

Twenty swimmers are competing for a total of £7,000 in cash prizes and two "Festival of Britain" Cups in the Daily Mail Cross Channel Swimming Race on August 13th or, if postponed by bad weather, the first suitable day within a fortnight from that date.

Five of the swimmers are British. There are three French and three Egyptians. Two are Swedish, two from Argentina and one from Peru, Denmark, Canada, Greece and the Netherlands.

Of the twenty competitors, seven are women - three of them British, one Canadian, one Swedish, one Danish and one from Argentina.

Last year, twenty-four International swimmers competed in the first mass race ever held over the Channel Strait. Prizes then were £1,000 for the first man and woman across and £250 for any other who got over. This year there are additional prizes of £500 to the second man and woman, and a "Festival of Britain" Cup for the winners.

Of the nine who succeeded in last year's event, eight are again in this year's swim. Last year's winners were burly Egyptian Army Officer Lt. Hassan Abd El Rehim, and the tiny Yorkshire school teacher, Eileen Fenton. They are both in it again.

So too are Roger Le Morvan, the great French swimmer who just missed victory in the final stages of the race; Mareeh Hammed, the Egyptian who came third; Ned Barnie of Scotland who finished fifth and has recently joined the exclusive ranks  
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of swimmers who have crossed the Channel in both directions; Antonio Abertondo of the Argentine; Jenny Kammergaard of Denmark, and Major Jason Zirganos of Greece.

The man who was first Briton across last year, Sam Rockett of Dorset, is Training Supervisor to this year's competitors. He established Race Headquarters at the Folkestone Open Air Bathing Pool.

Much of the success of the race must depend on the weather. Last year conditions were near-perfect and the first two finishers broke all previous records. El Rehim's time was 10 hours 49 mins. and Le Morvan 11 hours 3 mins.

The women were slower and nobody came near the record put up by Florence Chadwick earlier in the year. Her time was 13 hours 23 mins. Eileen Fenton took 15 hours 31 mins.

Among this year's competitors are two other veteran Channel swimmers: Sally Bauer of Sweden swam the Channel in 1939 and Daniel Carpio of Peru in 1947.

The race starts from Cap Gris Nez, France, and most of the successful competitors finish between Dover and Ramsgate. Last year two of them came right into Dover Harbour.

Radar keeps a careful check on the swimmers' positions during the race from two vessels fitted with special "Navigator" position finding equipment.

Commodore in charge of the control ship motor yacht "Ginasal" is Captain Magub of Dover, ex-Cinque Ports Senior Pilot.

A fleet of nearly sixty boats accompanies the swimmers, carrying between 300 and 400 Press, B.B.C., Television, Newsreel and Organisers.

Gerald McKnight  
"Daily Mail" Press Officer  
Old Coast Lines Shed  
Dover.  
Phones Dover 1701/1702

### COMPETITORS

#### DAILY MAIL CROSS CHANNEL SWIMMING RACE 1951

##### Argentina

ANTONIO ABERTONDO - Buenos Aires. Age: 32.

Came 8th in last year's Daily Mail Channel Swimming Race. (Time: 16 hrs. 18 mins.) Many long distance records. 1950 - River Plate: swam 280 kms. (168 miles) in 61 hours. Has five brothers and two sisters. Married, with daughter aged 3½ (Alicia) and son (Antonio) 18 months. Weighs 80 kgs. and stands 1.69 metres tall. Popular, smiling man who, without knowing any English, has become famous with child holiday-makers at Folkestone by giving swimming lessons.

ENRIQUETA DUARTE - Buenos Aires. Age: 22.

In swimming pool: Argentina's Records over 200, 400, 500 and 800 m. free - 4th place against men in river in a distance of 18 km. and 1st place against women - 1st place in a race of 5, 10 and 12 km. in Mar del Plata. Daughter of Buenos Aires newspaper editor, in Britain with her mother and trainer, Ernesto Caracciolo. Unmarried, with one older brother; weighs 10 stones and is 5 ft. 4 ins. tall, with blue eyes and red hair.

##### Canada

WINNIE FRANCES ROACH (Mrs. Lueszler)- Willowdale, Ont. Age: 25.

