

### 3 Frenchmen Cross Atlantic On Log Raft

FALMOUTH, England (AP)—Three bearded Frenchmen stepped ashore from a log raft Tuesday after an epic 89-day drift across the Atlantic from Canada. They said they'd go home "in a big boat."

Hundreds of vacationers cheered as the raft L'Égaré II—"The Lost One"—sailed peacefully under tow into this Cornish port at the end of the 3,000-mile journey.

"We are crazy Frenchmen, yes!" yelled Henri Beaudot, 29-year-old leader of the expedition.

Beaudot and three companions set out on their 13 by 17 foot raft of roped cedar logs from Halifax, N.S., May 24. One man sickened 200 miles out in the Atlantic and a fishing boat took him back to Canada. Gaston Vanackere, 31, and Mard Modena, 27, made it across with their leader.

#### Returns to Craft

The sturdy craft sighted Penzance, southernmost tip of England, yesterday and a lifeboat from the Lizard Light house brought Beaudot ashore. But he insisted on returning to his raft when another craft took it in tow for the entry into this old English fishing port.

Two kittens also made the voyage.

"They cheered us up whenever we felt a little depressed," said Vanackere, "and, believe me, there were days of storm and high wind when we did not feel too happy."

#### Small Sail

A small wooden cabin covered with a tarpaulin was the voyagers' only shelter, a small sail all they had to help out the Gulf Stream.

"It was not too unpleasant, except in the worst of gales," Vanackere reported. "But we have done what we set out to do, which was to allow the Gulf Stream to carry us across the Atlantic using the minimum of sail."

Food supplies gave out a month ago and "we practically lived on fish, which we speared or caught with lines," Beaudot said, touching his gaunt cheeks.

"For drink we had rain water—and there was never any shortage of that," he added.

#### Saw Several Ships

The adventurers encountered several ships during the voyage. They also had a hand-powered radio transmitter but were out of touch with land much of the time. All three men sported 30-day beards.

"Water was too precious," Beaudot explained. "It was better to go down the throat than on the face."

Beaudot told of their crossing. "Day by day, the drift carried us eastward. By July 5 we were in the middle of the Atlantic. On that day an American troopship sighted us. She stopped and asked us if we were all right."

#### Given Medicine

"We said we were okay except for a few bellyaches. A doctor from the ship came over to give us medicine and food."

"Then on we drifted. We spent our time playing checkers or standing on guard. We each did a three-hour watch, then rested for six hours."

"Several times terrific storms hit us. Waves 35 feet high crashed over us and the raft was awash. Still we survived. But 30 days ago we ran out of food. All we had left was one slice of bread, one potato and one meat pie. We shared them. After that we lived on fish."

"As we neared England, the wind veered to northwest. It was sending us back."

#### Arranged Tow

Beaudot came ashore yesterday in a lifeboat to arrange for a tow because the raft was drifting toward the rocky Cornish coast and in danger of being wrecked on the reefs.

As soon as the three men came ashore, they dug into double helpings of eggs, bacon, grilled tomatoes, toast and marmalade and cups of tea.

Then off they went for hot baths, haircuts and beard-trims. They were interrogated by police and immigration officials and finally sent to bed to catch up on lost sleep.

Beaudot, the only married man of the three, said: "We shall go home to Montreal by liner as soon as possible, and we want to take the raft with us. We think it ought to be preserved."

All three live in Montreal. Beaudot told newsmen he was a Canadian citizen. The other two said they were Frenchmen who had been in Canada two years—not long enough to become citizens.

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