



## **PART II: Pre-Race Party at the Embassy of Monaco, Algiers**

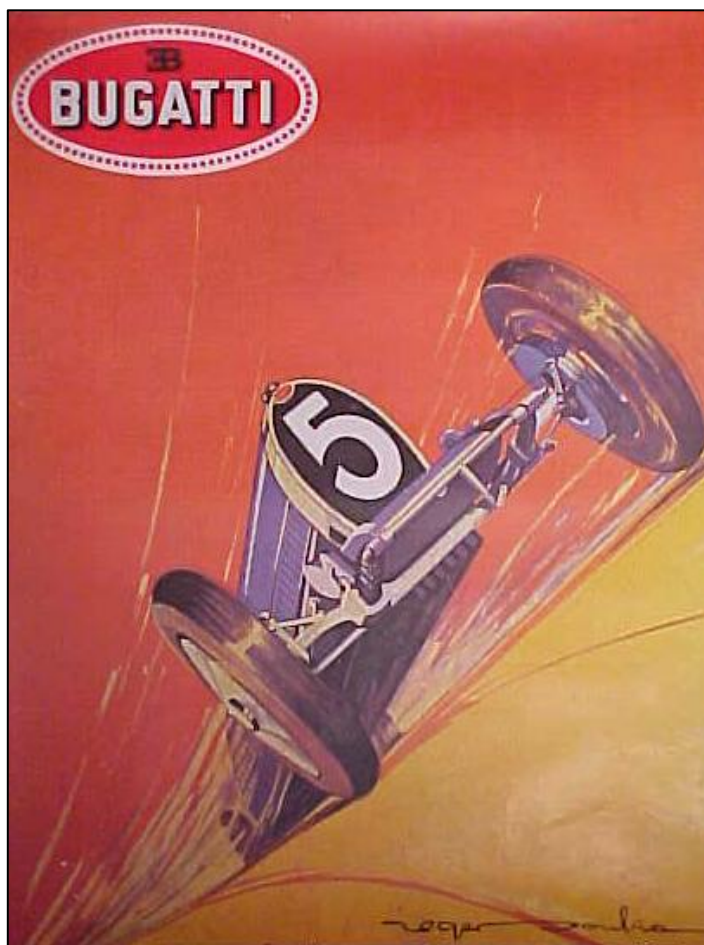
***In the Lady's Honor: The combined tales of Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund (Sweden), Louis de Montignac (Monaco) and Eusebius "Sebi" Orsi (Italy)***

Early upon the evening of the party, **Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund**, aka "The Shark", arrived at the Embassy of Monaco in Algiers, mounting the steps and stooping to duck under the low doorframe of the entrance.

It was apparent to all that Rutger was destined to be one of the most popular figures of the evening, as his tall Scandinavian figure seemed to attract the attention of nearly everyone in the room. From their first meeting, **Prince and Princess of Monaco** were very much taken with him. Politely rebuffing the German driver, **Godeschalk Hegkman von Grebeneck**, their Royal Highnesses took great care to introduce him to Monaco's star driver, the young **Louis de Montignac**, who was staying at the embassy as a guest of the family.

After a toast with champagne, together, **Louis de Montignac** and **Rutger Hägglund** seemed to take the party by storm, one working off of the other as they made the rounds meeting the other race car pilots and guests of honor who had assembled from around the world for La Grand Épreuve.

It wasn't long before Louis and Rutger were joined by **Victor Hugo Stéphane de Broqueville**, Belgium's race driver, and the three made their way to **Sven Magnusson**, at the urging of both the Belgian and Monegasque drivers. Sven, the famous race fuel additives expert from Uppsala, Sweden, stood near the bar, a glass of ice cold vodka in his hands, and seemed somewhat absorbed in watching Wing Commander Baits from across the room – indeed, both were experts in fuel additives and it was apparent that some sort of





rivalry was emerging. Yet somehow, this simple point escaped every one of the drivers in the room.

Soon, Sven and the three other drivers were engaged in conversation. To those nearby, the discussion was intriguing and it appeared that Sven was on the verge of volunteering to assist all three drivers with some new chemical compound he had developed for braking systems, taking fuel additives and using them on the brake discs for better wear.

Suddenly, **Victor Hugo Stéphane de Broqueville** broke off to approach the German driver, **Godeschalk Hegkman von Grebeneck**, thinking that the latter may have cast him a rather dour look. Perhaps it was more imagined than real, and so it was to everyone's surprise that a near altercation ensued as the other drivers looked on. The fuel additives expert, **Sven Magnusson**, was then heard to comment that he would have nothing to do with a driver as insulting as he had just seen – either the German or the Belgian.

