October 1st, 1989

I haven’t written in my diary for a few days. Not sure why – just don’t feel like communicating at the moment.

Last night was a horror show. It has been up and down all night. The wind eased gradually; one reef out then the No. 3 and second reef out. No. 1 up finally. There was still a good atmosphere on the boat though. But by lunchtime the wind was down again. It was a strange day with everyone lost in their own thoughts; gone before you knew it. But a beautiful evening.

When you are out here you are lucky enough to be somewhere man hasn’t destroyed – yet; there is no evidence of him anywhere. Columbus or Drake would have seen exactly what we are seeing now in every small detail. Being out here makes you want to join Greenpeace and save the world. The girls saw a whale two days ago. I haven’t called on the radio for a few days which is actually really nice.

Rucanor now looks in a very good position; we don’t. I hate telling the crew – everyone goes so quiet. We passed Rio in the night and could see the loom on the horizon – very bright!

Miles to go: 980