

Single-handed sailor burnt in explosion

**Daily Dispatch
Correspondent**

CAPE TOWN — The single-handed yachtsman, Anthony Steward, has been burnt in an explosion at sea and is limping to St Helena Island on his 6 m yacht — almost certainly ending his attempt to sail non-stop the 'wrong way' around the world on the smallest boat ever.

On barely audible radio waves, Steward radioed his wife, Mrs Sue Steward, in Port Elizabeth on Sunday night to say his arm had been badly burned and his hair burnt off when the generator on his yacht, *Selected Risks*, exploded.

Steward, who last year became the first sailor to sail around the world on a 5,9m open boat, said he had managed to extinguish the fire but was keeping going on pain killers. He was about 512 km from St

Helena Island where he would seek medical help.

His voyage, which was scheduled to take him around Cape Horn, "the Everest of the Seas" started from Durban in February. The effort ends when he touches land on arrival at St Helena Island.

Mrs Steward said her husband had sounded in a state of shock when he spoke to her. His tiny cabin had been gutted in the fire.

Yesterday the SAAF were on alert to launch a rescue if required but were told that Steward was in no danger.

Mrs Steward said his battery was low on power, making it difficult for him to use the radio, and no word was heard from his yacht yesterday.

Steward is expected to arrive at St Helena sometime tonight.