



Salvaging possessions yesterday from the yacht Erica, which was wrecked off Robben Island on Saturday evening, were (left to right): Mr. Trevor Richards, the skipper, Mrs. Edna Spyker and Miss Maureen Roseveare. They were three of a crew of seven.

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YACHT CREW OF 7 ESCAPE GROUNDING

Taken Off by Robben Island 'Human Chain'

SEVEN people—two women, three men, a girl and a boy—escaped on Saturday evening when the yacht Erica, in which they were sailing to Robben Island, ran aground and was wrecked.

They are Mrs. Edna Spyker, of University Estate; Mrs. Lil Roseveare, of Sea Point; Mr. Trevor Richards, of Camdeboo Bay (the skipper and owner of the yacht); Mr. Charles Fouche, of Gardens; Mr. Cormack McCarthy, of University Estate; and Mrs. Roseveare's daughter, Maureen, 18, and son, Derrick, 14.

The Erica was taking part in an annual outing to Robben Island arranged by the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

She was one of 12 yachts which left for Robben Island on Saturday afternoon on what has, in previous years, been known as a "Mystery Weekend". The event usually includes a race to the island, followed by a braai and dance; but these, because of Mr. Strijdom's death, were cancelled this year.

Mrs. Spyker said that the Erica left the yacht basin after 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

SWAM ASHORE

"Just as we got to Robben Island, with the old jetty on our left, something happened. We realized that we had grounded, but could not get into deeper water in spite of throwing out an anchor and trying to row.

"Mr. Fouche then swam ashore to get help, and men of S.A.S. Robben Island formed a chain and carried us to land. They were standing shoulder-deep in the water.

"The weather was bad, with high winds and a swell. I was terrified.

"Mrs. Roseveare and Maureen were taken ashore first. I was below decks, very seasick."

BITTS BROKE

It is understood that the Erica's jib halliard parted and then the main halliard. The bitts on deck next broke when the anchor was warped round them.

Mr. Richards refused to be interviewed by the Press.

The yacht was completely wrecked.

The Erica's crew were brought back to Cape Town yesterday afternoon in Leona, skippered by Mr. Arthur Holdgate.

The Erica was formerly an eight-metre racing craft which took part in Lipton Trophy races. During the past war she went ashore on Robben Island and was beached for about 15 years.

She was then refloated and converted to a cruising yacht.

The Leona took part in a second rescue operation in the

Duncan Dock and in the Yacht Basin yesterday afternoon.

After a Flying Dutchman craft got into difficulties in the Duncan Dock, the yacht Sally went to the rescue. With the smaller yacht in tow, Sally's motor failed and Leona, with the yacht club's motor dinghy, immediately set out to help both the Flying Dutchman and Sally.

Part of Sally's mizzen mast was lost when the vessel was drifting before a squally south-wester. She was taken in tow by Leona and brought to safety, but not before one man had fallen in the water.

The Flying Dutchman craft was brought in by the motor dinghy.



Mr. K. Bond.



Mr. L. Williams.

Dinghy Was Kalk Bay Boat's Third Rescue in Month

IN stormy seas yesterday, Mr. L. Williams—who has figured in many rescues along the Kalk Bay coast—saved the life of Kenneth Bond, of Fish Hoek, when his sailing dinghy capsized 500 yards from the entrance of Kalk Bay harbour.

Mr. Bond, 22, said he left the Fish Hoek beach in his 18-ft. yacht in clear weather, but soon ran into trouble when the off-shore wind threw up a stiff sea.

He was forced in the direction of Kalk Bay and with

great difficulty kept his small craft afloat.

He made several attempts to enter the harbour, but was forced back by the strong wind.

Mr. Williams said he had noticed Bond's plight and had warmed up the motor of his fishing launch Ang Jerry in readiness.

When a gust eventually capsized the yacht and snapped the mast, Mr. Williams set off to help.

"Bond had lost his grip on the hull", said Mr. Williams, "and when I reached him he

was fighting to keep above water."

Mr. Williams rescued three men last Sunday, when their speed-boat capsized off the Strandfontein coast. Three weeks ago he also saved two men from almost certain drowning off the Kalk Bay coast.

Twenty minutes after being brought ashore Mr. Bond was none the worse for his experience.

The yacht was washed ashore on the sand at Dalebrook, 400 yards from the harbour, and, except for the broken mast, was not damaged.