1944: National A.A.U. Long-Distance Amateur Champion (Women)  
1947: 2nd in World's Pro. Women's Swim (5 miles)  
1948: 3rd in World's Pro. Women's Swim  
1949: 2nd in same race.

Married (real name Mrs. Lueszler) to Leading Aircraftsman, carpenter in Royal Canadian Air Force, now stationed No.2 Canadian Maintenance Unit, Calgary, Alberta. Has blue eyes, fair hair, weighs 150 pounds, is 5ft 5ins. tall and has three children: Frances Mary aged 3, Sharon and Phyllis. Spent two years in Canadian Women's Army Corps. Comes from Willowdale, Ontario - one of twelve brothers and sisters, all swimmers.

Denmark

JENNY KAMMERSGAARD - Copenhagen. Age: 32.

Kattagat, Sealand to Jutland - 1937

Baltic Sea, Denmark to Germany - 1938

Channel crossing in 16 hrs. 27 mins. in Daily Mail Race 1950.

The quietest of the swimmers. A blue-eyed blonde with an immensely strong breast stroke. She is 1.68 metres tall. Last year, her cheerful disposition earned her the title of the "smiling swimmer".

Egypt

HASSAN ABD EL REHIM - Cairo. Age: 42.

Has swum Channel in both directions. Winner of last year's Daily Mail race in record time of 10 hrs. 49 mins. Army Lieutenant, married, with four boys and one girl. Long-time champion of Egypt. 5 foot 11 inches tall, 100 kgs. in weight. A lover of swimming, with a keen sense of humour and a superstitious belief in colour blue and number eight.

MAREEH HASSAN HAMMAD - Cairo. Age 34.

Channel crossing from Cap Gris Nez to St. Margaret's Bay in August, 1949.

Came third in Daily Mail Cross Channel Swimming Race 1950 (Time: 12 hrs. 4 mins.)

Married, with three children. 187 cms. tall and weighing 16 stones 8 pounds. A Warrant Officer in the Royal Bodyguard, where he learned to swim. Sustains himself on a diet of Egyptian beans, lentils and abundant meat and chicken.

SAIED EL ARABY - Cairo. Age: 35.

Spent five years in Royal Bodyguard, where he learned to swim in 1938.

1942-1943: Champion of Egypt over 1,500 metres.

1942: First swimmer to cross Damietta to Ras-el-Barr - 45 miles - in 31 hours.

Training diet: Sugar, fruit and tea. Only Egyptian not in last year's race. Beat El Rehim and Hammad in 45 miles race between Damietta and Ras-el-Barr. Weighs 14 stones 7 pounds, is 6 foot tall. Was five years in Royal Bodyguard, where he learnt to swim, and ten years in Police Service. Has two sisters, and is married, with a son, Fawzi, aged 5, and a daughter, Amina, aged 2.

France

ALAIN LOUIS BOMBARD - Boulogne. Age: 26.

1947: 20 kms. in Brittany. 1949: 35 kms. in Brittany.  
1950: Boulogne to Wissant and back non-stop (43 kms.) Also attempted crossing the Channel on 5th September (18 kms. in 6 hrs.) Gave up due to cold.

A doctor at Hospital St. Louis, Boulogne. Weighs 77 kgs. and is 1.71 metres tall. Brown eyed, brown haired, and the grandson of a professor at the Medical Faculty of the Sorbonne in Paris. Is married, with a daughter, Anne, aged 2, and a son, Renard, aged 3. His mother is a lawyer.

ROGER LE MORVAN - Paris. Age: 27.

Ex-Champion of France for 1,500 and 400 metres.  
Champion of crossing of Paris and "Coup de Noel".  
Second in Daily Mail Race across Channel 1950 (Time 11 hrs. 3 mins. record).

Has been training since last year's near victory for revenge over the Egyptian swimmers. Fast, and now at peak training must be rated among the "best bets". Weighs 90 kgs. and stands 1.70 metres high. Married, with 18 month old daughter, Anne-Marie. Has been 1500 metres champion of Paris for several years. Racing diet includes beef steaks, chips, red wine and champagne

RAPHAEL MORAND - Nantes. Age: 33.