It was then quite unexpected that **Eusebius “Sebi” Orsi** entered the embassy party with great flair. When offered a glass of champagne from a tray, Sebi took the entire tray instead. Holding it jauntily above his head, Sebi proceeded to walk about the room. Although short and a rather ugly looking fellow, the Italian driver was soon at work wooing all of the ladies, offering them champagne while balancing the tray in one hand, spinning it around. With his other hand free, he was kissing the ladies' hands and darting about the room, drawing great attention to himself in the process. Indeed, the Italian appeared seemingly already drunk with the evening's atmosphere, though he had yet to have his first glass of champagne.

Despite his quick wit and rapid progress through the room, Sebi was soon cornered by Veronika Vilhelmova, known as “VV” to her friends and to her fiancée, **Vitez Rychly**, the driver from Czechoslovakia. VV fancied herself a future film star – and she was heard loudly proclaiming that Sebi must at once introduce her to Charlie Chaplain. What other words were spoken was unclear, but it was seen by all that VV was now continuously trailing the Italian around the room, interrupting his progress with the other ladies, much to his chagrin.

As Sven watched Sebi with a passing interest, the Czech driver, **Vitez Rychly**, pulled him aside and privately addressed him. Rychly's voice, however, would carry through the room, as he loudly whispered in admiration, “I know you are quite in tune with your car and I have watched you put it through its paces, how you calibrate each turn of the wrench and do all but tuck it into bed with you at night. But I must tell you, though, my experience suggests the construction of the Alfa is entirely too weak to make it through the rigors of Le Grande Épreuve. If you like, I could put in a word with **Olaf**



**Hammarsfjold** for you and see if there is anything you can do to strengthen it. Perhaps in return, you could introduce me to your countryman, **Sven Magnusson**?”

Overhearing the discussion, **Sven Magnussen**, however, simply greeted Rychly himself and together they began anew talking of cars and fuels and modifications that were lately discovered in Sweden.

As Rutger continued to observe **Sebi Orsi**, now with increasing interest, the Italian moved toward the far end of the room where the apparent real goal of his venture stood waiting, the **Lady Swindon-Harpe**, the well-known daughter of the British tyre magnate, Lord Hamilton Swindon-Harpe.

It was at that instant that Rutger was suddenly struck with the Lady's beauty. It seemed that the stunning Englishwoman moved with grace all her own. As Sebi Orsi approached, Rutger was drawn to action.

Excusing himself from the others, Rutger crossed the room and moved quickly to defend the Lady from what he expected would be Sebi's clearly untoward advances.

Louis and Sven followed the Swedish driver closely as Sebi closed in at a speed that seemed faster than even "The Shark" himself could proceed. But it would be **Louis de Montignac** who would suddenly cut ahead and intercept the Italian before he could make his move.

Louis grabbed Sebi on the arm and exclaimed, "Sebi, my friend! How are you! It has been a long time since we last met, yes? Come with me, we'll meet Lady Swindon-Harpe together as I'm pretty sure she's the one you would wish to meet tonight!"

With that, the two of them made a beeline straight toward the **Lady Swindon-Harpe**, with Rutger following close behind, his own progress blocked by the imposing figure of Veronika Vilhelmová, who was still attempting to slow Sebi's advances on the others in the room.

Shockingly, Sebi's descent upon the **Lady Swindon-Harpe** involved serious double entendre. Some would later remark how he had mentioned something about wanting to "play a Harpe to perfection", and it was then that Rutger stepped in to interrupt – but with a shrug, Sebi merely brushed him off and left the Lady Swindon-Harpe aghast at the Italian's forward nature.

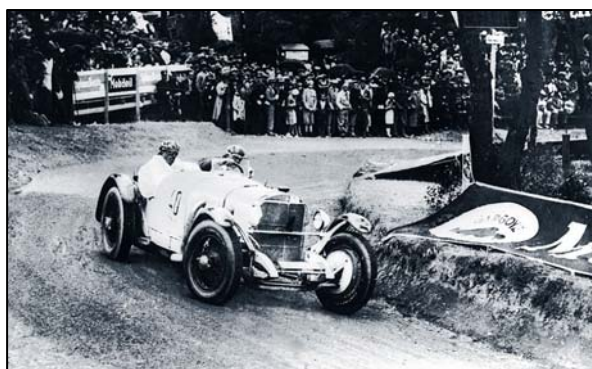
Knowing what was to come, Rutger now stayed close by as Sebi next headed toward **Magane Omalie**, the famed Norwegian woman driver whose beauty, many would say, was an equal to any other woman in the room. As Sebi was about to make his move,



Rutger interceded and loudly declared, "A real man would treat his car like a woman and not a woman like a car. Grow up man and behave!"

