

ALBATROS IS DELAYED AT ROBBEN ISLE.

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By ROGER WILLIAMS

on board the Cape-to-Rio race guardship Tafelberg

THE CAPE-TO-RIO YACHTS were bowling along beautifully yesterday in what crewman Brian Lello, in the Knysna sloop Albatros II, described by radio telephone at lunch-time as perfect yachting weather. After keeping station ahead of the fleet during the night, Tafelberg, which is the guardship, turned back yesterday morning and passed closely to the apparent leaders at that stage.

There were the Canadian ketch Greybeard with not far behind the Cape yacht Outburst skippered by Bobby Bongers.

In a brisk following wind Outburst made a striking picture as she headed northwest with her bright green spinnaker ballooning out before her.

Also in the vicinity of Cape Columbine we saw the 75-year-old ketch Cariad rolling grandly down to Rio with a full spread of sail.

Near her was the Durban sloop Mercury surfing along at a brisk pace under her main and Genoa sails.

Others we saw were Westwind, of Royal Cape Yacht Club, and the Johannesburg entry Golden City. All appeared to be heading north-west towards the tradewind route to Rio.

In my chat to Brian Lello he told me Albatros had had to put in to Robben Island for three hours for repairs after the mast had been damaged and the cockpit swamped when the 42-footer broached in the south-easterly gale in which the yachts started from Granger Bay on Saturday.

"IN FINE STYLE"

The mast had a squiggle in it, he said, and although it was not yet quite right Albatros was moving along "in fine style".

Albatros has covered well over 161 km (100 miles) and was making up for lost time in a big way.

One of the Transvaal yachts yesterday morning reported her position inadvertently as 32 degrees latitude and 32 degrees longitude. Our navigator quipped that this was probably due to homesickness as this put the yacht slap in the middle of the Transvaal somewhere.

We are continuing to zizzag along the sea corridor apparently being taken by most of the yachts, and so far they all seem to be going well.