

# Why sailor pulled out of race

Papeete, June 22.—M. Bernard Mottessier, the French writer who threw away a commanding lead in The Sunday Times round-the-world yacht race by beginning a second circumnavigation, said in Tahiti today that he had never intended to race.

"Talking of records is stupid, an insult to the sea. The thought of a competition is grotesque," the yachtsman said. He called at Papeete for repairs to his 40ft. ketch Joshua 10 months after leaving Plymouth and three months after he was last heard from.

"You have to understand that

when one is months and months alone, he evolves; some say people go nuts. I went crazy in my own fashion. For four months all I saw were the stars. I didn't hear an unnatural sound. A purity grows out of that kind of solitude.

"I said to myself: 'What the hell am I going to do in Europe?' I told myself I'd be crazy to go on to France."

He was thinner than when he set off but seemed in excellent physical condition after what was probably the world's longest one-man voyage. He said: "I feel impeccable."

M. Mottessier said the most difficult parts of his trip came the second time he passed Tasmania when Joshua twice nearly capsized, and in the Hobart Passage off southern New Zealand. "I was on deck two days running and could not fix the position because of the blackness of a storm like pea soup."

He planned at one time to go to Galapagos or Easter Island, but turned back towards Tahiti to restock and refit his boat. "I didn't even have a pot of paint or board", he said. He planned to stay in Tahiti at least for "a few months".—U.P.I. and A.P.

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