



*Brittany 2002*



We originally wanted to go back to Scotland, but Dairne was not at all well over the winter, so warmth was needed. The next plan was to go to Spain. However, our trip to New Zealand to see the Antipodean branch of the family - including son Iain and his wife Clare - had to be scheduled late, so we were not back until late April. I still had to fit the wind generator, and check out the new deckwash pump, so we were late getting going.

As a result we decided that this year would just be a convalescence cruise, seeking sun, seafood and sailing. And that is exactly how it turned out.

We made some fairly large leaps, stopping only at Studland and Dartmouth, before making the dive across the Channel through the Chenal du Four to Camaret, near Brest, where we met Ruby and Terry Eagle in their Rustler, Danae. Then through the Raz de Sein to Loctudy and Benodet, where we saw no less than three other Rustlers, Saoel Mara, Jessamy and Nutmeg.

A period of windy weather was forecast so we dived round to Belon where we sat out the weather for a few days, and enjoyed riverside walks and what must be one of the best seafood restaurants in France.

The we went on down to La Rochelle, stopping for a few days at Belle Isle, and with overnight stops at Ile de Yeu and Les Sable D'Olonne.

La Rochelle was everything we expected, including the spectacular entrance to the Vieux port, quayside markets, seafood and wine - and unbroken sunshine for the next three weeks.

Here we finally linked up with Santana, another Marchwood YC boat and sailed in company with them for over a week.

The route back involved stops at St Martin de Re, a quaint village with hollyhocks growing everywhere, St Giles de Croix en Vie, L'Herbaudiere, the island of Hoedic, and a few days in the beautiful Vilaine River. Here we spotted Wild Swan, yet another Rustler. Wild Swan belongs to Rod Kennedy, who we had not seen since his wife's funeral two years earlier. We left a note on board.

Our first attempt to leave the Vilaine was abandoned because of strong winds on the nose, but the next morning we had a beautiful beat into the Gulf of Morbihan, where we visited Ile de Bono and Vannes. Here Santana had to leave to get back to England. It had been wonderful to sail in company - the two boats are very compatible.

After another day in Morbihan we started to rest of the trip back by visiting the island of Houat for lunch before overnighting at Port Haliguen. Who should moor alongside, but Rod Kennedy in Wild Swan, with his new partner Claudine? It was serendipitous, and great fun. We sailed together to port Louis, and then on to Lorient, where Wild Swan would stay for a while for the Festival there. We were also taken to the cottage of Janet and Tim Slessor,

who bought Hobo, yet another Rustler - which they keep at Lorient. It was a delightful day away from the water.

The wind was a little fickle, but we pressed on, mainly motor sailing, to Corcarneau and back to the Odet River, where we anchored in one of the small inlets. Here we had a series of disasters resulting from a blocked loo pipe that eventually had to be replaced, in the course of which, the shower room sink was damaged and had to be patched up with fibreglass.

From there, our course took us back round Penmarch to Audierne; through the Raz de Sein to a delightful bay near Morgat where we anchored; and on to a spectacular anchorage behind the Tas des Pois, those impressive rocks south of the Goulet de Brest. By now, we needed stores, so a short trip to Camaret solved that issue. Once again a spell of doubtful weather was forecast, so we went up the Rade de Brest to the Aulne River and the delightful town of Chateaulin.

A brief pause at the Anse de Berthaulme was taken before passing back up the Chenal du Four to L'Aberbenoit, where we finally had to buy a Gaz cylinder. From there we made the coastal hop to Ile de Batz, going ashore for wine and cheese. We were a bit low on fuel, but forecast brisk winds led us to attempt a direct crossing from Roscoff instead of refuelling at Morlaix. The forecast was wrong in both strength and direction so we opted instead to go into Treguier, from which we sailed direct to the Solent.

We had left on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, and returned on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. A very satisfying cruise, with the two periods of cruising in company being highlights.

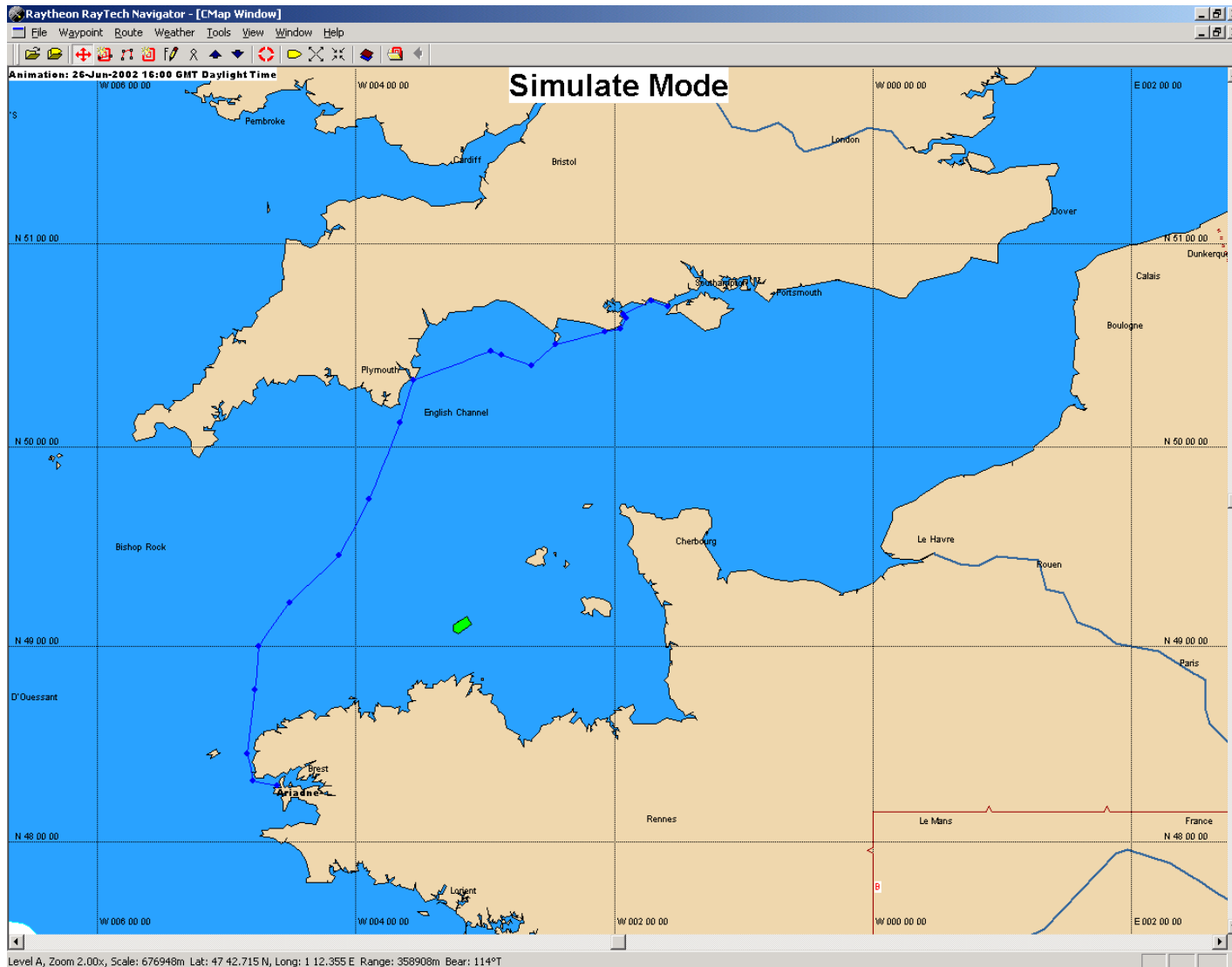
While away, we had used SMS text messaging to keep in touch with home, and with Iain and Clare in New Zealand. I also made extensive use of the internet cafes for checking my emails, and getting weather maps. This worked fairly well, and was very cost effective.

While away we heard about bad weather in England, Scotland Ireland and the Low Countries. We also met several boats that had come back to France from NW Spain where the weather had been dreadful. It seems we picked the right cruising ground this year.

All our goals had been achieved, but mainly we had found sun and seafood, and done some interesting sailing.

Graham and Dairne  
Ariadne August 2002

# The Outward Leg 22<sup>nd</sup> June - 26<sup>th</sup> June





0994.jpg Farewell dinner with John and Mary



0993.jpg Dairne practising



0996.jpg Studland



0998.jpg Close rounding of Portland Bill



0999.jpg Start Point (after a night in Dartmouth)

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1000.jpg Close encounter with a coaster



1001.jpg Ariadne busy looking after herself!



