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West Country - Tour of Britain nears finish

18th June 1954

Somerset: Tour of Britain fever reaches the West Country. At Weston-Super-Mare the Civic Head welcomes the riders - before sending them off on the ninety-one mile stage to Torquay...

And there they go - the thirty-five riders who have survived the gruelling test of speed and stamina - in covering over eleven-hundred miles of this round-Britain marathon.

For stage after stage, Eugene Tamburlini of France has worn the race-leader's yellow jersey. And while the French team were keeping a watchful eye on the leading British riders - to try and prevent them from taking a long lead of Tamburlini - two other competitors "escaped" the pack:

and there they go - Ian Greenfield (winner of two stages earlier in the race - and Dennis Talbot - both speeding away at <sup>NEARLY</sup> ~~over~~ thirty miles an hour - to put minutes between themselves and the pack.

And the usual refreshments en route gave them renewed energy.

The main group of riders reached the Feeding Station (just past Honiton) nearly five minutes behind. Yet the French team were not unduly worried by the deficit - for Tamburlini could afford to concede <sup>TIME</sup> ~~minutes~~ to Greenfield and Talbot - so long as he stayed <sup>NEAR</sup> ~~close~~ the top British riders to preserve his five minute overall lead...

and as you can see - the situation brought a great tactical battle, ~~as~~ <sup>WITH</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>TRYING</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~riders~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>get</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>away</sup> - only to be passed and hemmed in again, by members of the French team. Though Ian Steel and Les Scales did eventually "escape" the pack - and set out after the two leaders.

~~But~~ <sup>But</sup> in front - Ian Greenfield won the sprint for the line - his third stage success.

~~The~~ British riders filled the first six places - to recover ground lost in the team competition.

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