

# ALBATROS IS DELAYED AT ROBBEN ISLE

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By ROGER WILLIAMS

on board the Cape-to-Rio race guardship Tafelberg

**T**HE CAPE-TO-RIO YACHTS were bowling along beautifully yesterday in what crewman Brian Lello, in the Knysna sloop Albatros II, described by radio telephone at lunch-time as perfect yachting weather. After keeping station ahead of the fleet during the night, Tafelberg, which is the guardship, turned back yesterday morning and passed closely to the apparent leaders at that stage.

## 125 000 saw yachts

By JONATHAN FEDLER

**C**APETONIANS and holiday-makers turned out in full force on Saturday to give the entrants in the Cape-to-Rio race one of the most rousing send-offs the city has ever seen.

At a conservative estimate, roughly 125 000 people crammed the seashore, Signal Hill, Ocean View Drive and High Level Road, Sea Point, Granger Bay and the breakwater for a view of the start of the race.

They watched enthusiastically from balconies, rooftops and rocky ledges, dinghies, launches and aircraft. And when it was over they caused one of the worst traffic jams ever known here.

The Prime Minister, Cabinet members, the Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral P. Hermann, and other dignitaries watched from the frigate SAS President Kruger, adding their prestige to the greatest sailing event in South African maritime history.

Before the beginning of the race boats of the National Sea Rescue Institute and a helicopter provided a dramatic sea-rescue demonstration.

Braving the hundreds of escort craft around the restricted start-

## Getting back

**S**AILING to Rio is one thing, getting back to base is another. Crews of the foreign-owned yachts will be making their own arrangements once they get to Rio.

Some of the boats will be sailing north to take part in off-shore and ocean races in the West Indies and the United States. Some of the crews will be flying back to Europe and most of the South African-owned yachts will have to be freighted back to the Republic.

All this will be arranged by the liaison director, Gerard Roux. South African Airways will put a Boeing 707 into service to fly South African crews from Rio to Jan Smuts Airport.

ing area, and watched by a squadron of light aircraft—private and chartered—the yachts edged their way towards the 1.6-km (one-mile) starting line off the South African Merchant Navy Academy, General Botha.

For the crews waiting anxiously, relief came suddenly with the loud boom of the starting cannon, fired at 4.30 p.m. by Dr. Jan Dommissie, Mayor of Cape Town. Westward, Stormkaap and City of Germiston led the procession.

These were the Canadian ketch Greybeard with not far behind the Cape yacht Outburst skippered by Bobby Bongers.

In a brisk following wind Outburst made a striking picture as she headed north-west with her bright green spinnaker ballooning out before her.

Also in the vicinity of Cape Columbine we saw the 75-year-old ketch Cariad rolling grandly down to Rio with a full spread of sail.

Near her was the Durban sloop Mercury surfing along at a brisk pace under her main and Genoa sails.

Others we saw were Westwind, of Royal Cape Yacht Club, and the Johannesburg entry Golden City. All appeared to be heading north-west towards the tradewind route to Rio.

In my chat to Brian Lello he told me Albatros had had to put in to Robben Island for three hours for repairs after the mast had been damaged and the cockpit swamped when the 42-footer broached in the south-easterly gale in which the yachts started from Granger Bay on Saturday.

## "IN FINE STYLE"

The mast had a squiggle in it, he said, and although it was not yet quite right Albatros was moving along "in fine style".

Albatros has covered well over 161 km (100 miles) and was making up for lost time in a big way.

One of the Transvaal yachts yesterday morning reported her position inadvertently as 32 degrees latitude and 32 degrees longitude. Our navigator quipped that this was probably due to homesickness as this put the yacht slap in the middle of the Transvaal somewhere.

We are continuing to zizzag along the sea corridor apparently being taken by most of the yachts, and so far they all seem to be going well.