

JOURNEY'S END



S. ATLANTIC YACHT RACE PROPOSED

Cape Times Reporters

AT a rousing welcome-home reception for Bruce Dalling at Granger Bay, Cape Town, yesterday, Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann, Chief of the South African Navy, said South Africa should take a lead in arranging a South Atlantic yacht race.

"We should start thinking of such a race," he said, "which could be from Cape Town to South America — or to Australia."

"We could attract the best yachtsmen in the world, and we hope the public of South Africa will again come to the fore in enabling us to launch schemes such as this, in the same way as they have done in the Voortrekker venture."

HERO'S WELCOME

Earlier, Dr. Anton Rupert, head of the Rembrandt Organization which underwrote the venture in its earliest stages and which has now become the legal owner of Voortrekker, formally handed the yacht back to the Springbok Ocean Racing Trustees for further participation in ocean racing for the next three seasons.

He expressed the hope that Voortrekker would also be used "for the training of our youth".

Quietly and modestly, Bruce Dalling sailed Voortrekker to a hero's welcome by 600 special guests at the Naval Academy, General Botha, and by thousands of people along the seafront.

THOUSANDS WATCHED

Promptly at 5.30 p.m., after sailing the ketch along the Sea Point coast, the bearded yachtsman entered the General Botha harbour to the strains of the "Sailor's Hornpipe" and "A Life on the Ocean Wave" from the SA Navy Band.

Also on board were Gordon Webb and Bobby Bongers, who accompanied Dalling to Plymouth from Cape Town five months ago.

On the seafront from Bantry Bay eastward, Capetonians turned out in their thousands

to follow Voortrekker's symbolic home-run through binoculars, from balconies in tall buildings, on the railings at the water's edge and from hundreds of cars thronging Beach Road.

V FOR VICTORY

Keeping about 500 yards off-shore, the ketch slowly made its way to Granger Bay to the accompaniment of hundreds of tooting car-horns.

At Rocklands and Three Anchor Bay, there was applause and cheering from the crowds which clustered the



Dr. Anton Rupert addresses the special guests at the welcome-home reception for Bruce Dalling.

seafront lawns as the Green Point lighthouse sounded its foghorn three times in the Morse code V for victory (three short blasts and one long) in a salute to Voortrekker.

Peak-hour traffic along Beach Road and other routes leading to Green Point and Sea Point was temporarily held up by long lines of cars which slowly moved away from the Granger Bay area after spectators had seen the ketch safely arrive at the nautical college.

Towed by a launch from the nautical college, Voortrekker was berthed alongside the quay on which civic dignitaries, members of the Springbok Ocean Racing Trust and of the organizing committee were waiting.

Looking tired and pale, Dalling stepped briskly ashore to be congratulated personally by all of them, including the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr. G. E. Ferry, who clasped his hand warmly and

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Bruce Dalling stepping ashore from Voortrekker at the South African Merchant Navy Academy, General Botha, yesterday afternoon to receive a hero's welcome. Shaking his hand is Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann, Chief of the South African Navy and chairman of the Voortrekker trustees.

On board Voortrekker are the two yachtsmen who accompanied Dalling to England five months ago — Gordon Webb (foreground) and Bobby Bongers.

No hitches in Voortrekker launching; report and more pictures, page 9.



Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann congratulates Bruce Dalling — and discusses the possibility of a South Atlantic yacht race.

DALLING

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said: "Bruce, we're proud of you!"

Then there were three rousing cheers from the crowd.

Replying to the congratulatory speeches and formally handing Voortrekker back to the chairman of the organizing committee, Mr. Victor Norton, Dalling said: "It's a great thrill to be back.

"I only hope you all had as much enjoyment out of this venture as I did.

"I said when I sailed from here five months and 30,000 miles back that I hoped at least we would be able to make some friends for South Africa—and I think that in some measure we have been successful in this."

Dr. Rupert, in his speech of welcome, said Dalling, with

Gary Player and other young South African sportsmen like Paul Nash, had brought honour to their country in the past few months — "and we are proud of them".

After a colours ceremony performed by cadets of the General Botha, Admiral Biermann gave the order "splice the mainbrace", in honour of Dalling—and the guests retired to a cocktail party inside the main college building.

Among those who drank a special toast to the young yachtsman were his mother and father, who came from Witbank for the occasion.