

# MOST OF THE TAILENDERS IN RIO SOON

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in the guardship Tafelberg

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**WHILE** 16 Cape-to-Rio yachts had crossed the finishing line by midnight on Saturday and more were expected to do so yesterday, most of the tailenders have passed the Island of Trinidad and could reach Rio within the coming week.

Tafelberg is continuing to carry out an extensive patrol of the area through which stragglers are passing and most yachts we have seen so far have been in known positions which we have been receiving regularly by radio.

But in a wide patrol such as this it could happen that we come across yachts which have not been able to report their positions.

These include Sandefjord skipper P. Cullen and Namar IV (E. Guzzetti) which have not been heard from since the beginning of the race and the all-women yacht Sprinter (M. Warr) which on February 1 radioed that she was unable to start her motor to recharge batteries.

There are also a number of other yachts from which Tafelberg has not received position reports for shorter periods—probably because of distances involved or temporary troubles with their radios.

Early yesterday morning we

again passed the Knysna sloop Qumba at the tailend of the fleet and went close up to inquire if all was well on board. Skipper Les Orpen, of Plettenberg Bay, replied affirmatively and we left Qumbu sailing steadily along to Rio in a ten-knot breeze west of Trinidad.

The navigator of Qumbu is World War II fighter ace Bob Kershaw who was decorated for landing his Hurricane on an enemy airfield in Abyssinia and rescuing his flight commander, Major Jack Frost, who had been forced down by anti-aircraft fire.

The sea in the area in which we are patrolling remains calm and the wind in the past few days has improved for yachts still in it. But the humidity level in this part of the South Atlantic is uncomfortably high and conditions below decks must be somewhat trying for yachtsmen who have now been at sea more than a month and some of whom still have a long way to go.