



The Susan just before its departure from Okahu Bay yesterday.

22-Foot Yacht Sets Sail For Sydney

For Sydney

One of Smallest Craft on Tasman

The 22-foot short-end yacht Susan left Okahu Bay yesterday afternoon on what may be an historic cruise, for if it reaches Sydney it will be one of the smallest yachts to have made the Tasman crossing.

Its owner-navigator-skipper, Mr Wallace Walton, and his sailing companion, Mr Robert Harvey, were indefinite as to the time the trip will take.

They have planned an unhurried voyage which should take about 16 days' sailing time. However, they will put in at Whangarei for a few days to make final preparations and break their crossing with a short stop at Lord Howe Island.

They will be away between six months and two years on a working holiday, interspersing jobs with a leisurely cruise around Australian ports. The start was originally planned for last week, but was delayed by the rough weather.

Both men have much experience of the Tasman. Mr Walton, a 28-year-old Auckland carpenter, has made the crossing four times—in the Rangitiki and

Mr Walton, who is a member of the Royal Akarana Yacht Squadron. It has a beam of seven feet eight inches and draws four feet two inches.

The Susan has an auxiliary engine and below deck are three bunks. a

Qantas Empire Airways

Auckland yacht ^{5/12/57} missing

The Auckland police are inquiring about the whereabouts of the 22-foot Auckland yacht Susan which left Westhaven about 2 p.m. on November 25 on a voyage to Lyttelton via East Coast ports, and has not since been reported.

It is believed that two men, Mr Derek Lloyd Hindle, aged 27, of Christchurch, and Mr Lorn Lessergang, aged about 30, an Australian, were on board.

Local police inquiries were prompted by a message from the Christchurch police last night that Mr Lloyd Lorenzo Hindle, of Christchurch, was anxious to get news of his son, who, he said had intended to sail the Susan to Lyttelton from Auckland.

Messages are now being broadcast by all North Island radio stations in effort to trace the yacht and its crew.

Mr Hindle intended first to proceed to Oneroa, thence to Port Charles, Mayor Island, Hicks Bay and Gisborne.

It is stated that neither member of the crew had had yachting experience on the New Zealand coast, although Lessergang had taken a course in navigation.

Two Auckland yachting enthusiasts gave the two men navigational charts before they left Auckland and warned them, in the event of rough weather to shelter in one of the East Coast bays.

The Susan, which is of the well-known Woollacott design, had no markings on the sail. It was painted white with a fawn coloured deck and deckhouse.

The yacht was built in 1952 by Mr D. L. Petrie, of Remuera. It suffered a 12-hour battering by high seas in August 1956 on its way back to Auckland after a two-year overseas cruise mainly round the coast of New South Wales.