1002.jpg Dawn

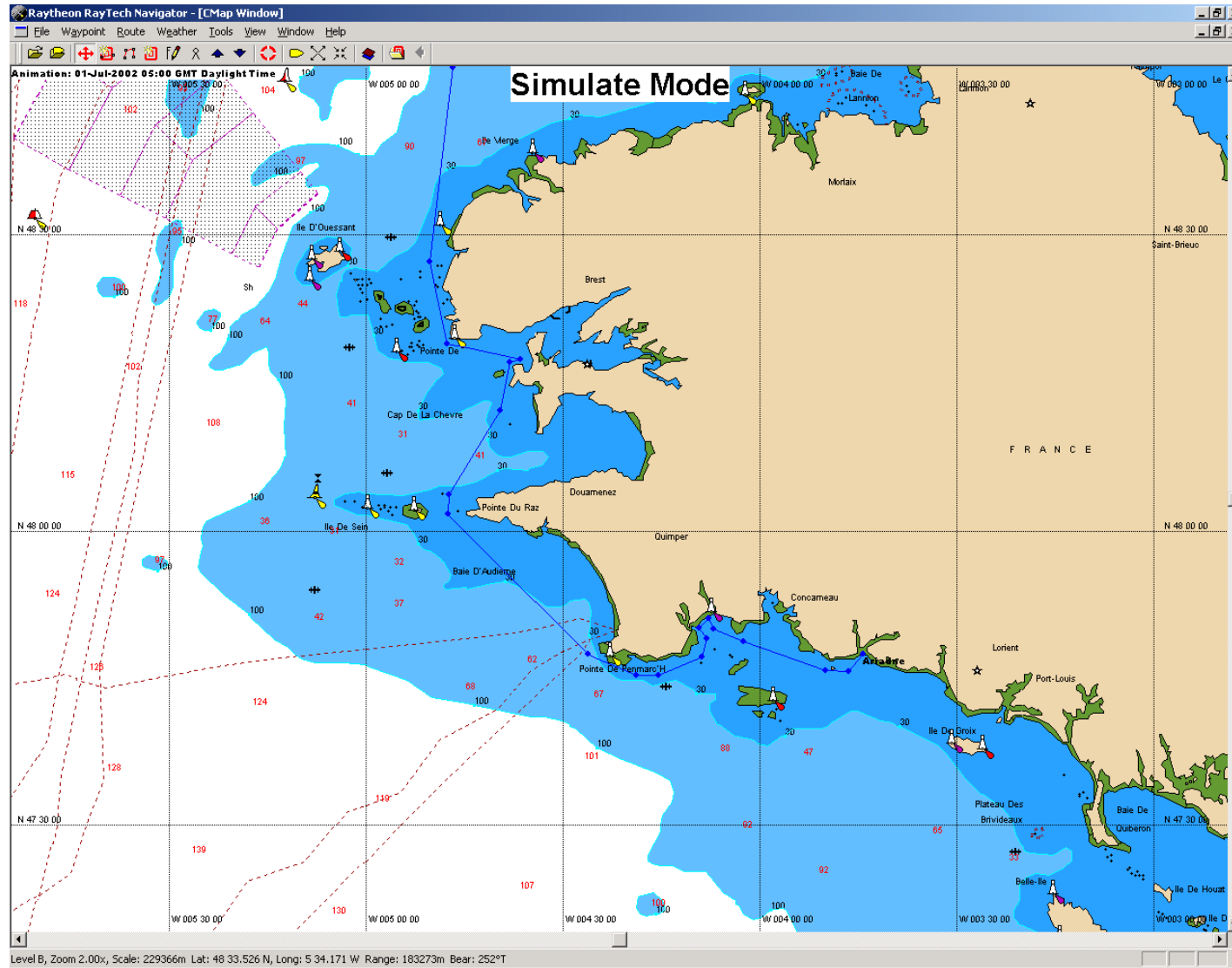


1003.jpg Through Chenal du Four past Pte St Mathieu

Outward journey



# Route from Camaret to Belon 28<sup>th</sup> June - 30<sup>th</sup> June





1006.jpg Trevennec - approaching the Raz de Sein



1008.jpg Eastern edge of the Raz



1009.jpg Nearly through!



1010.jpg Penmarch on a nice day!





1011.jpg Loctudy - the lake



1012.jpg Loctudy - the lake



1013.jpg Getting into training on langou



1015.jpg River Odet



1016.jpg



1019.jpg



1018.jpg Nice little hideaway!



1020.jpg What happened to "one for all etc"?



1041.jpg The pool at Belon



1027.jpg Good creperie on this side...



1028.jpg ... and excellent fish restaurant on this side



1026.jpg Sunny, but it was blowing hard for 2 days



1029.jpg



10030.jpg The buoys are a bit close together



1031.jpg She just couldn't resist it



1032.jpg One of the best fish restaurants

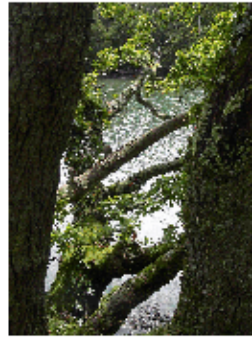




3.jpg Thierry, Estelle, Christophe, Ombeline & C 5.jpg Lush rocky banks close to mooring, but d



