



South African Bruce Dalling arrived at Millbay Dock today aboard his 50ft. ketch, Voortrekker, in readiness for the single-handed transatlantic yacht race.

Atlantic racer sails into Plymouth

SOUTH AFRICAN Bruce Dalling, who arrived in Plymouth from Cape Town in readiness for the single-handed transatlantic race, surprised local yachtsmen and gave himself some encouragement by completing the 8,000-mile trip nearly 24 hours ahead of schedule.

Described as a "dark horse" for the race, Bruce now feels confident about his chances of winning the race. His 50ft. ketch Voortrekker handled well throughout the voyage from the Cape, and he says that if he does not win, it won't be for lack of trying.

Began in 1963

Averaging between 158 and 160 miles a day, Dalling completed the voyage in 45 days. It was plain sailing apart from some bad weather after the Azores, and Dalling thinks he has found out all there is to know about the Voortrekker.

For this 29-year-old ex-Natal University student from Durban the race will be his first Atlantic crossing. He rates his chances "as good as anybody's."

Though he learned to sail only five years ago, Dalling, a bachelor, has done plenty of single-handed sailing. He has competed in the Sydney-Hobart race and the 600-mile China Sea race. He sailed the 25-foot sloop Vertue Karina from Hong-kong to Durban three years ago.

The £25,000 South-African-built Voortrekker came through the voyage perfectly.

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