week ironing out small snags in the Voortrekker. Dalling then announced: "She's as shipshape as she will ever be."

The modest Dalling would not be drawn on his chances but Bongers is confident that the sleek South African craft will do well.

"As I see it the race will be fought out by the Pen Duick IV, the Ralph, the Voortrekker and the Sir Thomas Lipton," said Bongers who, with Webb, helped Dalling to sail the Voortrekker the 5,000 miles from Cape Town to Plymouth.

### Set record

Pen Duick IV, a 65 ft. trimaran ketch, will be sailed by Lieut. Eric Tabarly, of France. Tabarly won the race in 1964, beating Francis Chichester and setting a record of 27 days.

"Tabarly's ability is unquestioned," said Bongers, "but much depends on whether his equipment will stand up to the gruelling race."

Another Frenchman is Alain Glikman, who will be handling the 60 ft. yawl Ralph.

Geoffrey Williams is Britain's big hope in the 57 ft. ketch Sir Thomas Lipton.

The Pen Duick IV is the longest craft in the race at 65 ft.—15 ft. longer than the Voortrekker.

"Put your money on the longer ketches — the Voortrekker, Pen Duick IV, the Ralph and Sir Thomas Lipton," said Bongers, "with Gancia Girl a close contender." Gancia Girl is a 60 ft. trimaran ketch sailed by Captain M. J. Minter-Kemp, of Britain.

For radio hams who want to follow Dalling's progress he will transmit daily to Cape Town on wavelength 22765 USB or 15992.5 at 1000 G.M.T. and 1600 G.M.T.

Who knows? About four weeks from now Dalling may be transmitting a "Vrystaat" victory signal from Newport.



Bruce Dalling, the South African sailor, who is racing his 50ft. ketch Voortrekker across the Atlantic.