1035.jpg



1036.jpg



1037.jpg



1038.jpg

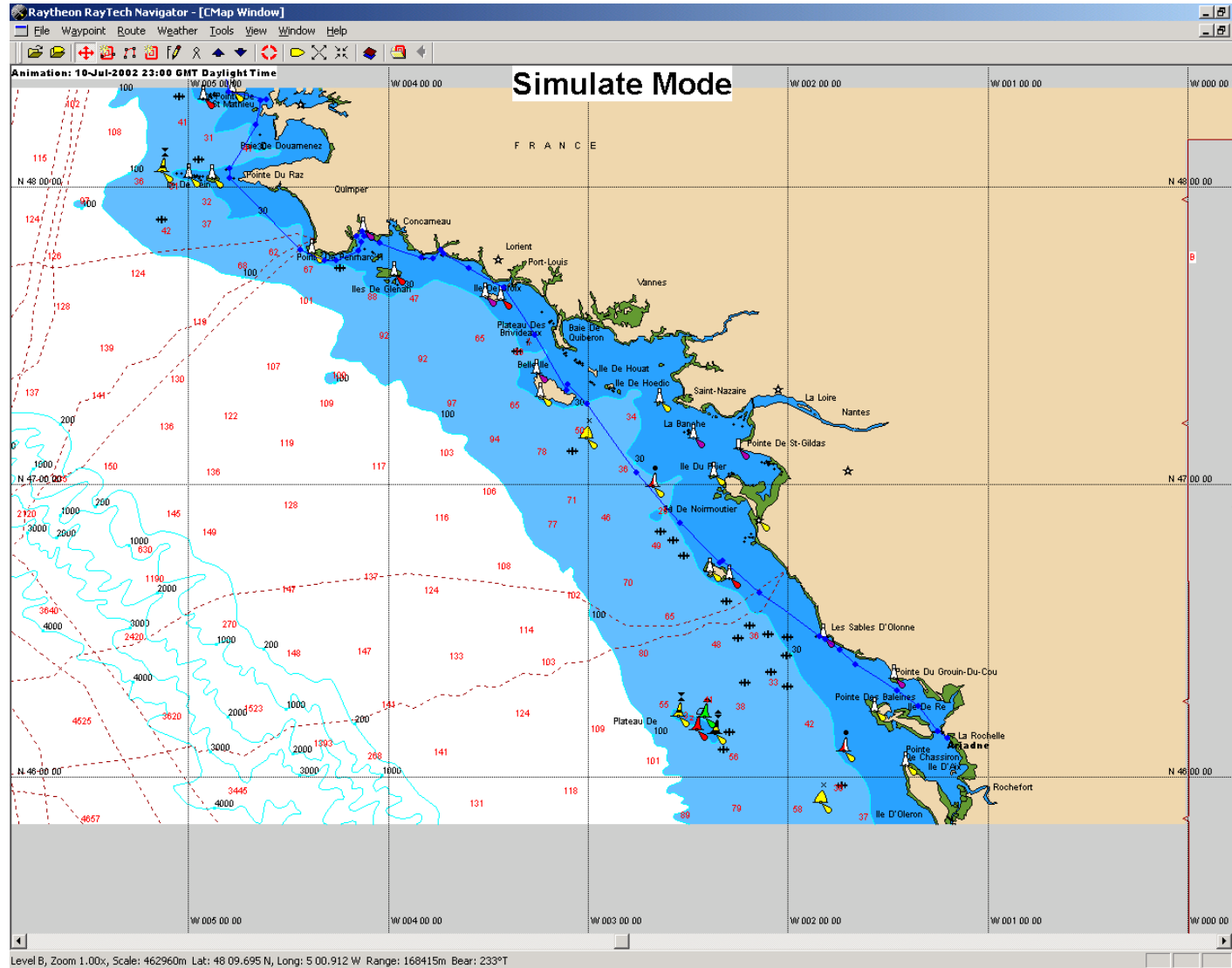


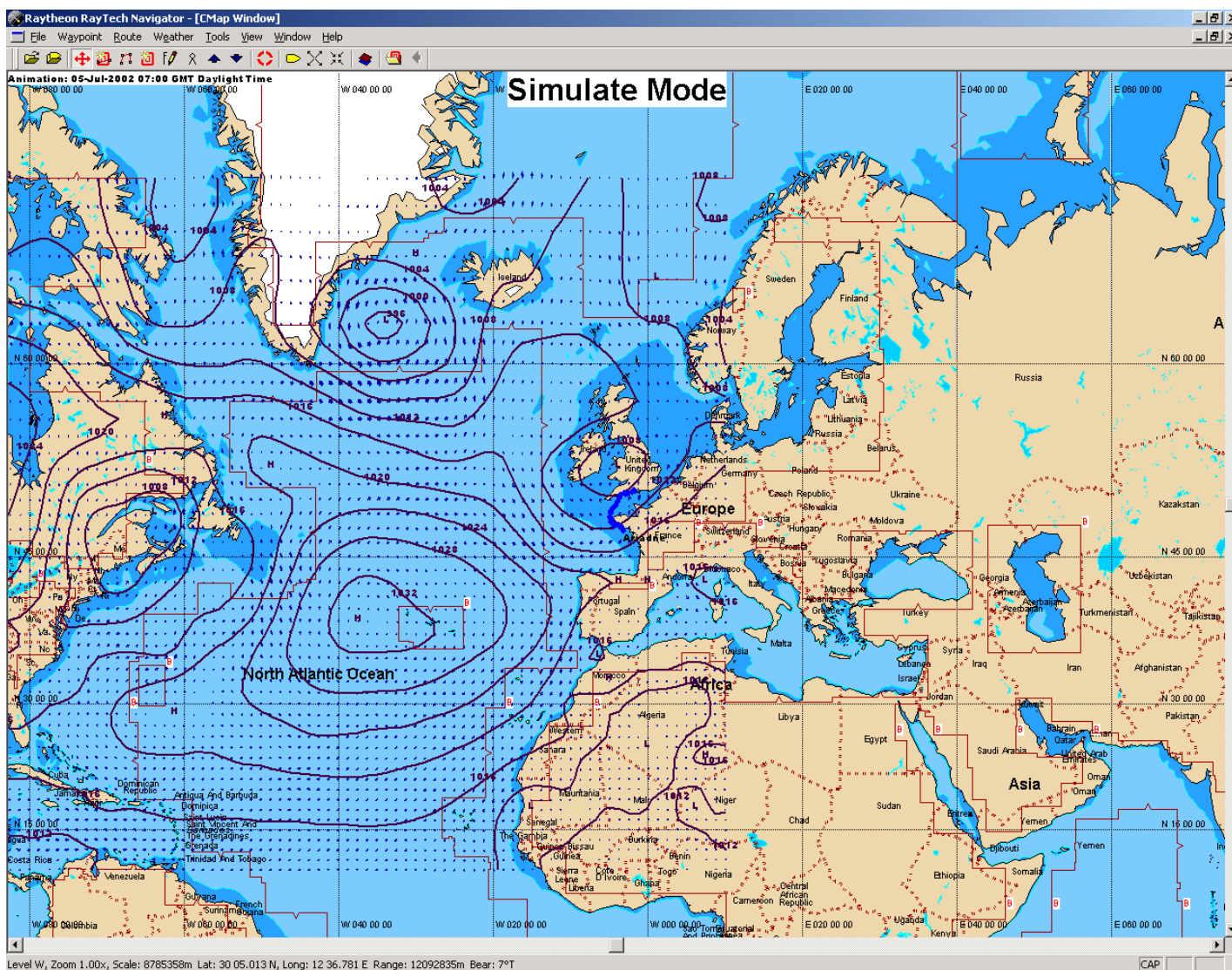
1039.jpg



1040.jpg

# Belon to La Rochelle 4<sup>th</sup> July - 10<sup>th</sup> July





It was the depression sitting over the Channel that had caused the brisk winds while we were hiding in Belon. The Azores High would sit there all the time we were in Brittany and the Vendee.

As so often happens in South Brittany, this weather had left a large swell, about 2 metres, but it was so long as to be gentle and quite tolerable.

This is a typical weather map available free from Raytheon over the Internet. I got this one at the cyber café on Belle Isle - with a cat sitting on the monitor!





162.jpg paasing yacht - motor sailing, as we we



1044.jpg Le Palais



1045.jpg Le Palais



1046.jpg Looking down from hotel



1049.jpg



1050.jpg



1052.jpg



054.jpg Lighthouse at Western end of Belle isk



1055.jpg



1056.jpg Weary joints!



1057.jpg



1058.jpg Fierce coast on Atlantic side



1059.jpg



160.jpg Sauzon - good for using legs (next time



1061.jpg



1042.jpg Feline surfer at internet cafe





1064.jpg



1066.jpg "Benidorm with boats"



1067.jpg Warm and sunny...



1068.jpg ... but still a stiff breeze



1069.jpg Approaching the brisge to Ile de Ré



1070.jpg First sight of La Rochelle Vieux Port



1073.jpg It is truly magnificent



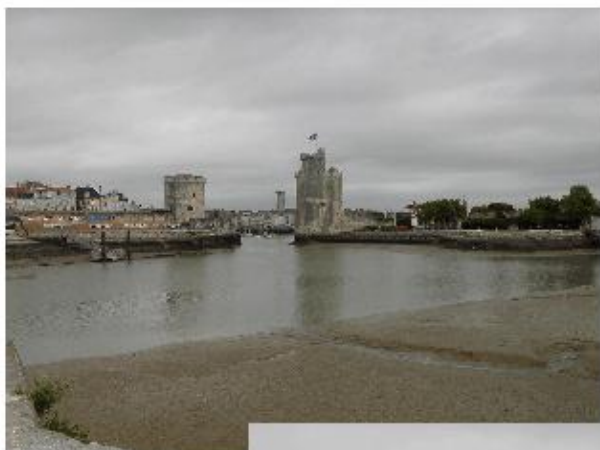
1075.jpg Cafe life



1077.jpg Lively festival atmosphere



1080.jpg Narrow, shady streets



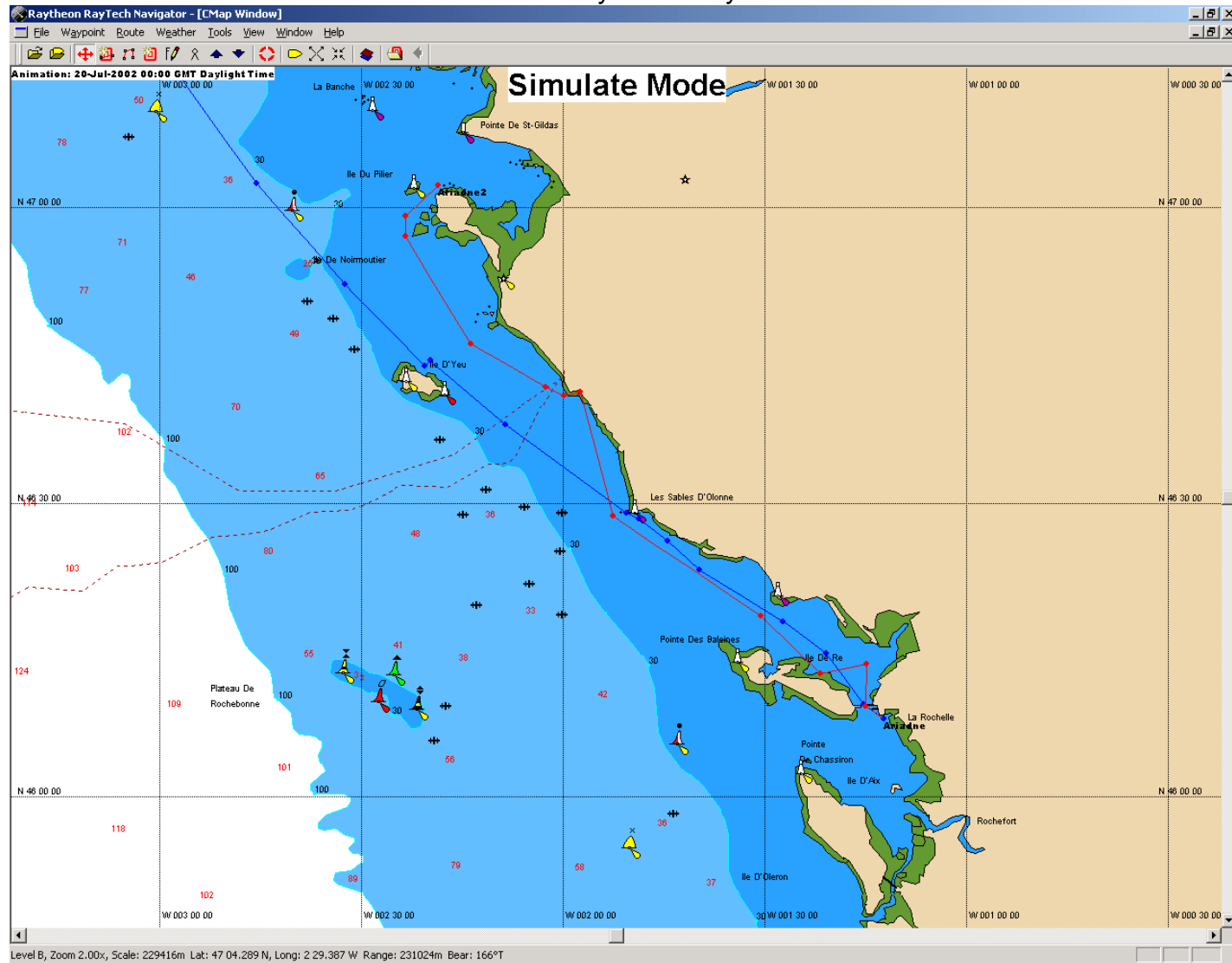
1084.jpg



1088.jpg Annie & Barry Topsom from Lord Kenyc i.jpg The 'Santanas' arrive, David Chantelle and



# La Rochelle to L'Herbaudiere 14<sup>th</sup> July - 19<sup>th</sup> July





1091.jpg Very crowded harbour



1092.jpg but we got a pontoon berth



1095.jpg I Liked the boat, and the name!



1096.jpg



1099.jpg



1100.jpg Hollyhocks everywhere!



1101.jpg even growing out of the granite!



