

Journal of a Whaling Voyage by Thomas O. Ruff

1840 Ship Grand Turk, November wind course Lat Long
South West

Sat 14 6 Light breeze cool seen, a fin 33.50 34.30 33.02
back South Atlantic

Sun 15 6 Light breeze seen fin backs 34.50 34.50 32.14

Mon 16 6 Light breeze seen fin 35.18 30.24
backs and right whale feed
Off double reefed topsails, blown down

Tues 17 6 Strong breeze blow reefed top h 36.5 26.15
Laid, seen fin backs

Wed 18 Blowing a heavy gale took in 35.7 24.33
fur and my topsails reefed
the foresail. Home to sea, raining

Thurs 19 A M more moderate set 34.52 23.37
the topsails. P M took in the
my topsails double reefed fore
and main blowing heavy
seen a hump back

Frid 20 6 Strong breeze on the wind 33.40 20.53
could not see any first the
we kept a sharp lookout

Sat 21 6 M. Light. P M Strong 33.52 19.54
seen a fin back unbent
foresail footrop sail and fore
spruce bent. hers also fore
top gallant sail bent down
first topmast shudding sail
boom

Sun 22 6 Strong breeze seen fin backs 35.40 16.47
a sail in sight standing
to the south. took in sail at
midnight

Mon 23 Made sail at daylight seen 36.32 15.36
some fin backs

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Tues 24 6 Strong breeze a thick fog lay with us 36.34 12.53
the head yards aback, all the fore
noon P M squared yards at Sun South Atlantic
down took in sail seen whales at
dusk we called them right whale.

Wed 25 At day light made the land 36.34 12.53
went ashore, and fetching away
hit a good many afterwards. P M
squared yards 2 Ships in sight

Thurs 26 A Pleasant breeze spoke Barque 33.57 8.50
Philias of Hovington
16 months out 1500 bbls
all right whale bones
home in a month
sent letters by her

Frid 27 A nice breeze seen fin backs 35.20 6.57
stuck and drew from two men
now

Sat 28 6 Strong breeze foggy. 36.30 5.23
sa. right whales without
sails, all four boats down
took in sail at Sun down
stood boats crew

Sun 29 Made sail, at daylight squared 36.30 4.26
the yards at 3 P M hauled right
whales lowered all four
boats chains without
succeed. Took in sail at Sun down

Mon 30 6 Strong breeze made sail 36.30 3.00
at day light seen a good many
humps and fin backs
grounded backward boat
hauled right whales with
out success. Took in sail at Sun
down stood boats crew