

Sir Thomas Lipton, first to arrive at Newport, Rhode Island, yesterday, was the largest of the 16 British yachts in the race. This picture of the beautiful, 57-foot ketch, was taken at her launching in March. Sir Thomas Lipton was sailed by 25-year-old Geoffrey Williams, who is a teacher. The boat was designed by Robert Clark and built by Derek Kelsall. With its name it brings back memories of ocean racing—Sir Thomas Lipton himself sailed challengers for the Americas Cup. Sponsored by Allied Suppliers—the company which grew from Lipton's Tea—and with her skipper's considerable ocean racing experience, the Sir Thomas Lipton was strongly fancied to win.

1968 06 28 - Rand Daily Mail



BRUCE DALLING'S magnificent feat can only be fully appreciated by those who have faced the rigours and the challenges of the North Atlantic — the forbidding stretch of ocean that Nicholas Monsarrat so aptly dubbed "The Cruel Sea."

And in the third transatlantic race it has indeed shown itself to be the cruellest of seas. From the garbled radio messages and from aircraft spottings, it is clear that the yachts have taken a severe battering for a good deal of the way.

Merely to complete the course, with its ice, fog, gale and shipping hazards would be a feat in itself.

Going without proper sleep for 27 days at a stretch would in any circumstances be considered an outstanding show of stamina and endurance, but when a man has also to cope with the vagaries of the North Atlantic while pushing his craft to its utmost limits in a race against the world's best —

## From ROGER WILLIAMS in CAPE TOWN

# DALLING'S GREAT EFFORT

this is a tremendous achievement.

Dalling must now rank among the best of the world's lone yachtsmen. His name can be mentioned in the company of such giants as Sir Francis Chichester, Eric Tabarly and, of course, Geoffrey Williams who sailed Sir Thomas Lipton in this epic race.

A tremendous amount of meticulous preparation lay behind Dalling's effort. It has been a vast operation, aimed at showing that here is yet another field of human endeavour in which South Africa, with its relatively small population, can more than hold her own.

Voortrekker, a sleek 50-foot ketch built at Knysna

Late last night Bruce Dalling's position was still uncertain, and controversy hung over the single-handed transatlantic race. But whatever the outcome, Dalling has put up a fine performance.

and registered in Cape Town, was South Africa's lone entry in the race.

On a 6,000-mile voyage from the Cape to Plymouth — starting point in the race — Dalling and two yachtsmen who accompanied him, Bobby Bongers and Gordon Webb, nursed and even bullied the boat into superb racing condition.

In fact it was said before the start of the race on June

1 that Voortrekker was the best prepared yacht in the field of 35.

Eric Tabarly, who started firm favourite for the race but had to withdraw after colliding with a freighter outside Plymouth, said before the start that Voortrekker was the best monohull and would win if the multihulls failed.

Dalling himself was in serious trouble 300 miles from

Plymouth when his boom broke. He carried out make-shift repairs in a howling gale and sailed on — with Voortrekker jury-rigged.

The Springbok Transatlantic Race Committee in Cape Town chose Dalling for the race because of his toughness, his resilience and his youth as well as for his small-boat expertise.

The 29-year-old agricultural lecturer at the University of Natal had already challenged most of the major oceans before taking part in the transatlantic race.

After working as an intelligence officer for the Government of Hong Kong, he

sailed the 8,000 miles across the Indian Ocean to South Africa in a 25-ft. sloop. He has twice taken part in the China Sea Race from Hong Kong to Manila, and has crewed in the Cape-built ocean racer Stormvogel.

Before he and his two colleagues sailed Voortrekker out of Table Bay in March, Dalling told an interviewer: "I go because I prefer to deal in simple things. The sea is the simplest thing there is. You either learn to handle it and survive, or you don't. It's as simple as that."

Understatement, if ever there was.

After he had seen Voortrekker for the first time at Simonstown in November, Bruce Dalling said: "This is a magnificent craft. I have the fullest confidence in the designer and I feel sure I can win."