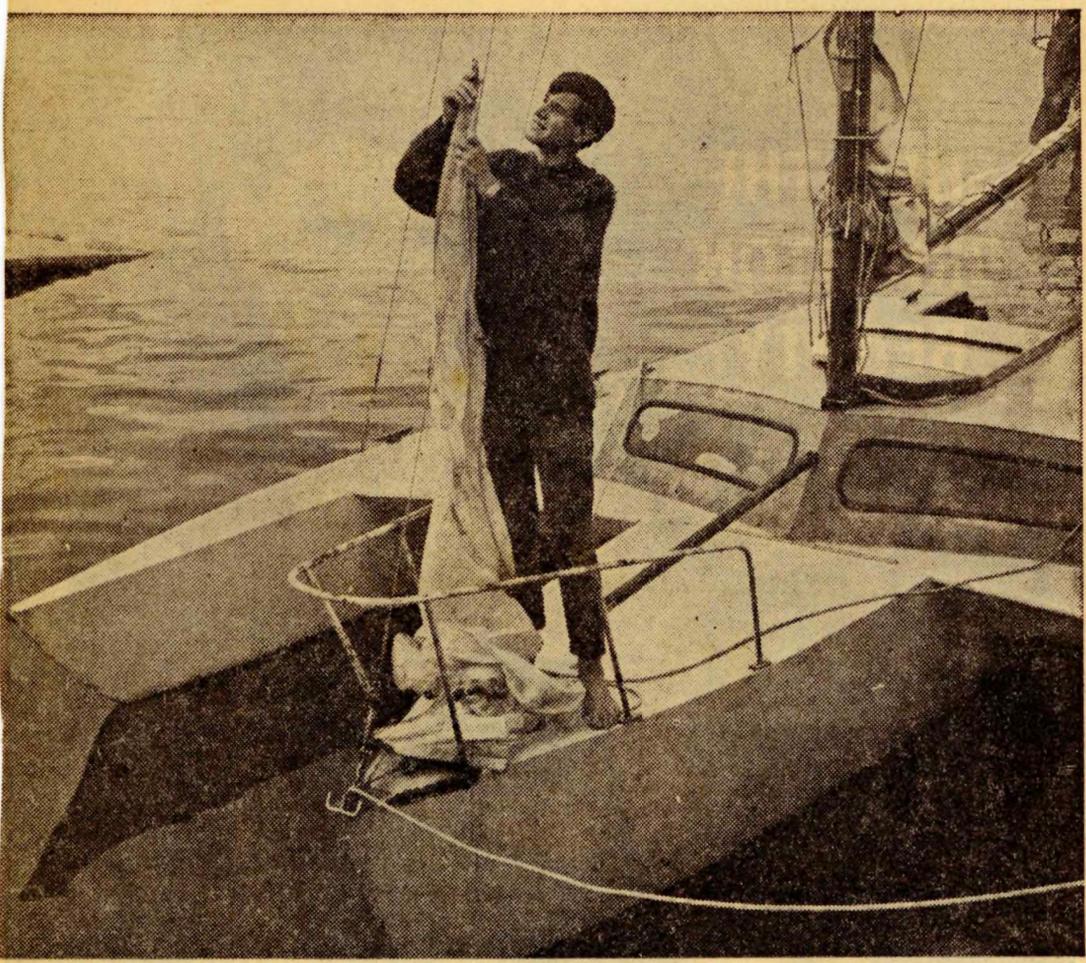


T. Corkill  
21-7-68

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TOM CORKILL aboard his ill-fated trimaran, Clipper I, in Durban harbour.

# RIO-BOUND YACHTSMAN ENDS UP IN VIETNAM

Staff Reporter

**ONE** yachtsman Tom Corkill, who set sail from South Africa for South America a couple of months ago, has ended up on the other side of the world — in war-torn South Vietnam.

In a letter to a friend in Durban, the 25-year-old New Zealander says he is now working as a band manager. He also hints he will return to South Africa to get married.

Tom sailed from Cape Town for Rio de Janeiro in March in his 22ft. trimaran, Clipper I. He had turned down requests from more than a dozen girls who wanted to go with him.

The next news of him was that he had been picked up by an Indian freighter after his trimaran had capsized 150 miles off Cape Columbine.

### SPOTTED

A crew member spotted him, perched on the upturned hull of the boat after he had spent 14 hours fighting to stay alive. Huge seas swept him off the wrecked craft every half-hour.

He said he had resigned himself to dying before the "million-to-one chance" rescue.

The ship took him to India, where he landed penniless. But he raised enough money for a three-week stay by writing articles about his adventures.

Then he worked his way on a ship to Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong before flying to Vietnam.

In the letter to his Durban friend, Mr. Corkill said: "I was very lucky to land a job as a musical band manager, with a salary of R450 and with free food and accommodation.

### EXCITEMENT

"There is certainly plenty of excitement here in Saigon and I am having a whale of a time. It is real great if you like action.

"To get the band to remote military bases we do a lot of flying in helicopters at a height of about 100ft. and with guns blazing to keep the Viet Cong occupied. Sometimes we travel in truck convoys and come

under mortar and machine-gun attack."

Mr. Corkill says he is making an all-out effort to save money for another trimaran and hopes to be back at sea within 12 months.

He corresponds regularly with a South African girl (but does not disclose her name). And he adds that he hopes to return to see her.

"Then there may be wedding bells, you never know."