

First weeks of race have been full of action

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THE Cape-to-Rio yacht race is two weeks old — and much has happened since that blustery Saturday when a strident south-easter sent the world's most beautiful armada sweeping out of Table Bay.

Here is an outline of some of the outstanding incidents so far:

JANUARY 16

Mass start of 58 yachts, watched by a crowd of between 100 000 and 300 000.

Albatros II damages main mast soon after start. Puts in at Robben Island for repairs. **Wayfarer** delayed by gales along Cape coast, limps into Cape Town at 9 p.m., 4½ hours after start.

JANUARY 17

Voortrekker takes early lead. **Jakaranda** loses rudder and turns back to Cape Town. **Stormkaap** develops steering trouble, makes for Port Nolloth. **Eclipse** reported to have lost bow pulpit in collision with trawler. **Wayfarer** leaves Cape Town 24 hours after rest of fleet. **Cariad I** narrowly avoids night collision with unidentified tanker.

JANUARY 20

Corsair hits whale, leaving sea stained with blood. No damage to yacht. **Jakaranda** arrives off Cape Town. **Stormkaap** leaves Port Nolloth. **Ocean Spirit** leads.

JANUARY 22

Jakaranda sails from Cape Town to rejoin fleet after first having new rudder fixed.

JANUARY 24

Wayfarer reports for first time since leaving Cape Town. She is 25th.

JANUARY 25

S.A.S. **Tafelberg** races to assist **Stormkaap** after her skeg had come loose. She sets off at snail's pace for St. Helena. **Jakaranda** again has trouble with rudder. Reduces her speed considerably. **Striana** takes lead from **Graybeard**. **Albatros I** leads on handicap.

JANUARY 27

Liner **France** sails for Rio with the race trophies on board.

JANUARY 28

Pionier sinks after hitting a whale. Crew of five spends 19 hours in rubber dinghy before being picked up by American freighter.

JANUARY 29

Albatros II and **Mercury** lead the fleet down south while the north-runners, **Graybeard**, **Fortuna** and others, search the skies for better winds. The game of tactics moves into a critical stage.

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