

MAKING HER LIGHTER DESIGNER TESTS VOORTREKKER

From Our Correspondent

Plymouth, Thursday.

THE DUTCH DESIGNER of South Africa's entry for the solo transatlantic race, Voortrekker, has returned home from Plymouth after examining the 50ft. ketch and discussing its chances of winning.

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The designer, Mr. van der Stadt, inspected the boat in Cape Town before it left for Britain and promised to visit Plymouth to discuss any problems which might have developed during the run from South Africa. He accompanied the skipper, Bruce Dalling, and his crew on Monday when they sailed around the Eddystone lighthouse.

Voortrekker lies off the Cremyll shipyard near Plymouth waiting to come up a slipway.

Mr. van der Stadt said Voortrekker had performed in every respect "just as visualized."

HELPED

Today Bruce Dalling and Bobby Bongers took life rafts, anchors, cushions, wood and other gear off the ketch in a determined effort to make it as fast as possible. "We have already shed three-quarters of a ton, making her 1½ inches up on her marks, and we have a lot more to take out before the race, said Dalling.

"We are concerned about the heating arrangements for the North Atlantic, but we think we have sorted this out with a charcoal stove."

Dalling said he had received a great deal of help and information from other competitors. A friend in Hong Kong had offered a new Japanese automatic direction finder. The British Fleet Air Arm had given him an ultralight life raft and streamlined jet fighter canopy.

"We must still carry out certain trials, including the testing of the equipment," Dalling said. "I think the race will be

lost or won off Nova Scotia or other western land masses where added difficulties must be faced such as strong winds and currents and possibly fog."

The managing director of the Cremyll shipyard, Mr. Sydney Mashford, who is a friend of Sir Francis Chichester and Mr. Alec Rose, said yesterday: "I would describe Voortrekker as a racing machine. She was built specially for the job and up to now she is my favourite."



Mr. van der Stadt, Dutch designer of the Voortrekker (right, facing camera) with Bruce Dalling (pointing) and Bobby Bongers (left) and Gordon Webb, discussing a point on board the yacht.