

There goes Jakaranda on the way to Rio

23.1.71

By MENDEL JACOBS

THERE GOES THE JAKARANDA! At 9.30 yesterday morning, exactly 47 hours after she had come chugging into port with a broken rudder stock, Cape-to-Rio race yawl Jakaranda slipped her moorings and, to the resounding cheers of a crowd of several hundred well-wishers, echoed by three blasts on the siren of tug T. E. Bates, she sailed out of the harbour.

As skipper Bruce Dalling and his crew gaily acknowledged the cheers of the crowd he must have known that he carried with him the good wishes of tens of thousands of South Africans, because there is no doubt that the

drama of the Jakaranda and her damaged rudder has captured the imagination of the sporting public.

By seven o'clock a fair crowd had gathered on the repair wharf idly gaping at the Jaka-

randa as she sat snugly on her cradle roped off from the spectators.

As the crew arrived from Unitic, where they had been spending the night, each gingerly felt the obvious patch on the newly painted rudder; and, to us standing a little way off, it appeared that some of them thought that it was still a trifle tacky.

RARIN' TO GO

But everybody seemed satisfied with the repair job as well as with the alignment and play of the rudder. All were rarin' to go.

Excitement mounted as, exactly at eight o'clock, the T. E. Bates nudged the floating crane alongside the repair wharf. With a skill born from experience, the crane driver swung Jakaranda, attached by a hook amidships, over the heads of the crowd and lowered her gently into the water. Jakaranda was once again back in her element.

Ever a thoughtful man, Bruce Dalling climbed up into the cab of the crane to shake the driver warmly by the hand and to thank him for his part in the repair operation.

With customs, health and emigration formalities quickly over, Jakaranda motored from the wharf to moorings in the basin. The crew worked with a will to get her ready for sea, while the crowd on the quays, which had now swelled to several hundreds, watched impatiently.

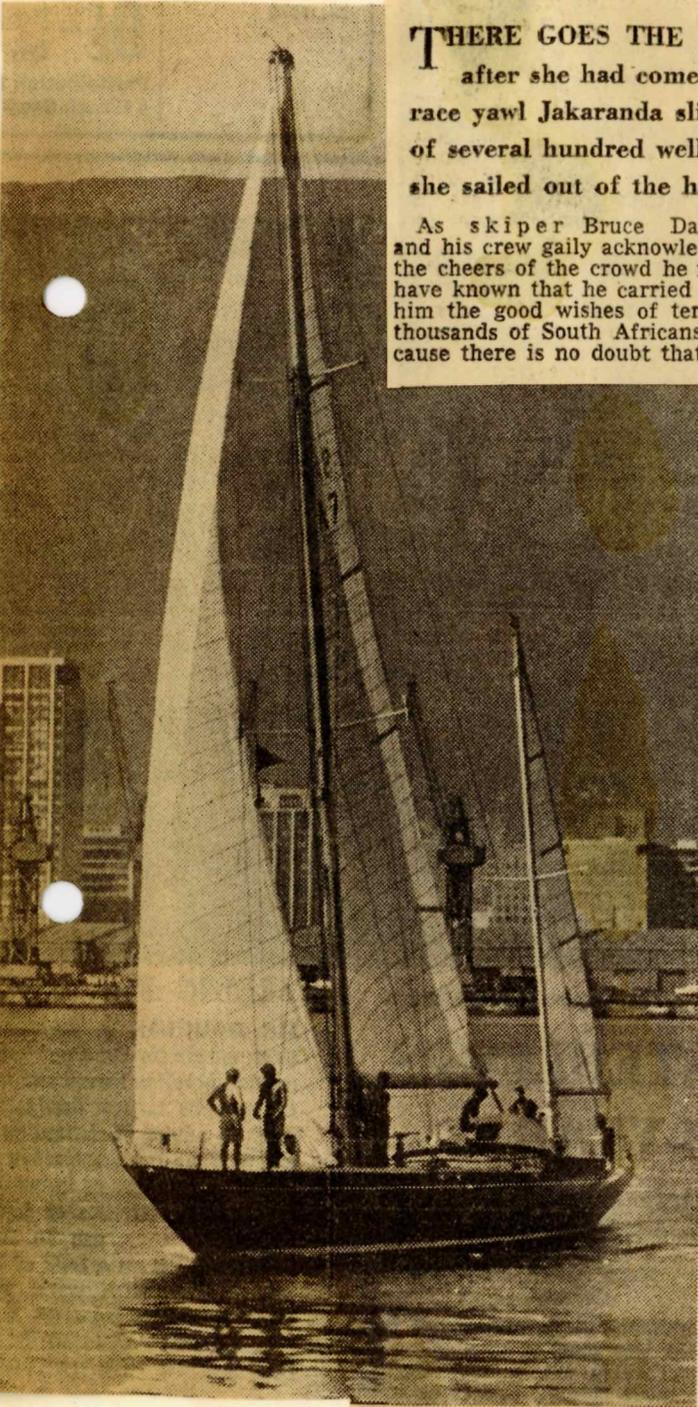
CITY THANKED

At last she was ready. The great moment had arrived. The sails were hoisted and Jakaranda, with Dalling at the wheel, tacked across the basin; and then before a light northerly breeze sailed through the harbour entrance . . . and off to Rio.

A message of thanks to the people of Cape Town for their sympathy and support during Jakaranda's setback in the Rio yacht race was conveyed by the skipper, Bruce Dalling, to the Mayor of Cape Town, Dr. Domisse.

Dalling traced the Mayor to the Newlands cricket ground, where Western Province are playing Natal, and in a radio message said he wished to convey special thanks to those who worked during the night to get the craft seaworthy again.

Jakaranda had a good wind, Dalling said, and her sails were well filled.



With skipper Bruce Dalling at the helm, the Pretoria yawl Jakaranda, her damaged rudder repaired, catches a light northerly breeze as she sails out of Table Bay Harbour on her way **23.1.71** to Rio.

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