

TABARLY DROPS OUT OF RACE

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PLYMOUTH.—Frenchman Eric Tabarly said last night he had finally abandoned the transatlantic yacht race he was once strongly tipped to win. Tabarly, hit by a series of accidents to his experimental craft, Pen Duick IV, gave up after three attempts to join the field in the 3,000-mile single-handed race.

The 39-year-old English county vicar, the Rev. Stephen Pakenham, in the 32-foot ketch Rob Roy, yesterday led the field in the transatlantic yacht race.

A British Air Force Shackleton aircraft which flew over the yachts reported that the Rev. Stephen Pakenham was 500 miles out.

Behind him came two other British craft, the 57-ft. ketch Sir Thomas Lipton, sailed by 25-year-old Geoffrey Williams, and Leslie Williams in the 53-ft. sloop Spirit of Cutty Sark.

FORCE FOUR BREEZE

Australian dentist Bill Howell was running fourth in his 43-ft. ketch-rigged catamaran Golden Cockerell.

Out in the Atlantic it was still cold yesterday, the sky overcast with frequent rain. The Sir Thomas Lipton was making seven knots against a force four north-west breeze.

At least five other yachts have dropped out of the race so far, including Britain's 39-ft. sloop Zeevalk, the 45-ft. catamaran sloop Ocean Highlander, the 34-ft. schooner White Ghost, France's Silvia II and the West Geaman sloop Aye-Aye.

Other yachts taking a more southerly course to try to catch the trade winds could challenge the leaders later in the race, now five days old and expected to last about three weeks.

The Baldock radio station in Hertfordshire, which deals with shipping off the English coast, could not make contact with Voortrekker.

Skipper Bruce Dalling had told them on Tuesday that he did not intend making another call before 5.30 p.m. on Friday, because he wanted to conserve his batteries.

In the message he mentioned that he had freed one winch which was giving trouble and nearly cleared the other.

A spokesman for the race Press office said it was impossible to say where Voortrekker was placed because Dalling had refused to reveal his exact position.

He was thought, however, to be among the first eight.—(Sapa-
Reuter and Cape Times Correspondent.)