

The Tragedy of the Mille Miglia

2438

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A thousand miles of open road, through towns and villages, faced ace drivers in Italy's famous Mille Miglia car race. ~~And on this~~ tragedy and death waited, as the Marquis de Portago ^{No 531} sped towards his doom. Leading the Ferrari team, (in car no. 534) Peter Collins of Britain was always contesting the lead.

Speeding cars are always a thrilling spectacle, and these crowds ~~lining~~ near the ~~road~~ had little thought of danger as the cars sped by - at speeds well over 100 miles per hour.

In Rome, film star Linda Christian waited anxiously - for her driver friend - the Marquis de Portago.

And with a good-luck kiss - Linda sent him speeding on his way. - He was then in third place...

~~...beyond Mantua~~
at ~~...~~

Then - came a burst tyre - and disaster!

Here - a broken telegraph pole marked the scene of tragedy - together with wreckage and tattered clothing...

In its crazy flight, the blood-red Ferrari crashed into spectators on both sides of the road. Nine people were killed...five of them children.

The Marquis - a famous Spanish sportsman, and his co-driver, Eddy Nelson, were also victims... (down)

Unaware of the tragedy, the other cars raced on. And with Peter Collins robbed of victory by ~~car~~ axle trouble - the veteran Piero Taruffi was cheered home...the winner.

But once again - the race had claimed its toll - and with ^{the} news that it is to be banned - Piero Taruffi becomes the last winner of the ill-fated "Mille Miglia".