1102.jpg



1104.jpg Heavy traffic as the gates open



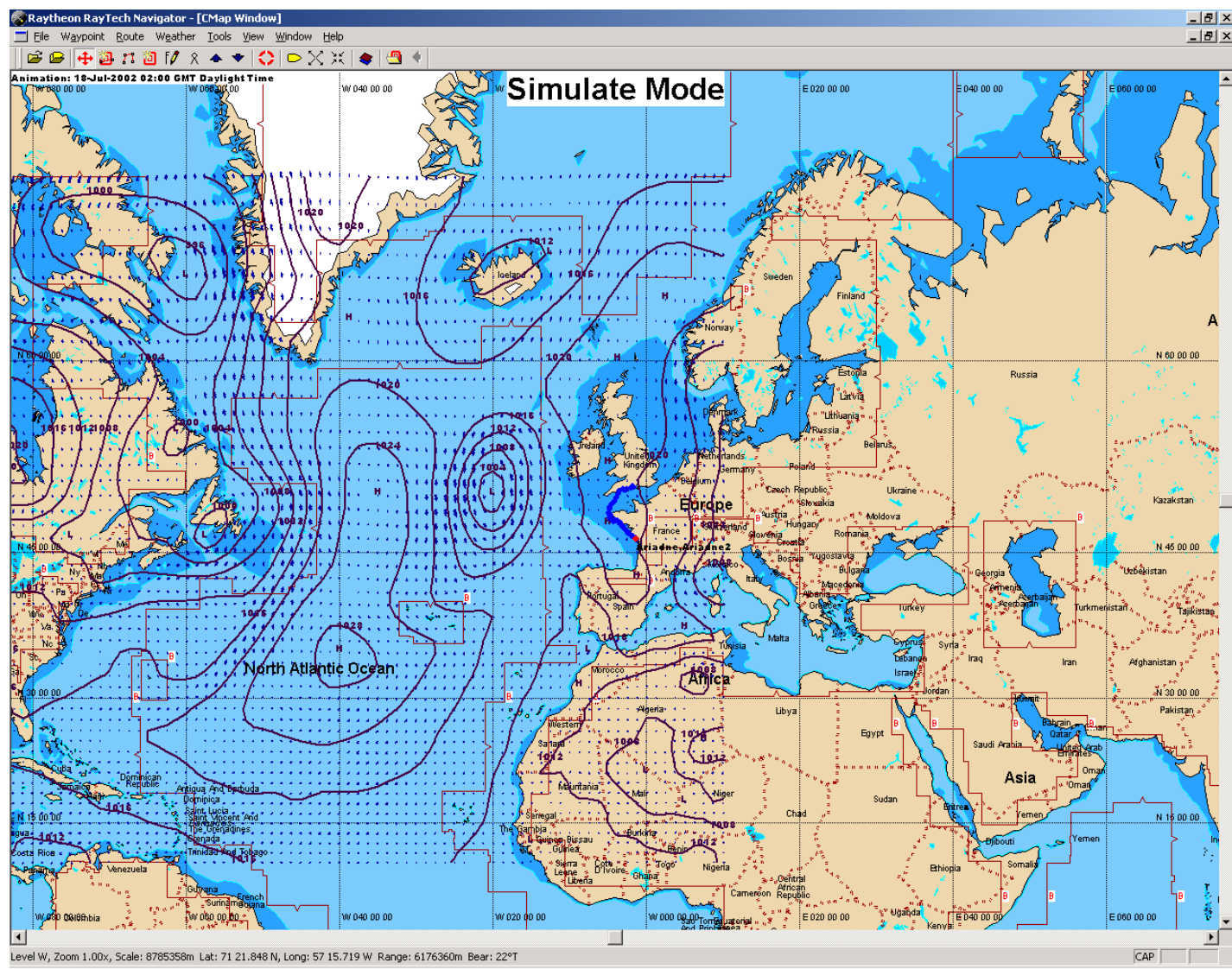
1105.jpg Santana in the 'waiting room'



1106.jpg The harbourmaster is famous directs with a fire



1108.jpg Santana passing into the locked harbour



This was typical of the weather during this period. The Azores High was a weak feature, but did just enough to keep us warm.

Depressions kept appearing in mid-Atlantic. Some drifted southeast over Spain, causing problems there, but most drifted over Ireland, Wales and England, causing storms and floods. We just had this slack weather, which did not give good sailing, but it certainly produced warm sunshine!





1111.jpg Santana going well



1112.jpg



1113.jpg ...motor sailing



1116.jpg David, Chantelle, Dairne



1115.jpg Alan, Philippe, and his wife



1130.jpg Santana approaching L'Herbaudiere



1120.jpg Narrow channel on the final approach



1119.jpg Cosy!



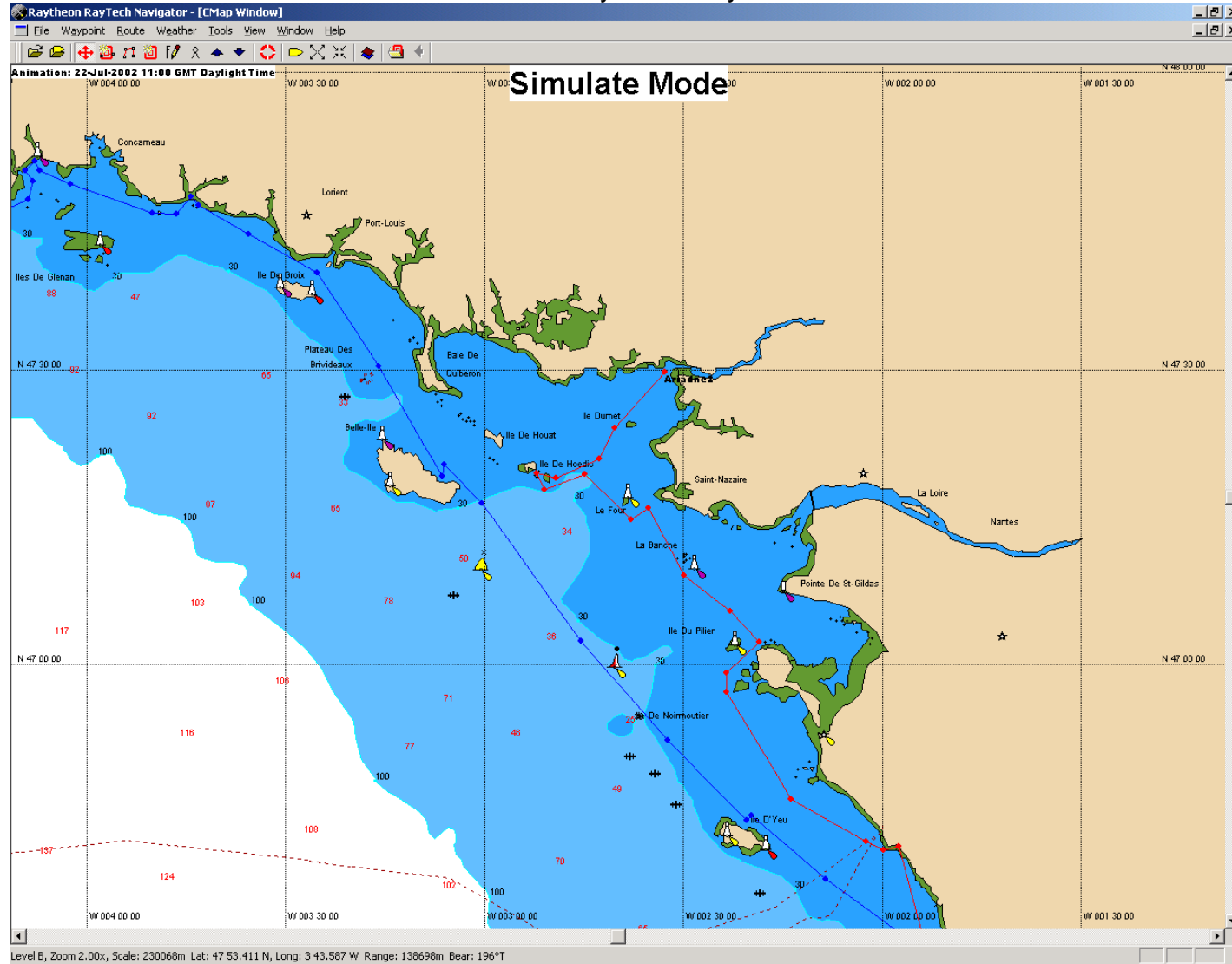


D3.jpg David thought this caught the essence of cruising in company



D4.jpg

# L'Herbaudiere to the Vilaine 19<sup>th</sup> July - 21<sup>st</sup> July





1121.jpg Santana anchoring



1122.jpg



1124.jpg Offlying rocks - but shelter from north



1123.jpg Sometimes the up-sun shot works! Santana again





1128.jpg Santana leaves Hoedic



1129.jpg



Dauids portrait of Ariadne leaving Hoedic



We did a lot of motor sailing





-huge mackerel - and Alan told us how to marin



1134.jpg Peaceful...



1135.jpg in fact, positively rural!





