

YAMAHA



1978/1

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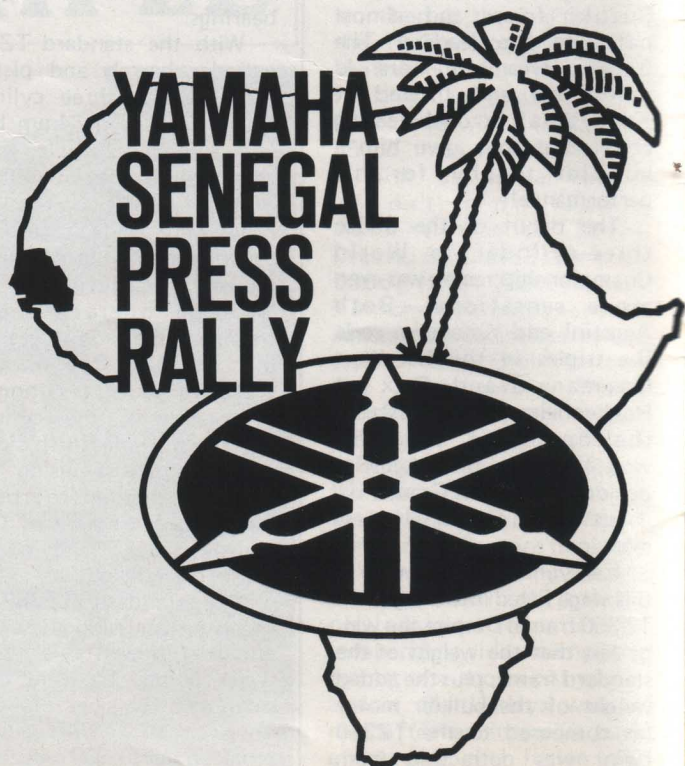
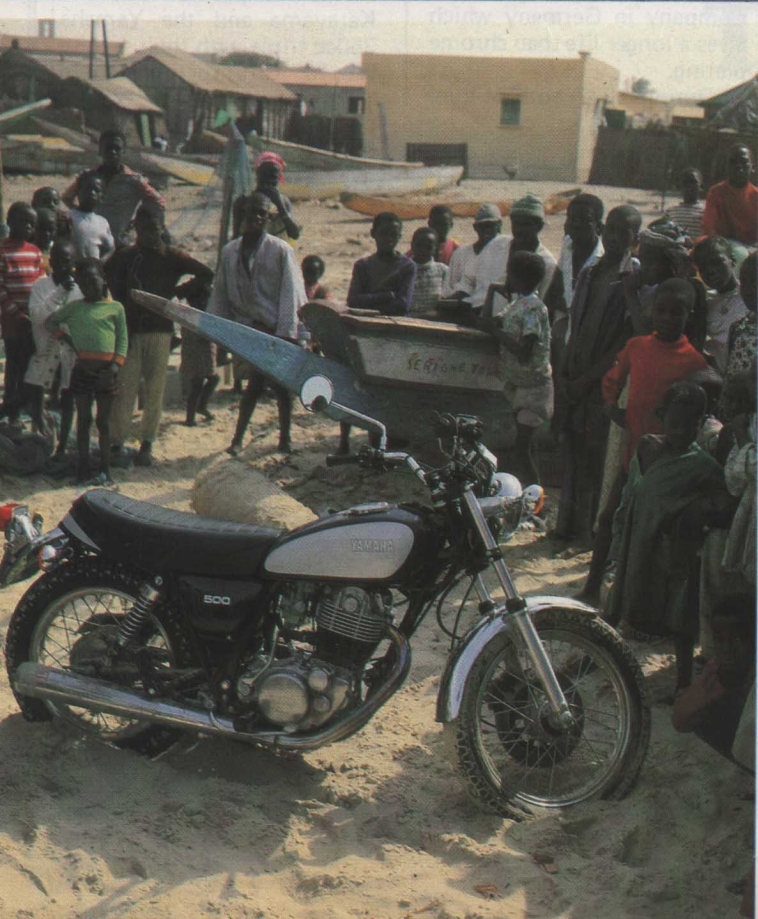


A trip around the world in five days! That's the equivalent of the staggering distance achieved by the combination of 12 new Yamaha XS1100 models, 15 of the new SR500 street singles and 64 of Europe's top motorcycle journalists in the second Yamaha Press Rally!

