



POST RACE INTERVIEWS GRAND PRIX DE NICE



The cars line up for the start of the Grand Prix de Nice, as they await the green flag along the Promenade des Anglais – the race committee and race fans line the hay bales and wattle.

1st Place Interview

Aristide La Fontaine, France

Car: Salmson 8C 1.1L

Interview by Claude d'Étoile, Grand Prix Committee Chairman (France)

Claude d'Étoile: Aristide, It is really a great pleasure to meet you after this tremendous race. Nine cars out of twelve are out... What was the secret to finish this race?

Aristide La Fontaine: Sir, thanks for receiving me and offering me this interview today. First, I would like to say that I am very happy to win this race in my home country. If there was one race that I would have wanted to win, it would be this one. I was really



disappointed in the last race to have been knocked out as I was after an untimely collision, so with this victory me and my team are back in the championship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maria who has really encouraged me after the accident in Staouéli. Also, I want to thank all my team which has worked very hard to prepare and tune my car. I would not be here without them. I would like also to thank all the French race fans and others who came to see the race and who have encouraged me. Many times during the last parts of the race I could hear them chanting my name and cheering, which inspired me forward to victory.

To answer your question, I think that the secret of the race was to being able to save the car's resources in the first part, not pushing too much so as to be able to finish the best way possible. I think it also involved a little luck, all the more so with the smoke covering the circuit, as it was quite hard to see what was happening in front of the car.

Claude d'Étoile: What would you say to the other pilots?

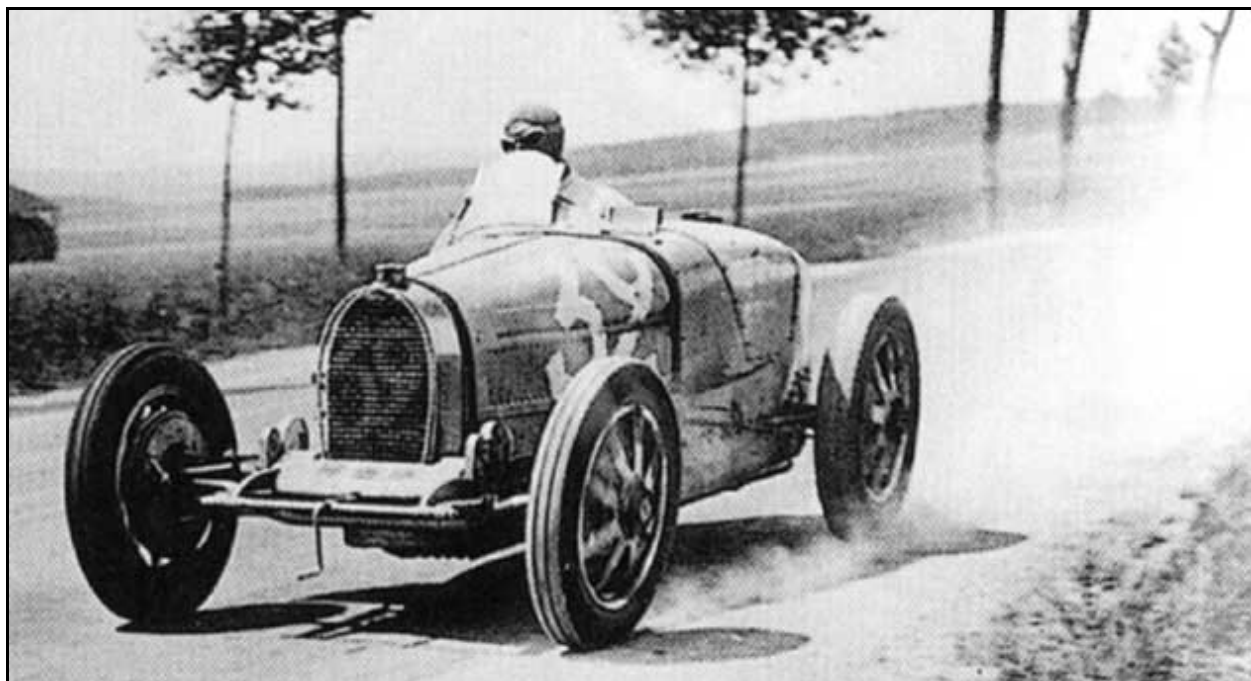
Aristide La Fontaine: First, I hope that no one is seriously injured and that everyone will be able to do the next race. Second, I would like to congratulate them, as it was a very tough race for both the cars and the pilots and no one has been ashamed of his performance today. Congratulations also to Vitez, who finished second for the second race in a row. This will put him as the leader in the championship standings, I believe. I would like also to congratulate Teide who did a tremendous come back after a difficult start. Also, a word to Louis as a mechanical problem is always very disappointing for a pilot, so he hasn't deserve this. He would certainly have finished this race in the first position if not for the failure of his car. A last thing for our colleagues from Scandinavia, Tavho, Megane and Rutger. Who all pulled off a really good start. I wish them the best for the next race in the northern countries.

