

Navy fights grim battle against death in the sea



Left: This is the moment the ace came up for Portsmouth yachtsman Tony Lloyd in the boiling Atlantic. With his seven colleagues aboard Camargue, Tony abandoned ship to be picked up by a Navy helicopter. He is pictured on the left with a Navy diver helping him into the winch harness — waiting to join the high ace of clubs hovering overhead.



Right: Aboard the stricken Camargue Emsworth yachtsman Mike Hackman picks his spot in the sea — and indicates to the waiting helicopter crew just where he'll be in a few dangerous moments.

13 VICTIMS

Voice of terror haunts survivor

A voice of terror in the night haunts one crew of survivors of the Fastnet disaster — a voice they heard pleading on the radio for assistance on another stricken yacht.

All the survivors on Golden Apple — already fighting their own battle against the storm — heard the frightening plight of a man aboard the crippled Festina Tertia.

"The helicopters couldn't find him. He had already lost one man washed away to his death in the night. Another

lay injured in the cockpit, and she was filling up.

"We heard him say 'I've only got one flare left, what shall I do?'"

"The helicopter replied that he should fire it off and they would look again.

"He fired the flare, and the helicopter never saw it. His voice started going to pieces. You can never forget a thing like that," said one of the Golden Apple crewmen.

Fastnet takes terrible toll

By PETER SMITH
The News Deputy Chief Reporter

A terrible unknown factor which could treble the known death toll of 13 in the Fastnet Yacht Race disaster is haunting rescuers still combing the Atlantic for survivors.

Some 80 yachts are still unaccounted for, having made no contact since the freak near-hurricane struck the fleet.

Rescuers are praying that they have all escaped unscathed — but the terrible possibility remains that some may have disappeared completely.

A spokesman for the Admiral's Cup Press office in Plymouth told me today that it was possible that some of the smallest yachts could have been literally wiped out in the storm.

It is certain that 13 people are already dead, among them two from the yacht Trophy, and four are from the American yacht Ariadne.

A big improvement in the weather between Land's End and the Fastnet Rock has given the huge air and sea rescue operation renewed hope of finding survivors of the worst storm ever to hit a yacht race.

Small armada

Naval helicopters from Cudrose, which picked up more than 70 survivors yesterday, were up in force again today, assisted by three Nimrods from the Royal Air Force.

Four naval ships and a Dutch ship, with a small armada of trawlers and other vessels, are combing hundreds of square miles of sea.

It has been confirmed that 21 yachts have been sunk or abandoned, and that 131 people have been saved.

"The task was made easier when it was realized that only 306 of the 330 starters scheduled to start on Saturday had actually come to the line. The search will go on until all have been accounted for," said the spokesman.

Mr. Alastair Garland, from Southampton, a 23-year-old crew member of the British yacht Sophie V, was saved by a safety harness from joining the race casualties, his skipper claimed.

Mr. Garland was treated for internal injuries when his craft limped into the Irish port of Kinsale. The yacht's captain, Mr. Andrew Caine, also of Southampton, said Mr. Garland had been fixing a sail on the deck when he was hit by a huge wave.

"But for the safety device he would have been lost." Mr. Garland is recovering at Cork Regional Hospital.

Survivors tell their stories and more pictures in Page 9.

WHERE THE BOATS ARE

The Royal Ocean Racing Club today gave information on the following boats:

- BILLY BONES — abandoned. Six crew all safe at Cudrose.
- ALLAMANDER — abandoned. Five crew all safe at Cudrose.
- LIPSTICK — abandoned. All crew safely aboard French trawler heading for Waterford.
- MALIGAWA II — abandoned. Six crew all safe. IMPETUOUS — bound for Plymouth.
- SCARAMOUCHE — no engine, but crew safe. SPICA — retired from race. Crew safe. SKAT — putting into Milford Haven. Crew safe.
- SANDETTIE II — lost her mast.
- ALPHA II — at Waterford. Five crew safe.
- ANIMAL — bound for Milford Haven.
- AMANDLA KULU — bound for Milford Haven. Crew safe.
- FIORINDA — at Milford Haven. Crew safe.
- MORNING GLORY — at Milford Haven. Crew safe.
- YEOMAN 21st — bound for Plymouth. Crew safe.
- SAMURAI II — bound for Cork.
- ZAP — bound for Cork. Crew safe.
- XARA — at Crosshaven. Crew safe.
- GEKKO — in Cork.
- XAVIERA — at Crosshaven.
- POPPY II — at Crosshaven.
- PACHENA — at Cork.
- KORSAR — under tow to Dunmore East.
- JUGGERNAUT and TAM O'SHANTER and LOCOMOTION all under tow to Dunmore East.
- HOODLUM — at Youghal.
- KESTEL — abandoned. All crew rescued.
- GRINGO — presumed sunk. All crew safe at Cudrose.
- SILVER APPLE — at Crosshaven.
- OSSIAN — under tow by Ballycotton lifeboat.
- CASSE TETE — under tow by Ossian.

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GOSPORT CREW RESCUED

Seven crewmen aboard a Gosport-based Navy tender had to be rescued yesterday as savage seas turned the world's toughest yacht race into a nightmare.

The seven — including two civilians — were all picked up safely by a fishery protection vessel after their yacht, Bonaventure II, was dismantled off the Scillies.

A spokesman for H.M.S. Dolphin, the Gosport submarine base which owns the 35ft. yacht, said today that the craft was believed still to be afloat.

The yacht, skippered by Captain Graham Laslett, R.N., was acquired from Dartmouth Naval College less than a fortnight ago, said the spokesman.

"The crew is still aboard the protection vessel which is still searching for missing yachtsmen. The captain may try to get back to her and take her in tow."

He named the other crew as Lieut. Mitchell, Coxswain Meeker, Chief Petty Officer Diamond, Mechanical Engineering Officer Aitkenhead, Mr. Andrew, and Mr. Barry Nichol.