

14/6/67

Heavy seas lash yachts

LONDON.—Sir Thomas Lipton, the British entry believed to be leading in the transatlantic yacht race, had a struggle on Wednesday against freak weather conditions which skipper Geoffrey Williams explained were due to "rapid clearing of a cold front.

"From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.", he told the *Daily Telegraph*, "the sea was incredible. It was very short and very high and I just could not get the boat to go through it. No normal boat could have done so and it was not just due to the sea. The wind was veering 40 degrees and jumping from eight to 28 knots every 15 minutes. I could never get the right sails set. I was whacked by the end of the day and I feel very angry at losing ground."

WRONG DIRECTION

Williams added that he was still worried as to the whereabouts of Raph (Alain Glikman) and Voortrekker.

According to reports reaching London yesterday Golden Cockerel was driven 45 miles in the wrong direction during the storm by huge seas and gale-force winds. Afterwards Bill Howell had to bale 2 ft. of water out of the catamaran.

Les Williams lost six miles in Spirit of Cutty Sark.

At 150 hours GMT on Wednesday Golden Cockrell was reported to be at 47 degrees 45 minutes north and 30 degrees west—Spirit of Cutty Sark at 1650 GMT at 46 degrees 47 minutes north and 32 degrees 10 minutes west—Gancia Girl at 1630 GMT at 47 degrees 45 minutes north and 30 degrees west—Myth of Malham at 1244 GMT at 49 degrees 20 minutes north and 29 degrees and 41 minutes west. At 2200 GMT the German (Claus Hehner) was sighted for the first time during the race at 49 degrees 36 minutes north and 31 degrees 29 minutes west, which puts her well up among the leaders.

ROB ROY

Rob Roy (Rev. Stephen Apkenham)—sailing by way of the Azores—was reported at 38 degrees 32 minutes north and 22 degrees and 43 minutes west and Sir Thomas Lipton at 1200 GMT yesterday at 47 degrees 6 minutes north and 38 degrees and 45 minutes west.

According to race headquarters in Plymouth, Bruce Dalling and Australia's Bill Howell are among the leaders.