Claude d'Étoile: What was for you the critical moment of the race?

Aristide La Fontaine: There were a lot of critical moments in this race actually, but I think that it was the choice on whether to take a pit stop. I think that all the pilots who did not take a pit stop did not finish the race. When you are in the race, it is always difficult to stop and lose some position, but I think that for this race it was mandatory.

Claude d'Étoile: What will be your strategy for the next race?

Aristide La Fontaine: It is too early to already think about the strategy of the next race. We will first have to work on our car to improve it. The team is really motivated. And if there are some motivated engineers who want to work with the French team and who have new ideas and concepts for improving the Salmson, they can come to me – our doors are open.



One of the Bugattis of the Czech driver, Vitez Rychly, as he takes it on a dash down the country lanes of Provence during his numerous practice runs preceding race day.

2nd Place Interview

Vitez Rychly, Czechoslovakia

Car: Bugatti T51A 1.5L

Interview by Claude d'Étoile, Grand Prix Committee Chairman (France)

Vitez Rychly walks into the room looking concerned and slightly confused. It appears that he is biting his bottom lip in a fit of nervousness. His hair is disheveled and his clothes remain ruffled, unchanged from the race. Without sitting down, he steps up to the microphone, his usual confidence replaced with a look of desperation that he appears to be trying to constrain as he speaks.

Vitez Rychly: "Gentlemen, I have as many questions for you as you have for me. So let me ask mine first and then I will entertain yours."



Rychly's eyes dart around the crowd from face to face as he asks, "Does anyone in this room know the current whereabouts of my fiancée Veronika and my associate Orlince Strazny?"

There is a steady rumble from the gathered assembly as many begin to bark out responses, while others turn the question on Rychly himself.

Vitez becomes visibly upset and holds his hand up, shouting, "Quiet! Speak only if you can tell me where to find VV and Strazny." There is no response this time and a silence settles over the room. Many in the crowd look genuinely concerned for Rychly and some appeared even ashamed at being rebuked so directly.

"Ok, next," he says, taking a deep breath. "Have any of you determined the cause of fires in the pit stop area?"

Again, an oppressive silence fills the room.

"Fine," he intones tersely. "Though you have not answered my questions, I shall endeavor to quickly answer yours."

Claude d'Étoile steps up and addresses Vitez somberly.

Claude d'Étoile: "Mr. Rychly, if I may speak for the crowd gathered here, we share your concern for your beautiful fiancée. One can only hope that Mr. Strazny saw the confusion caused by the fire and elected to move Miss Vilhelmova to a safer location. And may I also offer our sincere hope for the safety of your pit crew. I believe that their whereabouts will soon become apparent – with all of the confusion, they have perhaps just gotten lost amongst the crowds."

At this, Rychly nods silently and appreciatively.

Claude d'Étoile: "While we don't have news to share on your questions, we can tell you that Victor Hugo Stéphane and Godeschalk Hegkman have been seriously injured in what can only be described as the most chaotic day in the history of the sport."

Vitez Rychly: "God speed to their recovery."

Claude d'Étoile: "I know you must be anxious to tend to other matters, so I will keep it brief. Can you summarize the race from your perspective?"

D'Étoile's authority and genuine concern seemed to have a steadying effect on Rychly as he answers the question.



Vitez Rychly: “Like you say, Claude, it was chaos. Absolute bedlam. My car did not respond well early in the race and I fell steadily back into the pack.”

Claude d'Étoile: “Your second place finish, however, was extraordinary nonetheless, from so far back.”

Vitez Rychly: Rychly briefly loses himself in the moment as he describes the next part of race. “I had desired to push it rather hard and make a pit stop, but when I saw the explosions in the pits, that all changed. Immediately, I decided that I could not take any risks. From that point forward, I drove quite conservatively, knowing my tires would have to last me through the final lap.”

