



July 23rd 2003

THE Redex rerun finished in Sydney last Sunday. Talking to some entrants when they passed through Melbourne they all had big smiles on their faces and some said that they were prepared to go round again. I caught up with some overseas entrants. It was nice to put faces and voices to email addresses!

I had been getting reports every few days by mobile phone and the www.peugeot.com.au website showed pictures of progress. A phone call from Townsville reported on how the French entrants were mixing with the Aussies. I was told that for the first few days the French were a "Leettle bit" reserved. But by Townsville they had worked out what made these Aussies tick. On the Townsville rest day a French participant was observed moving from Aussie group to Aussie group. Being in a tropical paradise he had been hunting. With both hands clasped together he opened them slightly so that Aussies could see inside. "Louk" he said "A frog wieth a frog".

Considering the distances travelled and the age of the cars there were very few mechanical problems. There were one or two cases of failed engine bearings and some cases of valve recession. They all made it to Sydney though! And then there was the case of a 203 that broke a back axle in Melbourne. Where? Right outside a Peugeot workshop of course!



Cal Makin's 203 had the most sponsors in the Redex Rerun. He even had a sponsors logo on the fuel filler cap. He also has the worst spelling of Peugeot that I have ever seen.

The Redex Rerun has brought out many photos, newspaper clippings and car magazines from the 50s.

I have been generously loaned a lot of this material and scanned it and saved it onto CDs. Articles about the Redex and other trials originally published in car magazines are available in pdf format on a CD. Full pages with pictures to read on your computer or to print. Email me if you are interested

wormreg@ultramode.net

Thrills in the Redex trial a la Française

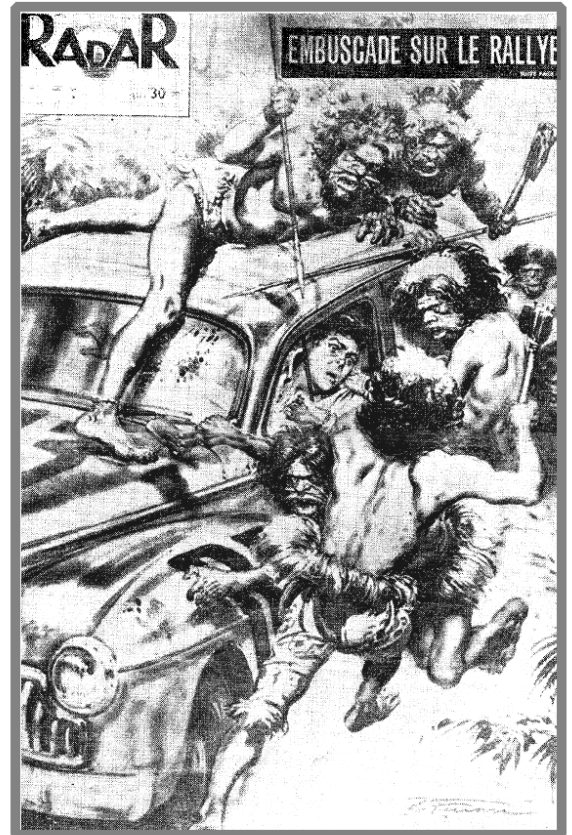
The original Redex trials were tough but not as tough as reported at the time in **RadaR**, a French weekly. To give them some credit, instant communication as we know it today was not available and a little imagination would have been necessary to pad out short telegraph messages. But this story was certainly 99% imagination.

EMBUSCADE SUR LE RALLYE

In Australia, the Great Redex Rally pursues its relentless round. In Sydney, the crowd stations itself in front of a leading newspaper office avid to know the details of this important car competition which winds its way over the most varying territory — bush, mountains. As the dispatches arrive, an employee of the paper writes them up on an immense blackboard. Many have abandoned the attempt.

