

Water for Three Bears

From **ROGER WILLIAMS**
in the guardship **Tafelberg**

WHILE the first yachts to finish the Cape-to-Rio race were at moorings in Guanabara Bay yesterday, **Tafelberg** replenished the dwindling water supply of the Durban entry, **Three Bears**, in a mid-ocean rendezvous about 700 miles east of Rio.

After receiving a radio message from **Three Bears** to say there was only enough water left to last about four days, **Tafelberg** headed south towards her last reported position and found the 49-ft. (45-m) Ketch soon after dawn yesterday.

Tafelberg's two inflatable motor dinghies were put over side and took across to the yacht about 60 gallons (727 litres) of water and some petrol for its motor which was needed for recharging batteries.

Three other newsmen on board and I were taken across in one

of the dinghies and from the deck of the **Three Bears** her skipper, **Des Dinnigan**, told us the ketch had only eight gallons (36 litres) of water and two gallons (nine litres) of other fluids left and that for the past few days her crew of seven had been reduced to one pint (about half a litre) of water a day.

There had been about 150 gallons (1590 litres) in the yacht's tanks when she left Cape Town and there had been an unaccountable loss probably due to leakage in one of the tanks.

"We probably could have made it to Rio all-right, but we felt that in this heat we had better play safe and ask for further supplies."

Irish-born **Dinnigan** said the lack of wind had slowed **Three Bears** considerably in the past week and she had been averaging a mere 50 to 60 miles a day. Other than water and battery problems there had been no

troubles so far and crew were all fit.

Two of them are from California and the rest from Zululand where the yacht was finished off after being built at Durban's shipyard. All the Natalians wanted to be remembered to their families and friends.

After supplies had been taken across to **Three Bears** **Dinnigan** and four members of his crew came over to **Tafelberg** for showers and to freshen up before setting sail again.

Three Bears may incur a penalty for receiving help but her crew appreciated this when they sent out their call for water.

The yacht is brand new and **Dinnigan** said this was virtually her commissioning cruise. After finishing the race he intended sailing the ketch back to South Africa. **Dinnigan** is a highly experienced ocean yachtsman with some 15 years of cruising logged in his previous boat.

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