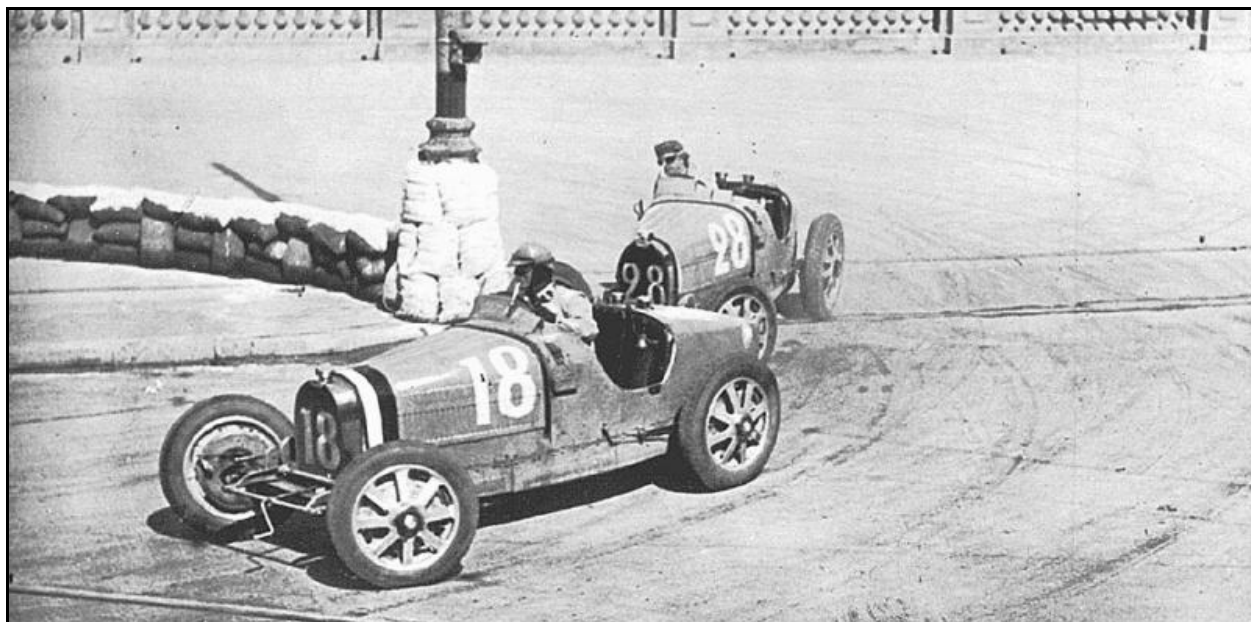
Rychly breathes a large sigh and looks thoughtful before continuing.

“At one point, I thought of quitting the race. I honestly thought of pulling over to the side and running into the pits to help my crew. Or up to the hotel to look for Veronika. But I realize my crew – and VV especially – would be disappointed in me for doing so. Yet it seemed pointless to continue when I was simply trying to finish rather than win. I cannot remember another time when I have been so cautious on the track.

“In the end, in a weird sort of way, the fire seemed to have helped my finish. Rather than pushing my car to the limit, I held back and watched driver after driver fall to the wayside. What? There were four of us that were still running at the end? This is not a result to be proud of, but neither can it be easily discounted. After spending many years risking everything to be the most courageous driver on the track, I am now beginning to understand the value of being one of the smartest.”

Vitez stands up and gazes sadly around the room. Both Vitez and Claude seem to silently acknowledge that the interview is over – there are more pressing matters for the young Czech driver to address.

Claude d'Étoile: “You have been very generous with your time. We will not keep you any longer. Congratulations on your finish and best of luck with your personal affairs.”



Two of the Bugatti racers battle around the hairpin curve at Hôtel Negresco. Every finishing car was of French design and fabrication, a fitting tribute to France's leading position in car design.

3rd Place Interview

Petrus de Salvion Bernardus

Car: Bugatti T51 2.3L S-8

Interview by Claude d'Étoile, Grand Prix Committee Chairman (France)

Claude d'Étoile: Ahh, here is the Swiss driver who placed third today. Mr. Bernardus, how are you feeling after the race today? It is amazing you even finished given the condition of your car. Many thought it impossible.

Petrus de Salvion Bernardus: Yes, it is quite amazing. I figured I would just stay back and let the race unfold, then at the right time, I planned on making my move to take the Bugatti into the lead. My plan worked perfectly! Haha! No, I'm joking. I had no plan other than to win. Even that limited view almost came to naught in the second lap. Still, by sheer skill, I was able to save the car and continue on. I was certain I was out of the race, but the cars in front of me kept crashing into each other so I was able to almost coast into a 3rd place spot on the leader board. This was a much better finish than my previous one in Algeria, so I will take it – however I can get it.



Claude d'Étoile: Mr. Bernardus, what about the other drivers, have you inquired about or have any opinions about them and the devastating events of this Grand Prix?

Petrus de Salvion Bernardus: No, I have no concern for them. I am here to race and to win. I have the first part in hand and I just need to work on the second part.

Claude d'Étoile: Do you have any thoughts about the safety of the race as a result of what happened today?

Petrus de Salvion Bernardus: I guess the other drivers should have been paying more attention to their driving. Again, I'm not here to worry about the others. I made it to the finish line and that is all that matters to me.

Claude d'Étoile: What do you plan on doing between now and the next race?

Petrus de Salvion Bernardus: Sorry, but this is not your business. I think it's time to go. No more questions, please. Thank you.



Sales of French made Bugattis are expected to rise in the wake of the manufacturers near dominance at the Grand Prix de Nice.