

Journal of the Bark John Dawson in the Mediterranean Sea James Little master

Monday July 10th 1855

Commenced with calm. The Island of Corsica in sight bare E.S.E. distant about 20 miles middle part at 2 P.M. a breeze sprang up from the Northward steering S.W. by W. latter part breezen on a strong, took in light sails. saw several vessels steering to the Southward and saw also Frigates & Grampasses. One new steamer falls to the Starboard. Boat straightening rattlings on the fore-rigging.

Camp attended to

Lat 41° 13' North
Long 5° 58' East

Tuesday 11th

Commenced with strong breeze from the Northward steering S.W. by W. water engaged working on the rigging &c. Middle part moderating and the wind hauling to the S.E. steering S.W. by S. all sail latter part wind from E.S.E. steering N.S.W. fine weather several vessels in sight.

Lat 39° 16' North
Long 4° 34' East

Wednesday 12th

Commenced with light breeze from the E.S.E. steering N.E. at 2 P.M. sighted the Island of Majorca bearing N.W. distant about 40 miles water engaged backing iron work &c. Middle & latter part steering N.W. 1/2 S. light breeze, water engaged in various duties at 4 P.M. passed the Island of Majorca several sails in sight.

Lat 38° 27' North
Long 2° 21' East

Thursday 13th

Commenced with light breeze from the E.S.E. steering N.W. 1/2 S. at 2 P.M. Phillip Cook raised a small lone sperm whale going different courses lowered and about Boat struck and at 7 P.M. took him along side and commenced cutting ship part at 10 P.M. finished cutting and set the patches, heading N.S.E. latter part at daylight called all hands and cleared away the head and cutting up blubber. at 7 P.M. procured heading South, and started the pumps under easy sail, brisk breeze, and fine weather. Majorca in sight.

Lat 38° 20' North
Long 1° 57' East

Friday 14th

Commenced with brisk breeze from the E.S.E. heading to the Southward all hands engaged in Billings and clearing up decks &c. sent down studding sail booms and unbuttoned the sails several papers in sight. Latter part under double reefed topsails. at 9 P.M. coiled down and put the hatch on. ship heading S. smoky weather.

Lat 37° 27' North
Long 2° 00' East

Saturday 15th

Commenced with fresh breeze from the Easterly heading S.E. at 2 P.M. passed the coast of Africa, and Grampasses, land about 20 miles off. at sundown bareing S.W. at sundown shot top sail middle part all hands engaged a strong down sail in the Port ground tier forward the blubber room at 12 m finished at 12 m put ship and a hat off, ahead heading S.E. the coast about 10 miles off.