



**PRE-RACE PARTY
GRAND PRIX DE NICE, FRANCE
CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND**



On sunny days, Nice is a truly extraordinary city along the famed Côte d'Azur.

PART III: Outside by the Garages

Outside in the storm, **Godeschalk Hegkman** of Germany followed the Czech driver's friend, Orlince Strazny, keeping a distance. He tried his best, despite his bright white Prussian attire, to remain inconspicuous. Several times, it appeared that Strazny stopped and turned. He might have taken notice of Hegkman but then, perhaps missing the German, who each time would move into a doorway, he had resumed walking.

Soon, Strazny was closing on the garages. As **Godeschalk** watched, the Czech moved swiftly along the front of the garages and then paused beside the doorway of the



Italian's garage, where he was met by another figure, who was dressed in a dark overcoat. **Godeschalk** watched as the two stood and spoke together for a few moments and then separated.

A new round of storms was moving in off of the Mediterranean as **Godeschalk** watched Strazny then disappear around the corner between the garages, heading toward the back. Hurriedly, his way illuminated by the flash of lightning, the German driver moved forward intent on following to see what mischief was in play.

On reaching another of the garages, he stopped for a moment under the awning by the side door. Another flash of lightning revealed it to be the Spanish garage, which was apparently unguarded. A few buildings down, **Godeschalk** could see a huddled group of fans from Monaco, up late guarding **de Montignac's** garage with its red and white Alfa Romeo Tipo B tucked safely inside.

Farther down, at the Frenchman **La Fontaine's** garage, he could see several of the engineers and crew standing in the doorway, watching into the night, also alert and on guard. For **Godeschalk**, however, the presence of these men was of no significance, he was focused on finding the Czech head of security and the second man he had seen. With another flash of lightning he stepped back out into the rain and worked his way between two garages to the back at the edge of the Jardin Albert 1^{er}.

Slowly then he moved past the Swiss driver's garage to the back of that belonging to the Italian, Sebi Orsi, where he found a back door slightly ajar. He paused, listening over the sound of the rain.

There was no mistaking it – he could hear quiet movement within. Someone was inside in the darkness.

Carefully, using his left hand, **Godeschalk** pushed the door inward. A flash of lightning illuminated the Italian's Maserati and a figure standing to the side along the far wall.

As he slowly reached for his sword, he felt a hand grip shoulder from behind.

He froze.

"There is no reason to enter," said a voice which **Godeschalk** recognized as the Czech security man's. The German turned slowly to face the Czech.

The two regarded each other with suspicion.

"Go back to your hotel," Strazny rasped. "I mean you no harm."



Godeschalk slowly backed away and then noticed that the second man he had seen stood farther back, partly hidden behind the trunk of a palm tree in the Jardin. It would be no use in furthering such a confrontation, **Godeschalk** considered, as the two men could be armed.

Slowly, **Godeschalk** reached over and shut the rear door to the Italian's garage. With a cautious bow, the German retreated slowly toward his own garage. The two men allowed him to leave. Whatever mischief was afoot would have to be settled tomorrow – and **Godeschalk** made a mental note to inform **Orsi** and the others what he had seen.

The Morning After

As dawn broke, the rains continued as low, dark clouds sped across Nice from off the Mediterranean Sea. The lightning had subsided and crews were busy cleaning up around the paddocks.

From the Italian garage, Pietro, **Sebi Orsi's** chief engineer and mechanic, emerged with a trolley, upon which were stacked four tires, tied together with a large red bow, as if as some sort of gift wrapping.

Despite the rains, Pietro pulled the trolley briskly and gaily down to the Czech garage where he parked it by the front door and called out, "My friends, my friends!! Prego, **Senor Orsi** would like to make a gift of these tires from his Maserati. He has no need for them anymore. Perhaps you try them on your car Monday, eh?"

The other racing crews stopped cleaning up and watched with interest.

Orlince Strazny, the head of security for **Vitez Rychly**, stepped out of the garage into the rain and laughed. Shaking Pietro's hand, he asked on behalf of **Vitez Rychly** to pass on the Czech team's thanks for the tires, which he noted with feigned sadness, were of a different size than those that might fit on a Bugatti.

Pietro smiled and walked back to the Italian garage to resume his careful examination of **Orsi's** Maserati.



Race Results

Louis de Montignac (Monaco) has recruited the Algerian, Islem ibn-Bilal, as his new, a full time, season long engineering advisor. The Algerian's new, advanced gearbox oils benefit Monaco's Alfa Romeo Tipo B, adding one (1) Gearbox WP to the car's statistics.

Aristide La Fontaine (France) is able to benefit from the adjustments suggested by the retired Basque race driver, Onbera Geraxan. One (1) Tire WP is added to his Salmson car's statistics.

Teide "Volcán" Sorolla's (Spain) new friendship with the Japanese Ambassador, Watanabe Tomitani, results in an improvement to his car, adding one (1) Road Handling WP to the black Bugatti's statistics.

Sebi Orsi (Italy) appears to have gained nothing from the evening, at least not with regard to any improvement to his Maserati's statistics.