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The Channel - Portugal first in Channel Swim

France: By the flickering light of flares, twelve men and three women prepare, at Cape Gris Nez - for the world's toughest race - the mass Channel Swim...Among them is Brenda Fisher of Grimsby - the first woman home in 1951. The time is 12-30 am. the competitors, representing twelve countries, are ready...And the race is started by Mr Billy Butlin - who organised the event in conjunction with the International Long Distance Swimming Federation.

(BRING UP)

From the start, the 33 year-old Baptiste Pereira of Portugal set off at tremendous speed on his first Channel bid. British hopes rested on Brenda Fisher - who was always up with the leaders. And not far behind her, was 21 year-old Margaret Feather of Scarborough - the youngest competitor in the race... (BRING UP)

Still in the lead, Pereira, a Portuguese Champion, is making good time; but unable to shake off a relentless pursuer - Hassan Hammad of Egypt, the winner three years ago. (BRING UP)

The Cliffs of Dover in sight, at last, and after a last minute battle with the tide, it's victory for Baptista Pereira, as he clambers ashore at St. Margaret's Bay - after 12 hours 25 minutes in the water. Hammad landed twenty-four minutes later. (BRING UP)

Wardin the race and the first Briton home was Brenda Fisher, who described the Channel conditions before she spent the evening - dancing. (BRING UP) SOUND.

And now - for details of a trans-Atlantic crossing, we go to Shannon Airport in Southern Ireland, where a tiny single-engined aircraft taxis in, after flying from Newfoundland, in thirteen-and-a-half hours.

The dare-devil pilot was Tom Danagher of Texas, who said, on landing, that it was his life's ambition to do what Colonel Lindbergh did! Lindbergh, in 1927, made the first solo Atlantic crossing - from New York to Paris in 33½ hours... Other pioneers of Atlantic flight were Jim Mollison (husband of the famous airwoman, Amy Johnson) who made the first solo East-West crossing in 1932. (BRING UP) In the same year, Amelia Earhart also flew the Atlantic. And, of course, there was "Wrong-Way Corrigan" who claimed he had flown the Atlantic by mistake. (BRING UP) Back to Shannon Airport, where Danagher's tiny plane was blessed and christened "St. Brendan"....