Two of the Peugeots entered in the Rally have just had a strange misadventure. The telegraph transmitted to the Sydney offices what the officials had just learned that at the control, the arrival of the 'rockets' in clouds of dust. The vehicles stop with a shrieking of brakes applied all at once. From them climb men drunk with fatigue and burnt by the sun. One of them collapses and the doctor on duty rushes to give him an injection. He is taken to hospital. And there, laid out on an iron bed, he stammers a few words, with an expression of fright, "The savages attacked me and the other Peugeot, managed to get away, don't know what happened to other car."

Little by little the details come out. The two French vehicles were travelling through the bush, on a badly corrugated track. Suddenly, on all sides, half naked men threw themselves forward. The had terrifying faces, they were brandishing



stone hatchets and spears. The first Peugeot was able to get through this human barrier but the second Peugeot was stopped. Three planes take off two hours later, they fly over the places where the last Peugeot was seen. No trace of the car, but the observers note with stupefaction that this region which was deemed uninhabited swarms with human beings. At the noise of the engines the natives came out brandishing prehistoric arms towards the sky. "There were at least 100,000 of them," one of the pilots reports later. But the other Peugeot escaped from this Hornet's nest without a scratch, after having undergone three successive attacks. The driver only lost his wrist watch, his pipe, and his tobacco pouch.

Well, that's a translation of the Redex trial as Radar saw it!

Here is the driver's version of his lucky escape.

I was driving up the bitumen between Katherine and Darwin behind another Peugeot and I was trying to catch him. He was about a third of a mile ahead of me when a native appeared on the side of the road. He rushed out at the leading car but the car was going too fast. I stopped and the native asked for tobacco. I said I had none and when I started to drive off he swung a stone axe at the car and made a small dent.

This is an edited version. Names have also been omitted.



A Peugeot 403 came second outright, and won class C, in the 1960 "Armstrong" 500 mile race held at the Phillip Island circuit.

Below: Left to right, Jim Bryce, Peter Menere, Bill Wardell, Tony Luxton and drivers Geoff Russell and David Anderson. I bought a new 504 2000 from Peter Menere Motors in 1971. It is still in the family now into the 3rd generation.



Arne Haugeli from Norway makes excellent coffee on a Primus in the boot of his 403. He has a fire extinguisher on hand just in case.



Past copies of the Worm Review

The site to download past copies of the Worm Review has changed. It is still maintained by Roland Kirpach in Luxembourg. The site is now <http://worm.rkweb.org> Note that there is no www. This is correct.

404 Front blinker lenses

A Dutch firm, Ricambi-Automobilia, have an eBay store www.ebay.com, and they have been regularly listing 404 front blinker lenses for US\$29.00 a pair. Worth checking out if you need a pair.

Nature study

This year 2 scrub wrens have moved into our garden. They are tiny birds, smaller than a golf ball and are very busy in the bushes picking off insects. Recently I noticed small white marks appearing on

external mirrors of the 404 cabriolet while in the garage. Small bird poo! Then I caught them at it. The pair of scrub Wrens were sitting on the mirror having a conversation with their reflections. The outer part of my garage used to be a carport and the back door has a ventilation grill in the bottom. They were flying in and out through the grill.



Christina Alvner's new dog likes sniffing the Swedish summer air through the open sunroof of her 403.

2003 WORM DRIVE WEEKEND

**October 25th & 26th
Young NSW**

Entry forms available next month, but email me now if you intend to attend.

The Worm Drive Register is for all worm drive Peugeots in Australia. It reproduces some parts and knows who has parts, reprints manuals, and keeps in contact with owners of older Peugeots overseas. Back copies of the Worm Review can be downloaded from www.pcl.org Gordon Miller 28 Olive Ave, Mount Waverley Vic 3149 Ph 03 9807 3586 (9am-9pm), wormreg@ultramode.net Paul Watson 5 Beatrice St, Glen Iris, Vic 3146 Ph 03 9889 2721, paulandnola@bigpond.com