

Home and dry after a nine-hour battle

Yachting Correspondent

AFTER BATTLING for more than nine hours in a raging south-westerly gale last night, the 24ft. Japanese yacht, *Hakuo* finally tacked into Durban harbour for a week long visit.

It is possibly the first time that a Japanese yacht has called at any South African port.

The two men and woman on board the small yacht are on a two-year round-the-world journey, having set off from Japan in May this year, three months after the yacht was launched.

The skipper, Mr. Koitaro Kurihara (27), was a second navigation officer for a Japanese shipping company, but teamed up with a second engineer from the same company, Mr. Jiro Takeda, and decided to sail around the world. The woman crewmember, Miss Kyoko Shirase decided to join the two men, and resigned from her job as a librarian.

The sloop, in many ways similar to the *Royap Cape One* Design, was designed by the Japanese Yokoyama naviga-

tional architects, and built at a yacht harbour near Yokohama.

So far, the three sailors have been to Guam Island, Timor Island, Bali Island, Christmas Island and Mauritius. After leaving Cape Town, they will be sailing to Rio de Janeiro via St. Helena.

The skipper said the worst weather they had experienced on the journey was off Durban last night. At 4 p.m. yesterday they were only 20 miles from the harbour, but only managed to finally enter the port after 11 p.m.

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