1136.jpg



1137.jpg



1138.jpg



140.jpg Fickle breeze, with the current doing most of the work



1141.jpg



142.jpg Outside the lock waiting for the tide to i

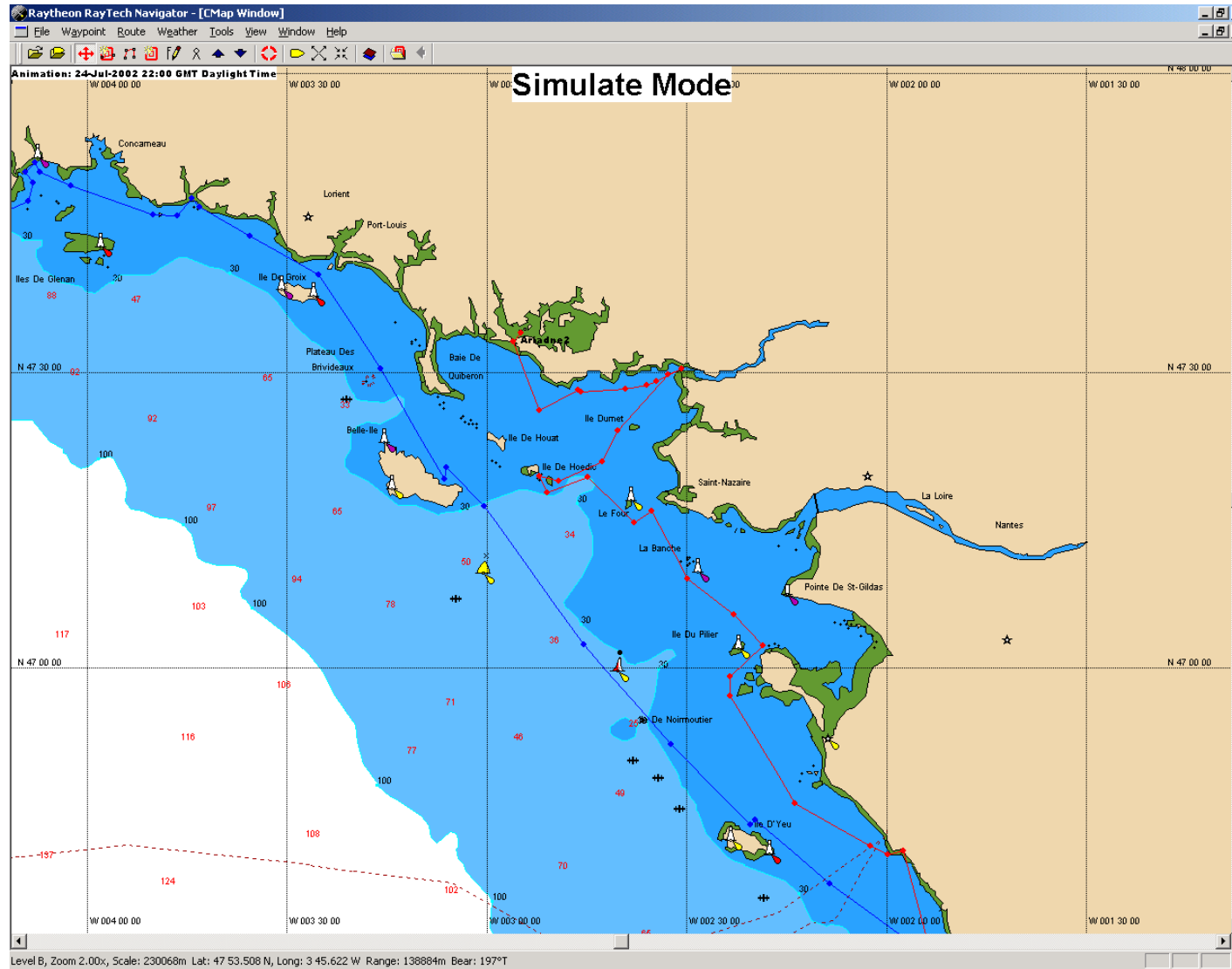


D1.jpg David was amused by Ariadne's makeshift Bimini

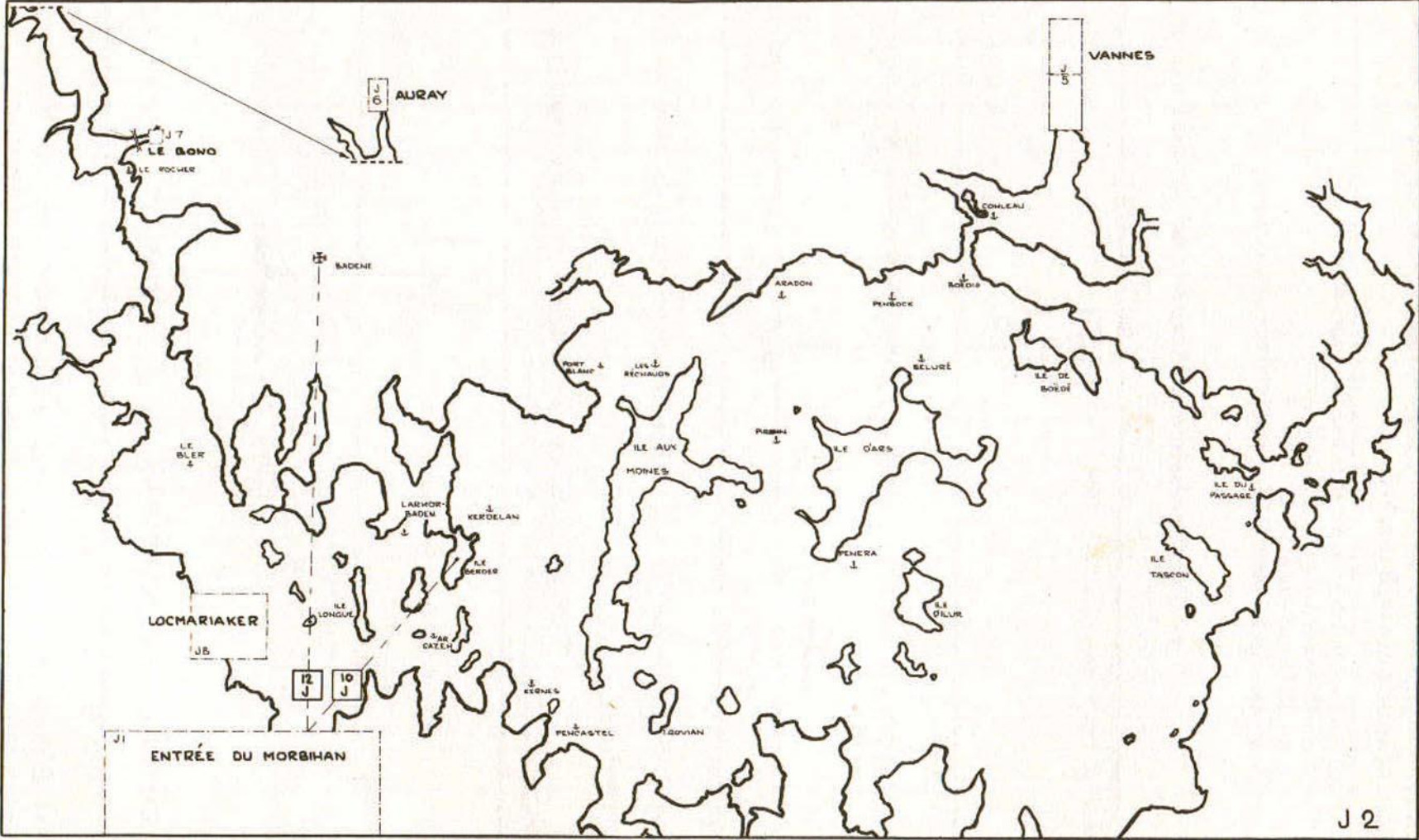


D2.jpg We just knew the umbrella had a use!

A brief beat from the Vilaine into Morbihan  
24<sup>th</sup> July









1145.jpg Santana beating into Morbihan



1146.jpg





47.jpg Alan "shopping" - well we deserved be



1149.jpg Knitting and Knickers!



1150.jpg Le Bono (Auray River)



1151.jpg Rafted up again



1155.jpg Expedition returning from Auray



1157.jpg



1159.jpg A local yachtsman told us...



160.jpg ... where to go to get clear of current.



1166.jpg ... behind Ile longue



1167.jpg



1169.jpg



1170.jpg A traditonal craft in the mist



1171.jpg Note the modern inflatabel! Quite spoils the image!





1172.jpg The long marina at Vannes



1174.jpg Santana parts company. The needed to get back to UK





1177.jpg



1180.jpg



1181.jpg



1183.jpg Armor Baden



1184.jpg



1190.jpg



1191.jpg

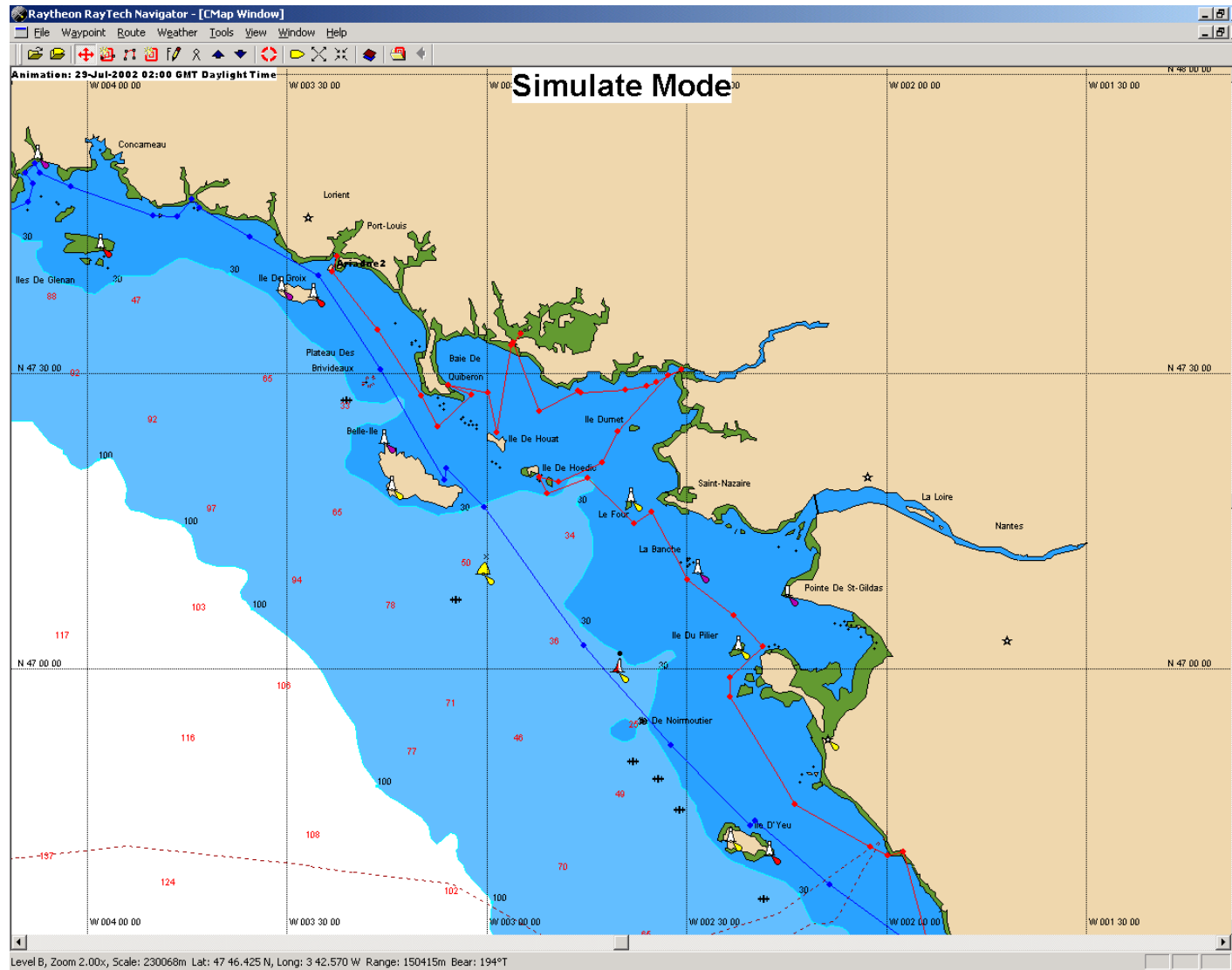


1188.jpg



1192.jpg

# From Morbihan to Lorient 27<sup>th</sup> July - 28<sup>th</sup> July







1193.jpg Houat



1194.jpg Great to meet Rod Kennedy again...