But for Sebi, such comments were nothing. With a smile, he replied, "Prego, in Italy, the men loves the women; the women loves the men. Perhaps it is different in your icy country of Sweden?"

With that, Sebi spun on his heels and headed toward yet another group of women at the far end of the room, seemingly oblivious to the other drivers and with his mind set upon meeting all of the ladies in the room.



Rutger was momentarily at a loss for words, but abruptly an altercation broke out between Germany's **Godeschalk Hegkman von Grebeneck** and **Vitez Rychly** of Czechoslovakia. The crowd at the embassy were stunned at the audacity of Rychly, who seemingly attempted to assault the German in the very presence of the two Princes of Lichtenstein and Monaco, who, luckily, intervened.

As Rychly was dragged from the Embassy of Monaco, **Rutger Hägglund** found himself standing in the presence of the **Lady Swindon-Harpe**, who told him how very appreciative she was of his efforts to protect her from the sly Italian, who, they all noted, had seemingly run out of steam in his pursuit of the ladies.

Not surprisingly, **Sebi Orsi** had settled upon the Spanish Bullfighter, **Victor Montoya** and the two were now engaged in a very animated conversation about bulls, women and racing – and it seemed that the two shared many interests.

Soon, **Rutger Hägglund** and the **Lady Swindon-Harpe** were joined by **Olaf Hammarsfjold**, the well-known Norwegian metallurgical engineer. The conversation turned upon a new metallic coating for brakes that the Norwegian had developed, and upon the Swindon-Hope company's new line of racing tires.

As the evening wore on, the British driver, **John Milk**, and the **Amb. Watanabe Tomitani**, Japan's Ambassador to Italy, who is a well-known Grand Prix fan and on travel to Algeria, joined with Rutger and the others. Soon, the small group were well involved in deep discussions on driving technique, new car developments and tire wear issues.





Even Norway's **Megane Omalie** was seen to join the discussion, which prompted **Rutger Hägglund**, apparently shy in her presence, to drop his glass, which shattered upon the floor. Attempting to recover, he would stammer, "I have made some improvements with the fuselage on my Monza. Maybe you want to see it or not? Sorry, I have dropped my glass."

Though nobody would see **Vitez Rychly** for the rest of the night, Veronika Vilhelmova, the Czech's fiancée, made yet a second grand entrance and, after circulating among the other drivers, arrived to address **Magane Omalie**. Her question, which brought the small group of drivers and guests to laughter, was simply, "I have wondered, do you wear lipstick when you drive?"

For Monaco's **Louis de Montignac**, the evening would also prove a success, though not nearly as successful as it had been for **Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund**. With the time to now discuss matters alone with **Sven Magnusson**, he soon had the Swede heading out for a quick test drive down to Staouéli in his newly painted Alfa Romeo Tipo B P3. It seemed obvious to all observing that a new friendship was in the offing.

Before departing, however, he would meet with Britain's **Wing Commander Baits**, whose Benzine fuel additives used at the Schneider Cup Seaplane Races. As always, Louis' diplomatic background would put him in good stead, and he was overheard to comment to the Wing Commander, "It is nice to meet you! I know my father was very loyal to you due to the help you gave him during difficult negotiations in Britain some years ago. Be assured I will be as loyal as him. So I will say, please do not hesitate to ask me anything you would like, and would you like to join Mr. Magnussen and I later this evening for a bottle of champagne?"

As **Louis de Montignac** prepared to depart with **Sven Magnusson**, the **Prince of Lichtenstein** approached him and offered his assistance and the personal energies of his country's most famous racing engineer, which he stated, was fitting and proper given the close relationship of Lichtenstein and Monaco.

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### Results

*The Lady Swindon-Harpe, Olaf Hammarsfjold and the Japanese Ambassador, Watanabe Tomitani, together are befriended by Rutger "Hajen" Hägglund. Respectively, they contribute ideas and developments to the Swede's Alfa Romeo Monza. He receives one additional Tire WP, one Brake WP and one Handling WP, respectively, from the three, who assist his team as the race day nears.*



*The Prince of Lichtenstein (on the recommendation and request of the Prince of Monaco) and Sweden's Sven Magnussen together begin working with Monaco's Louis de Montignac to improve his car. After a week of experimenting, Louis' car increases its performance by one Tire WP and one Brake WP, respectively from the two men.*

*Victor Montoya, the Spanish matador, and Eusebius "Sebi" Orsi became fast friends. In the days that followed, Victor and Sebi traded stories and lessons in their respective trades – Victor teaching Sebi the proper form for a Matador and Sebi instructing Victor in cornering. The result, for both, would be an improvement in their form – and for Sebi's Maserati, an additional Handling WP would be attained for his future racing.*