1937-42: Champion of the Atlantic for all distances.  
1943-6: Champion of Anjou 400 - 1,500 metres and long distance.  
Winner of following crossings: Nantes (4 times), St. Nazaire (3 times), Angers (twice), Viort (once). Winner of race from Island of Les Evens, 5 kms. off Atlantic coast, to La Baule (runner-up twice in 1950) - 6th of 20 selected swimmers (2nd Frenchman) in the 1947 International Swimming Race across Lake Lemán. Has been captaining the Neptune Club Nantais Water Polo Team for 15 years. Applied last year for the Daily Mail Race but was too late.

Brown-eyed, with sparse light chestnut hair. Is 85 kgs. in weight and 1.72 metres tall. Worked in forced labour gang under German occupation. Married, with 10 year old son, Yannick. Up to the age of 10 suffered from severe dread of water. Proud of Breton origin - noted for their obstinacy.

Great Britain

EILEEN FENTON - Dewsbury, Yorks. Age: 23.

Woman victor in 1950 Daily Mail Cross Channel Race (Time: 15 hrs. 31 mins.)

Britain's "mighty atom" scripture teacher from small Yorkshire town of Dewsbury. Last year, entry to the race was backed by school children's pocket money pennies in a general collection from townspeople. Trained by Ernest Betts, Dewsbury Bath Superintendent. Has been Captain and Club Champion since 1944. Only 5-foot 1 inch tall, weighing 8 stone 2 pounds, with grey eyes and short, dark hair. Unmarried.

BRENDA FISHER - Grimsby, Lincs. Age: 23.

1947: 2nd to sister, Jessie, in Morecambe Cross Bay Championship (3 hrs. 30 mins.)

1948: Won Morecambe Bay Championship in 2 hrs. 37 mins. (Record time since 1914).

Is Secretary to Arthur Drewry, President of Football League. Younger sister of Jessie Fisher who was Morecambe Bay Champion until Brenda broke the record. Brother Guy, a sergeant pilot, was reported missing in 1943. Unmarried, with blue eyes and ash blonde hair, weighs 10 stones 6 pounds, and is 5 foot 7 inches tall. Beat Eileen Fenton in the Morecambe Bay Race.

JENNY EILEEN JAMES - Pontypridd, Glam. Age: 23.

1949: Bristol Channel, Sully, Glam. to Weston Super Mare, 10 hrs.

1950: Bristol Channel, Weston Super Mare to Penarth, 8 hr. 21 mins. (record)

Sponsored by the people of Pontypridd. Weighs 10 stones 5 pounds, is 5 foot 8 inches tall, with blue eyes and brown hair. Has two brothers, Leonard, 18, and Brian, 15. Unmarried, and "lives for swimming".

WILLIAM EDWARD ("RED") BARNIE - Portobello, Scotland. Age: 54.

Came 5th in last year's Daily Mail Channel Race in 14 hrs. 45 mins. First Scotsman ever to swim Channel.

Scotland's "swimming hero". Will be 55 (August 10th) when he swims in this year's race. One of four who have swum the Channel both ways (August 22nd, 1950: France to England; July 28th, 1951: England to France). Science teacher, B.Sc., who won the Military Medal in World War 1. In 1925 ill with blood poisoning, was told at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary would never swim again. Married, with 24 year old son, Edward, one other son and two daughters. Weighs 13 stones, is 5 foot 4 inches tall, has hazel eyes and brown-grey hair.

Great Britain (Contd.)

GODFREY EDWARD CHAPMAN - Weymouth, Dorset. Age: 21.

Army (Egypt) 1949: 880 yards Freestyle Champion.  
Winner of Portland to Weymouth Race, 1950.  
Winner Christmas morning Cross-Harbour Open Handicap.  
Winner all Weymouth Club events, 100, 880, 2,000, 6,000 yards.

The "baby of the race". Sponsored by the people of Weymouth. First scored swimming success during National Service with the Army overseas in the Middle East. Very quiet, with unusual faculty for concentration during long swims. Married, with no children. Has two younger brothers. He is 5 foot  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and weighs 14 stones 3 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair.

Netherlands

JAN VAN HEMSBERGEN - Haarlem. Age: 37.

Since 1929, winner of many races.  
1931-3: Netherland's National Champion 400 and 1,500 metres, and Champion Amstel Race (2 kms.)  
1948-49: Trained for Channel, repeatedly swimming 15 kms.  
1950: Swam 40 kms. in  $12\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Uses no grease.