1196.jpg ... and his new partner Claudine



1202.jpg



1203.jpg La Teignouse



34.jpg Wild Swan beating out of Gulf of Quiber



35.jpg Wild Swan beating out of Gulf of Quiber



1207.jpg Tim & Janet's cottage



1208.jpg



1210.jpg



1211.jpg



1212.jpg The Pigsty



1213.jpg



1214.jpg Inside the Pigsty



1215.jpg





1216.jpg



1217.jpg



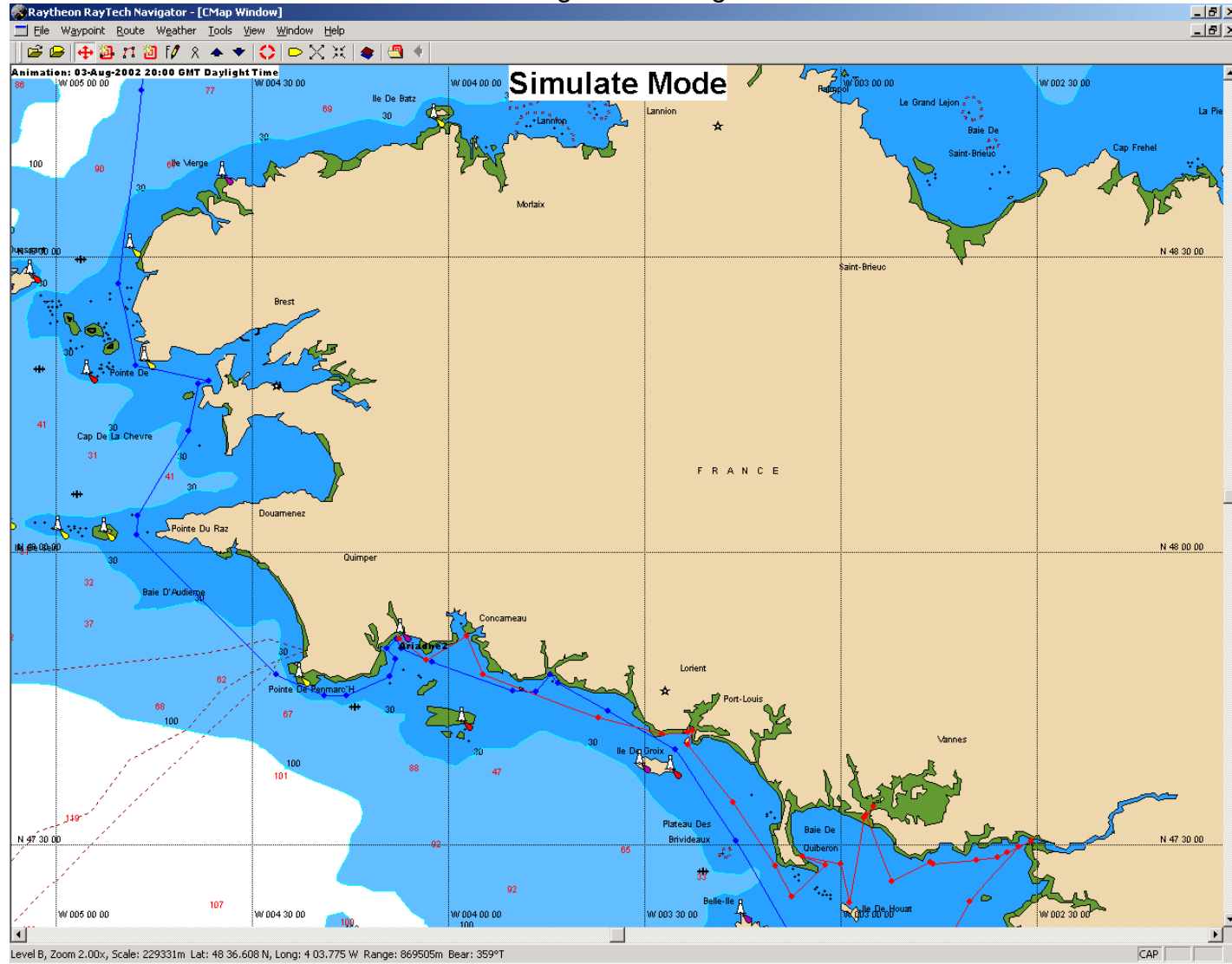
1220.jpg



1219.jpg



# Lorient to Benodet 1<sup>st</sup> August - 2<sup>nd</sup> August





1224.jpg The old town...



1222.jpg



1223.jpg



1221.jpg

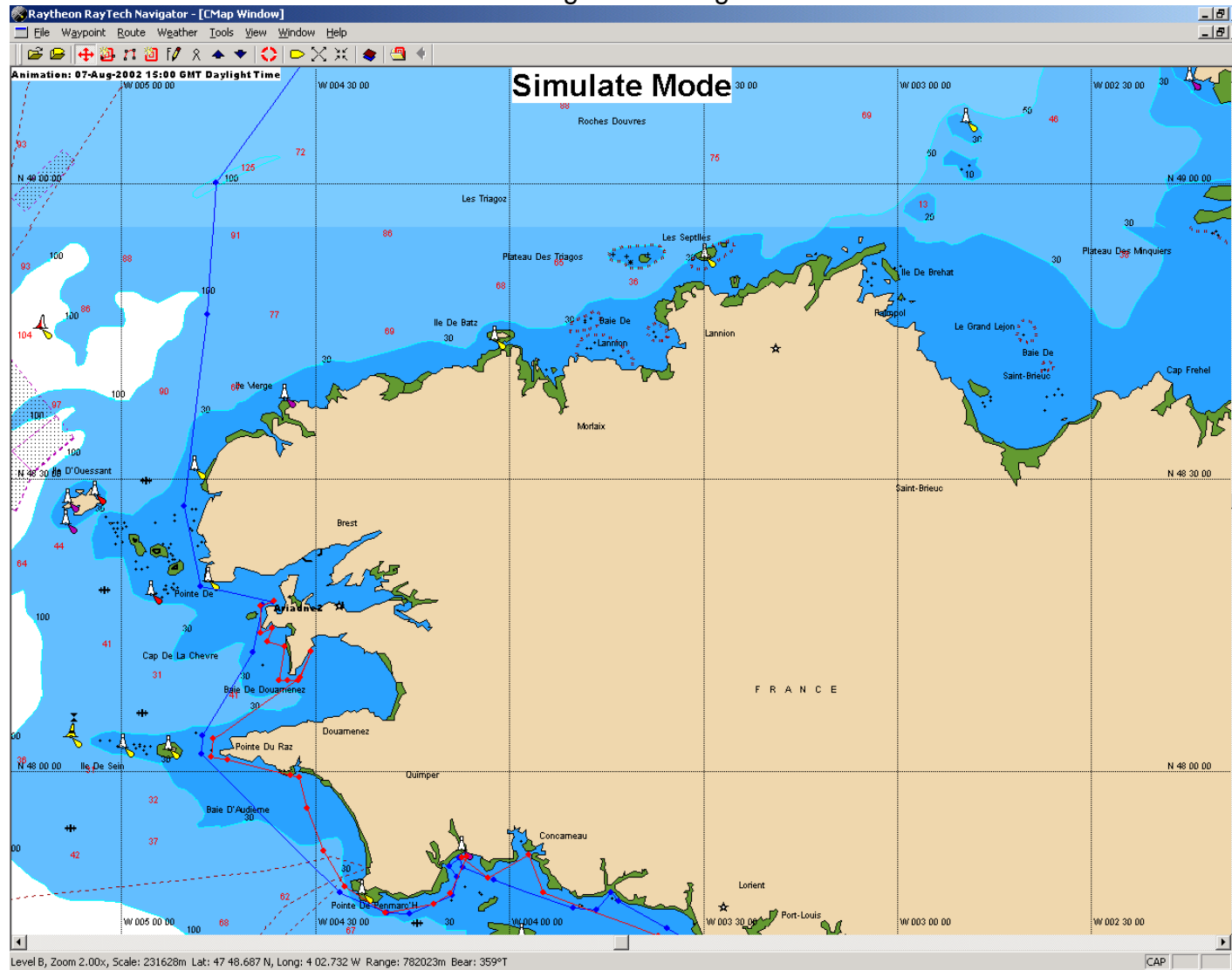


1225.jpg Sometimes fog can be interesting...



1226.jpg ... and beautiful

# Benodet to Camaret 4<sup>th</sup> August - 7<sup>th</sup> August







1229.jpg Audierne



1228.jpg nicer than we remember from previous visits



1234.jpg Bay near Morgat



1235.jpg Anse de St Hernot



1237.jpg



1238.jpg



1241.jpg



1242.jpg



1246.jpg



1248.jpg more Anse de St Hernot



1249.jpg



1247.jpg



1251.jpg





1252.jpg Beating up to Tas des Pois



1253.jpg



1254.jpg Snug anchorage



1255.jpg



1256.jpg Follow that gaffer!



1261.jpg "What? Through there?!"



