

TRIMARAN CREW FLEE 20ft. SHARK

# Safe at St. Helena amid the Russians

Daily News Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Wednesday.

**F**OUR young South Africans on a round-the-world trip in their home-built trimaran, Tatalagu, have arrived safely at St. Helena—and their anchorage companions were five Russian ships.

They left Cape Town on July 25 and were at St. Helena 19 days later, says the quartet's leader, Tony Daniel, of Durban, in a letter received in Cape Town.

With him are Geoff Cooke and Gerry Muller, who helped him build the 35ft. Tatalagu when none of them had ever before had any yacht building knowledge, and Ian Murray.

Tony says the men and the trimaran arrived at St. Helena in excellent condition.

They met light winds and frequent calms during which the crew launched the dinghy and rowed for exercise.

## SURFING

One such excursion ended rather dramatically with a 20ft. shark swimming alongside the 7ft. dinghy as its occupants rowed frantically towards the yacht.

A favourite pastime, he says, in fine weather was surfing behind the trimaran, holding on to a rope tied to the stern.

Their largest fish caught was a 10ft. blue pointer shark and once on a lure trailed behind her, they hooked six tunny of about 25lb. each.

Of the Russian ships, he writes: "The Russians frequently visit the island which they use as a recreation centre for the crew of their satellite tracking vessels."

The four men are due to sail from the island this week for Ascension Island before heading across to Brazil.

*Murray* 228  
228 67