

Oxford's heavyweight crew were hoping to make post-war history in this, the 99th Battle of the Blues by winning in successive years. But the Light Blues had other ideas - for ~~them~~ they had won the toss, and had chosen the favoured Surrey side.

Good conditions <sup>marked</sup> ~~favoured~~ the start of the 4½ mile battle from Putney to Mortlake - and, from the off, Cambridge (nearest the camera) shot into the lead - determined to make every bridge a winning one.

Oxford's plan was to try and take the lead, so that they could cross over and take advantage of the Hammersmith bend; but Cambridge's fast start seemed to have unsettled them.

Out in midstream now - as we follow the race from our launch - with Oxford at least a length down - as they approach the Mile Post - and desperately trying to plug the gap before Hammersmith.

Coming up to Hammersmith Bridge now - Cambridge about two lengths ahead, and taking their time the Navy way - for their stroke, P.D. Hall is the first Naval Officer to row in the race. They also had an American, (L. McCagg) rowing at number six. It was here, at Hammersmith, that Oxford began to make up a little leeway; and that set everyone hoping that they really would see a race.

Behind the crews followed the usual flotilla of little ships, carrying race officials and Old Blues - who were, no doubt, reliving past great battles.

Despite meeting rough water on the second half of the course, Cambridge kept up their smooth stroke - pushing up their lead to five, six, seven lengths. All the while, Oxford struggled manfully in their wake. So there <sup>WERE</sup> ~~was~~ eight lengths between the crews as Cambridge <sup>PASSED</sup> ~~at~~ the Post, for their 54th victory in the series. And the great combination of American aid and Naval strategy won the cheers.

7 Pauses.