1262.jpg



1263.jpg



1265.jpg



1266.jpg



1267.jpg



1269.jpg



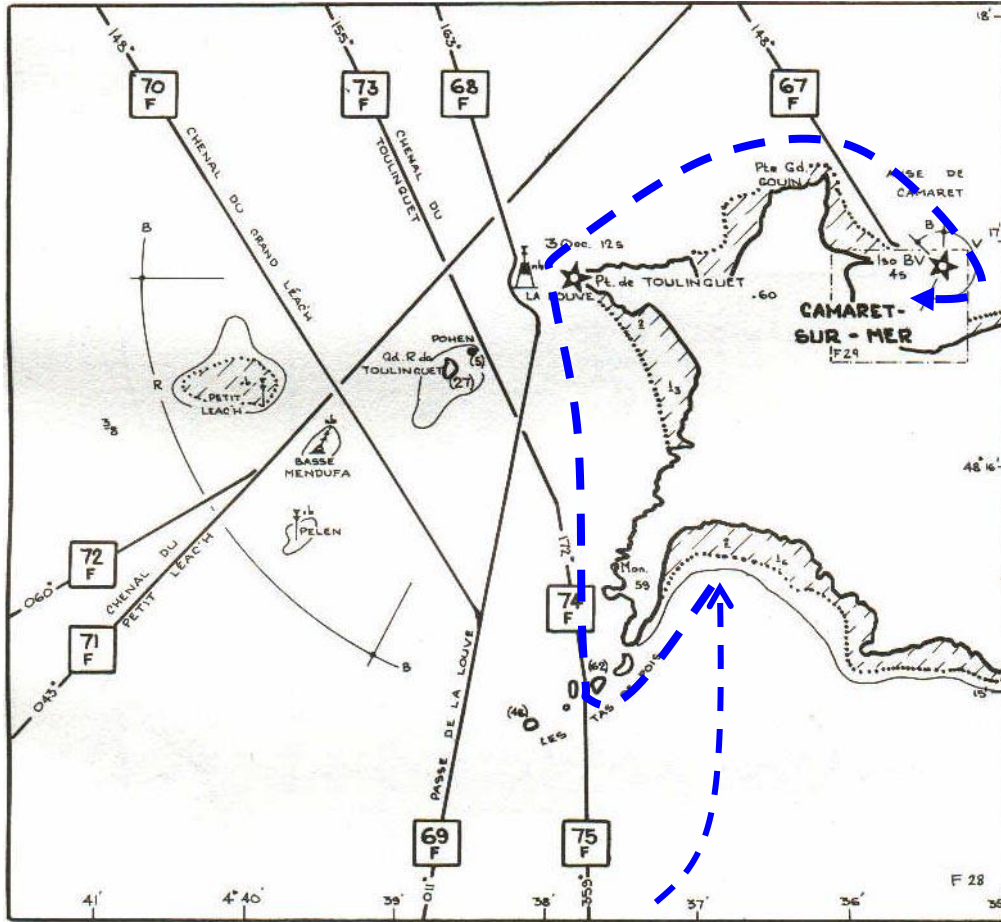
1270.jpg



1271.jpg Toulinget Rocks



1272.jpg Looking back at Tas des Pois



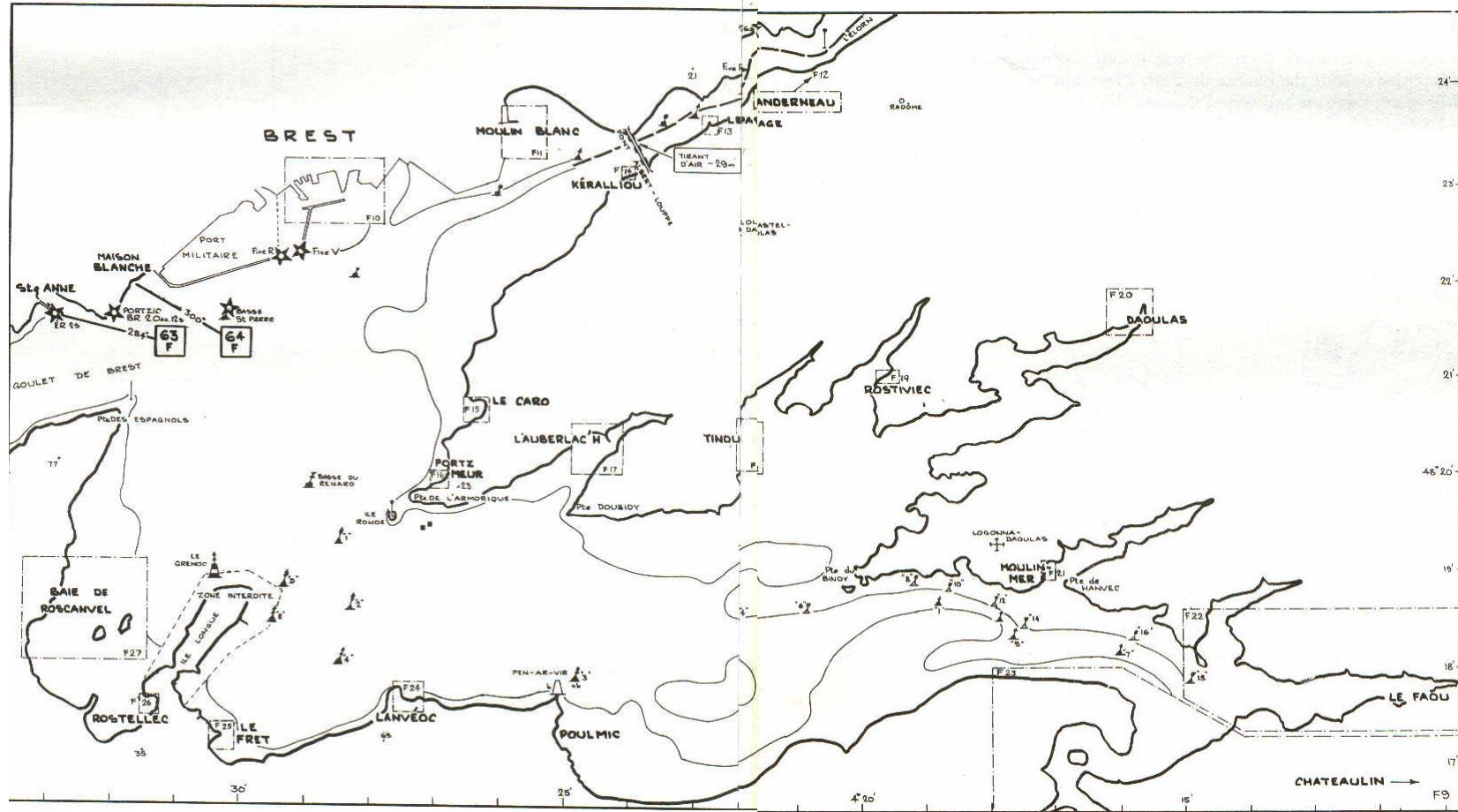
We had seen the anchorage behind Tas De Pois before, so we decided to try it. It is called the Anse de Pen-Hir. It was very safe in the prevailing northerly winds, but gusts were coming down off the cliffs, so it was not as comfortable as the previous anchorage at Anse de St Hernet near Morgat

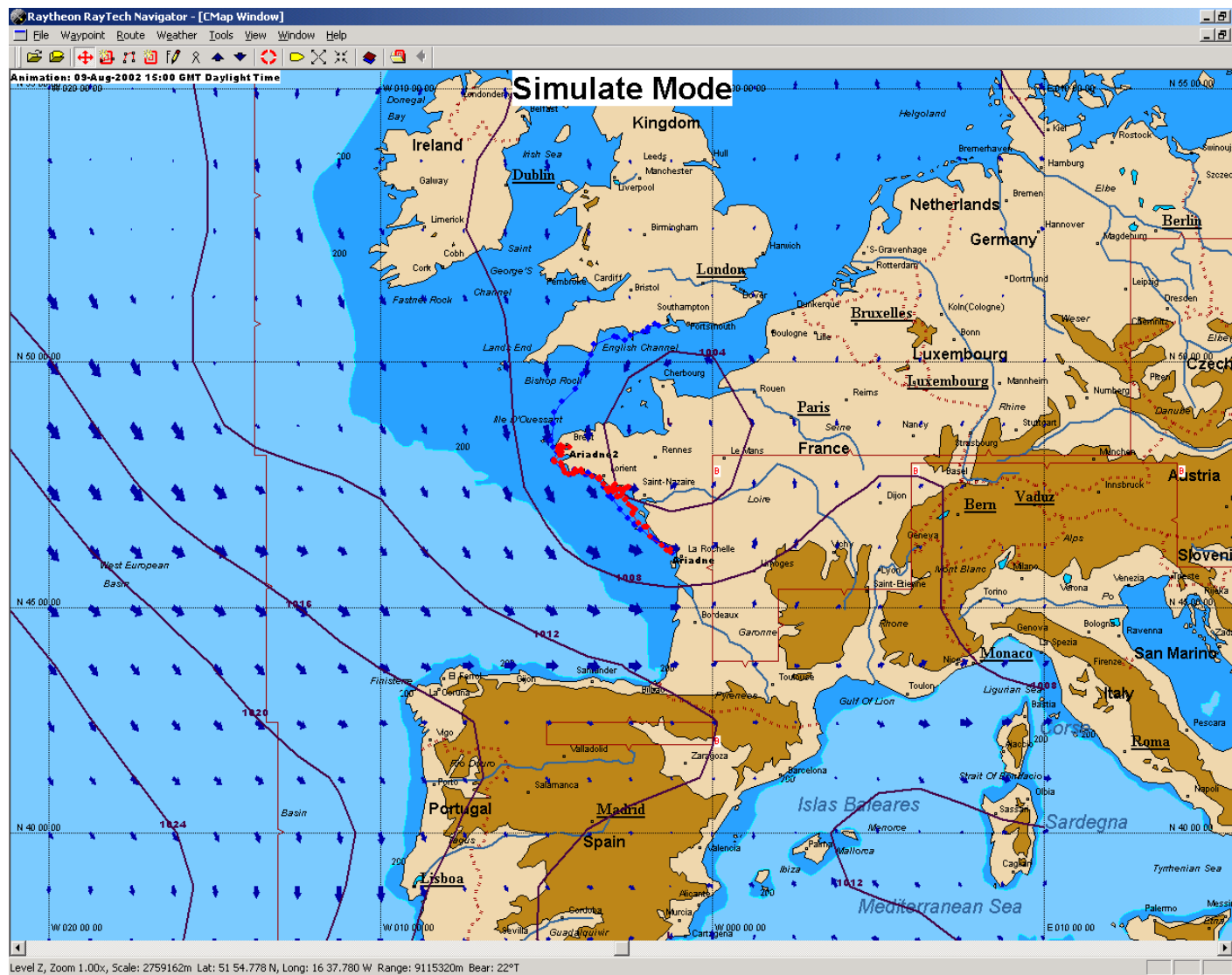
Malcolm Robson shows several routes through this area, most (according to him) originally surveyed by the British Fleet blockading Brest in Napoleonic times.