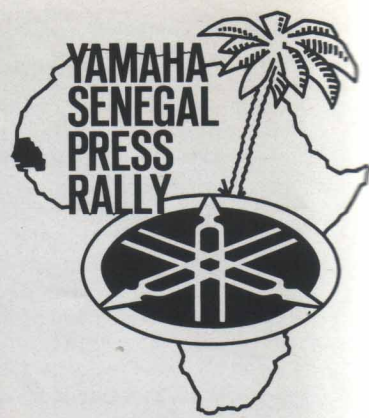
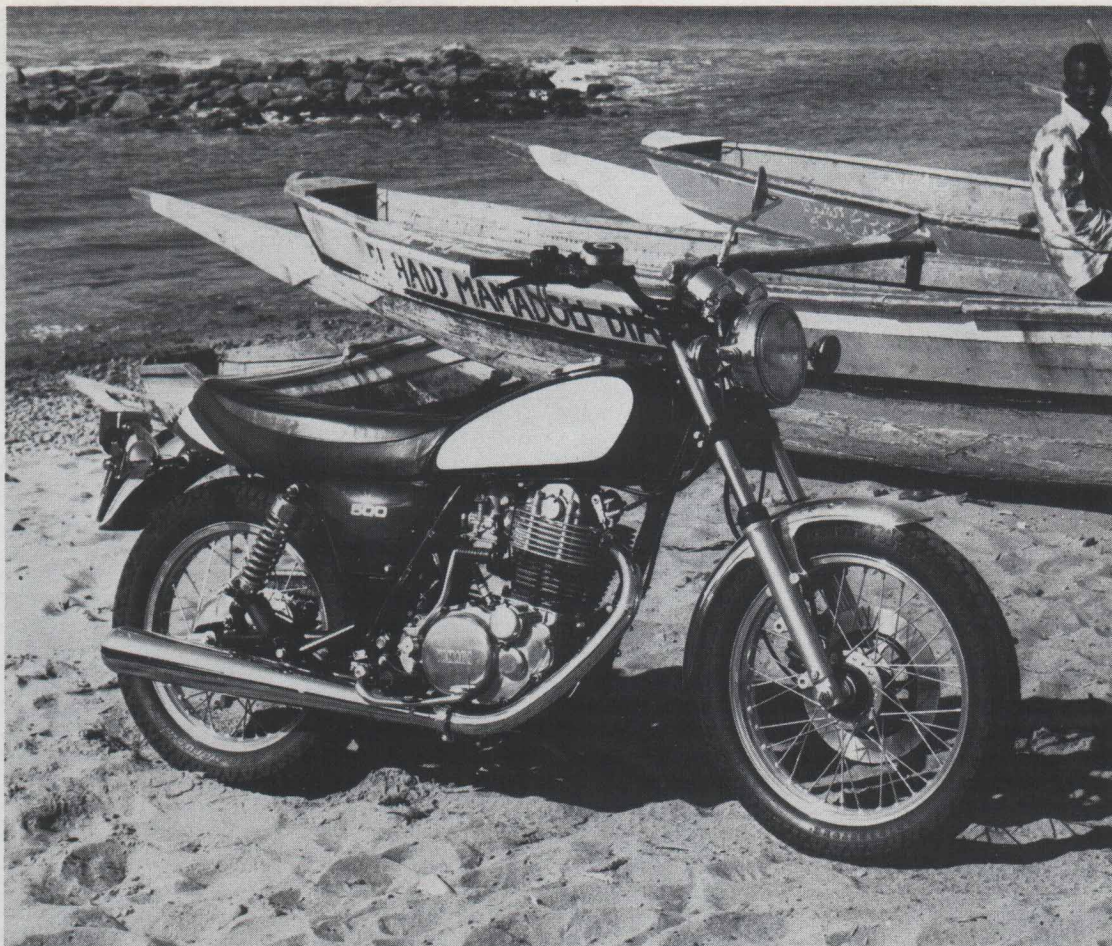
This year's rally took place in late January and followed the exotic lead set by last year's inaugural event in Marrakesh, Morocco. For 1978 the press crew were airlifted via a specially chartered Douglas DC9 jetliner from Holland's Martinair company and installed in the Club Mediterranee's Cap des Almadies hotel right on the Atlantic surfline at Dakar, Senegal ... the westernmost tip of the vast African continent.

Top writers from Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland and Austria managed to clock up a collective 19,200 kms on the dozen Yamaha XS1100 four-cylinder, shaft-drive machines - the new high-performance flagship of the Yamaha fleet.

Average fuel consumption of the near-100bhp, 1100cc powerhouse was a highly creditable 8.8 litres per 100kms with the most economical of the 12 machines returning a figure of 6.25 litres for the 100 kilometres!







Also on hand was Yamaha's new SR500 street machine with its single cylinder four-stroke power unit. It's a lightweight, compact touring machine at the opposite end of the scale to the big XS1100 but the little "single" was received with equal enthusiasm by the pressmen.

The 32bhp machine (27bhp for the German market in order to take advantage of special insurance categories) proved incredibly economical. Best-recorded fuel consumption was 4.68 litres per 100 km with the average being an equally-impressive 5.68 litres for the same distance.

Temperatures during the five day period of the rally ranged from 25 to 29 degrees Centigrade at the coast, riding to as much as 35 degrees as the riders went inland on the 200 kilometre rally course. The route included everything from arrow-straight asphalt roads to a section of dirt trail for the SR500 riders.

For the whole of the five days the 27 machines were in constant use from 8am to



6pm and clocked up no less than 40,650 kilometres ... more than the circumference of the globe!

In all of this distance, there was not a single mechanical failure! Undeniable proof of the quality of Yamaha's two newest road machines.

The press rally itself consisted of two laps of the 200km course for each journalist ... one of them on the XS1100 and the other on the SR500.

Time set for the lap was 3½ hours with riders losing marks for either being late at the control points or more than five minutes ahead of schedule. Points were gained for being up to five minutes early.

Winner of the rally was Phillippe Bourget from the Belgian newspaper, Le Soir. As a result he'll be doing his future motorcycling in a new set of riding leathers donated as a prize by the French Furygan company.