Determined to be first Dutchman to swim Channel. Five foot  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches tall, weighing 15 stones, with blue-grey eyes and fair hair. Has two brothers. Is married, with two daughters, Marti, aged 6, and Meike, 3. Is a National record holder who uses the American crawl and has trained in the North Sea under all conditions.

Greece

MAJOR JASON ZIRGANOS - Athens. Age: 41.

Twice crossed Channel, France to England.  
1949 in 18 hours 35 mins.  
1950 in Daily Mail Race in 16 hours 17 mins.  
Many long distance races. This year also intends swimming the length of Windermere and crossing Channel from London down Thames Estuary to France.

Artillery Major in Greek Army. Has five sisters and two brothers. Is married, and his wife works at the Bank of Athens. One daughter, Georgia, aged  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , whom he is teaching to swim. Has immense endurance and will-power. Trains on nuts and raisins and a special liquid mixture containing a variety of ingredients. Has many relatives in the U.S.A. Is 85 kgs. in weight, 5 foot 5 inches tall, blue-eyed, with fair hair.

Peru

DANIEL CARPIO - Buenos Aires, Argentina. Age: 39.

Swam Channel in 1947 in 14 hrs. 46 mins. (Same time as Ned Barnie)

Ex-South American, weighing 14 stones 2 pounds and 5 foot 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height. Is married, with two daughters, Rosa Maria, 6, and Lucia, 2. Became champion of Peru of crawl at age of 12. Black haired, with brown eyes. Training diet contains all normal food, but shuns condiments.

Sweden

LARS BERTIL WARLE - Karlskrona. Age: 31.

Many Swedish records, including 12 miles in 5 hrs. 3 mins. between Copenhagen and Malmo. Last year failed in Daily Mail Channel Race after 7 hrs. 43 mins.

Disappointed by last year's failure when forced to retire due to extreme cold. Has trained under doctor's orders during the winter and increased his weight by two and a half stones. Extremely fast swimmer, stands 1.76 metres tall, with blue eyes and blonde hair. Has married since last year's race. As a little boy was terrified of water. Was once a drummer in a jazz band and is fond of music and painting.

SALLY BAUER - Malmo. Age not disclosed.

1939: Swam Channel in 15 hrs. 22 mins.

1939: Kattagatt between Sealand and Jutland, 36 miles in 17 hrs. 5 mins. Beat Jenny Kammergaard's record by 12 hours.

1939: Sweden to Finland, 25 miles in 13 hrs. 6 mins. Has trained for Channel all winter.

Brown haired with dark brown eyes, and a swimmer of great strength. Prompted to make a "come back" this year by her countryman Warle's unfortunate performance in last year's race. Has subjected herself to strict training all winter. Now weighs 170 lbs. and 173 cms. tall. An uncle was former High Surgeon General of Sweden, and most of her relatives are surgeons or lawyers. Sisters Carla and Paula are well-known Swedish swimmers. Likes coffee, English soups and English toffees.



ABERTONIO SOMMERSVILLE - 2426  
BAUER THE CLIFTON HOTEL - 326911  
BARNIE SOMERSVILLE - 2426  
BOMBARD WYNDHAM HOTEL, CLIFTON GDNS. - 3988  
CARPIO EAST CLIFF HOTEL, DOVER - 1184  
CHAPMAN SOMERSVILLE - 2426  
DUARTE SOMERSVILLE 2426  
FENTON DEVONSHIRE HOTEL - 4688  
FISHER AINTREE HOTEL - 262811  
HAMMAD FOLKESTONE HOTEL - 513371  
REHIM FOLKESTONE HOTEL 513371  
HEMSBERGEN DEVONSHIRE - 4688  
JAMES ALBION, DOVER. - 1093  
KAMMERGAARD RHODESIA HOTEL - 3712  
MORAND WYNDHAMS - 3988  
LE MORVAN TANGLIN GUEST HOUSE, MANOR ROAD - 398911.  
ROACH 34, KING'S ROAD, CHEPITON. - 75586.  
WARLE RHODESIA - 3712  
ZIRGANOS 5, MARINE CRESCENT - 3663  
ARABI FOLKESTONE - 513371.