On the opposite page, we see the Rade de Brest. Robson claims that this vast inland sea is bigger than Milford Haven, Poole Harbour and Morbihan added together. It is a peaceful place to hide from bad weather



# Rade de Brest





This little depression sat over the end of Brittany for a few days, promising unsettled weather. It was the perfect excuse to hide in the Rade de Brest and explore the Aulne River

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Aulne River



1276.jpg



1280.jpg



1282.jpg Port Launay



1281.jpg Looking back down the river from Port Launay



1285.jpg



1286.jpg Chateaulin



1287.jpg Chateaulin



1290.jpg



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1291.jpg



1292.jpg Very high tide made fendering tricky!



1294.jpg



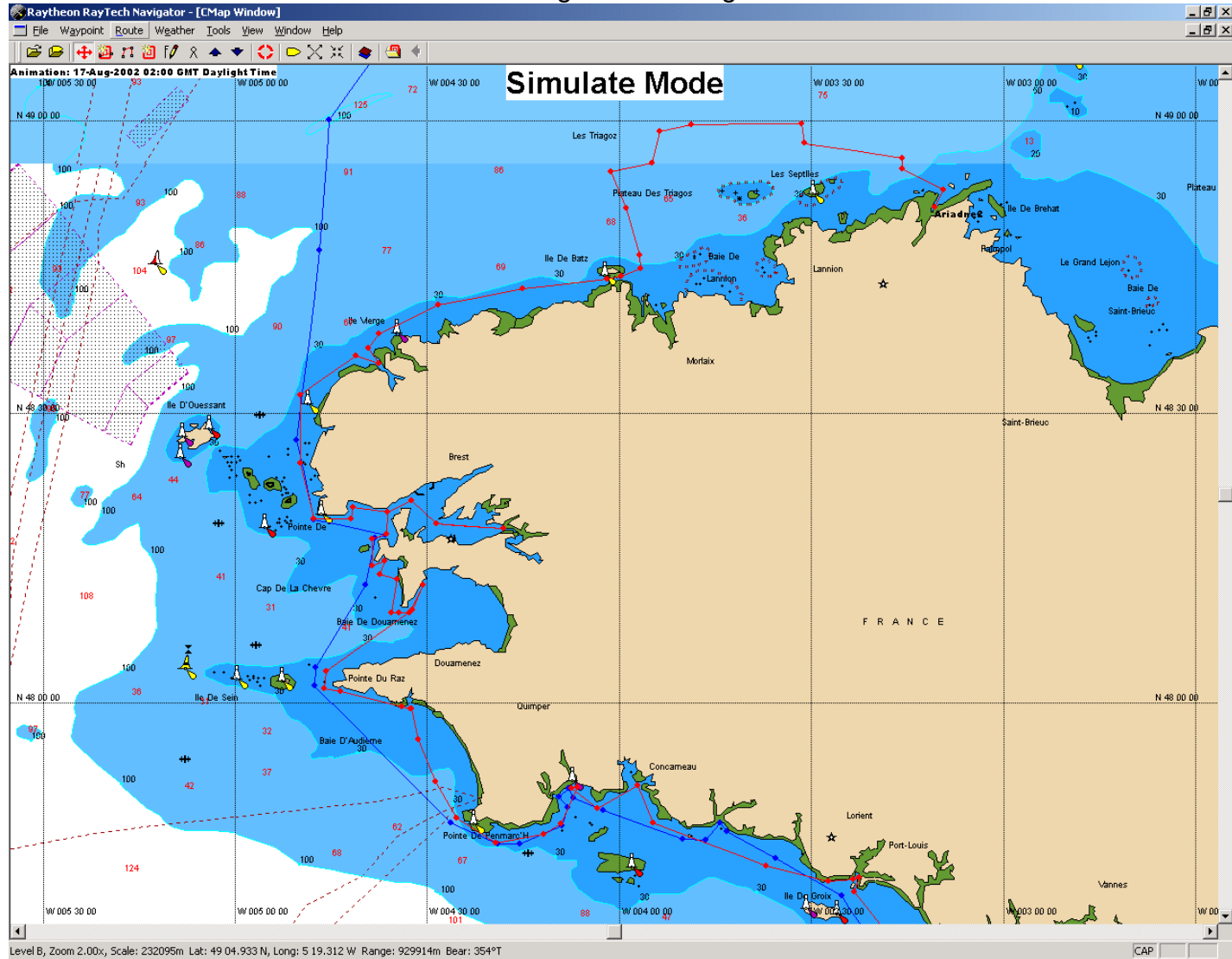
1295.jpg



1296.jpg

Aulne River

# Aulne to Treguier 12<sup>th</sup> August - 16<sup>th</sup> August





98.jpg Useful stopover, but prone to gentle sw



1299.jpg Aren't they just spectacular?!



1301.jpg



1309.jpg



1310.jpg



1312.jpg

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1320.jpg



1321.jpg



1322.jpg



1323.jpg Final plate of crevettes ashore



5.jpg Tricky entrance in poor vis, but well wort



1327.jpg



1329.jpg Like something out of a dream

Aberbenoit





32.jpg From the ferry from Ile de Batz to Roscoff



1334.jpg A beer after shopping



1333.jpg but still foggy at sea



1336.jpg vis cleared on the way back to Ile de Batz

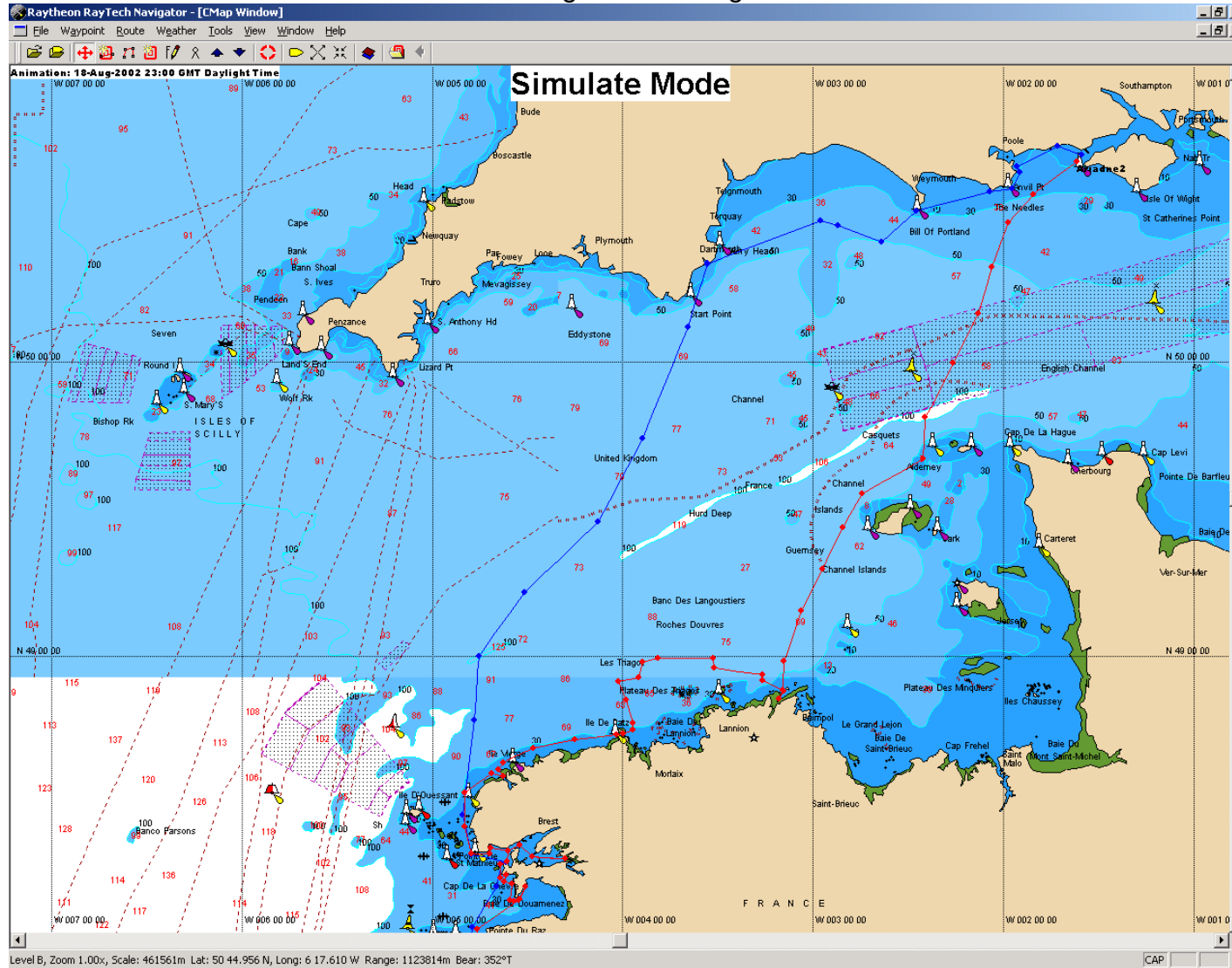


38.jpg She has just eaten a plateful of crevette



pg I must have been in her good books th

# Treguier to the Solent 17<sup>th</sup> August - 18<sup>th</sup> August



Brittany 2002

The run home



1341.jpg Anchorage just below Treguier



1343.jpg Running out of time!



1344.jpg First view of the Needles - back to the Playpen!