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Pric

DALLING MAY WIN TODAY

400 miles to go

Finish will be a thriller

OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEWPORT.

THE transatlantic yacht race is expected to end at Newport, Rhode Island, tomorrow in a desperately close finish between Britain's Sir Thomas Lipton and South Africa's Voortrekker.

Geoffrey Williams in Sir Thomas Lipton was reported to be 60 miles ahead of Bruce Dalling last night and only 400 miles from Newport.

But Williams was penalised 12 hours for arriving late at the start in Plymouth, so Dalling could still win the big race even if Sir Thomas Lipton ties up first.

Whoever wins, the race is certain to produce the closest finish in its brief history. The previous winners — Sir Francis Chichester in 1960 and Eric Tabarly in 1964 — were days ahead of their rivals.

Race officials said last night it was difficult to tell which yachts were nearest Sir Thomas Lipton and Voortrekker because most had not reported their positions for several days.

But two British yachts, The Spirit of Cutty Sark and Opus, are believed to be closest to the leaders.

'Grand sailor'

In Witbank last night, Mr. Bill Dalling, Bruce's father, described his son as a "grand sailor" and "master of the calculated risk."

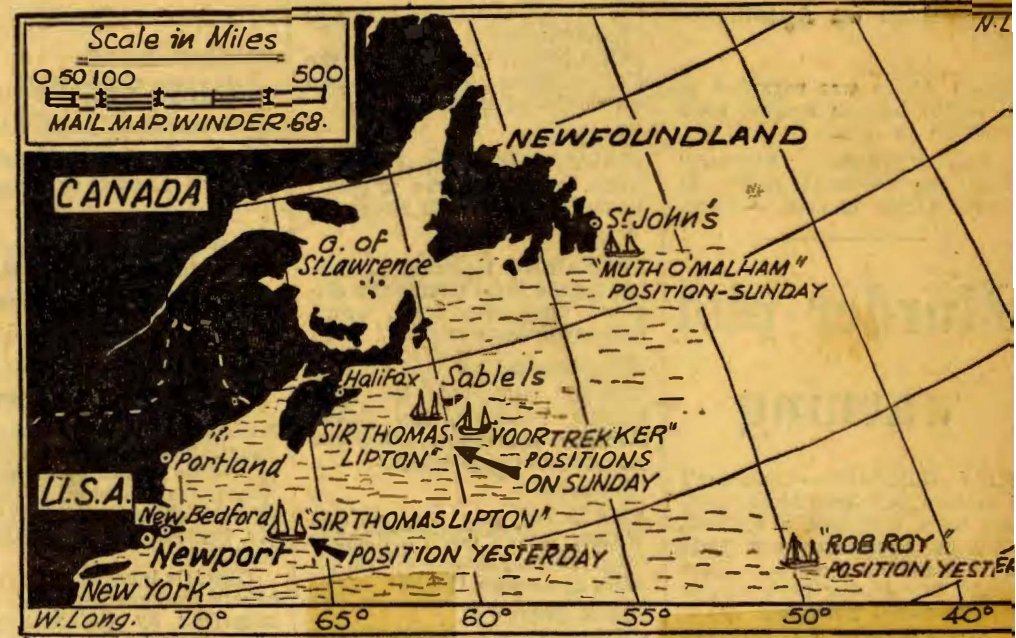
Bruce would not take a chance unless he had plotted all the possibilities, he told the "Rand Daily Mail" in a telephone interview.

Bruce's mother, Mrs. Kathleen Dalling, had always allowed him to pursue "skull-cracking" and "leg-busting" escapades, Mr. Dalling said.

Mrs. Dalling said her grandfather, a one-time whaling skipper, came out of retirement to lead a search in the Antarctic for British explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The Dallings said they had received numerous telephone calls in the past few days.

"Many of the callers were non-sailors," Mr. Dalling said. "But the spirit of the race has gripped them and we are thrilled by their enthusiasm."



This map of the final stages of the transatlantic yacht race shows the positions as they were known yesterday.

Last night, Britain's Sir Thomas Lipton was reported to be 60 miles ahead of South Africa's Voortrekker with 400 miles to go. The positions of other yachts were uncertain.

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