

VEKERA, TARAWA  
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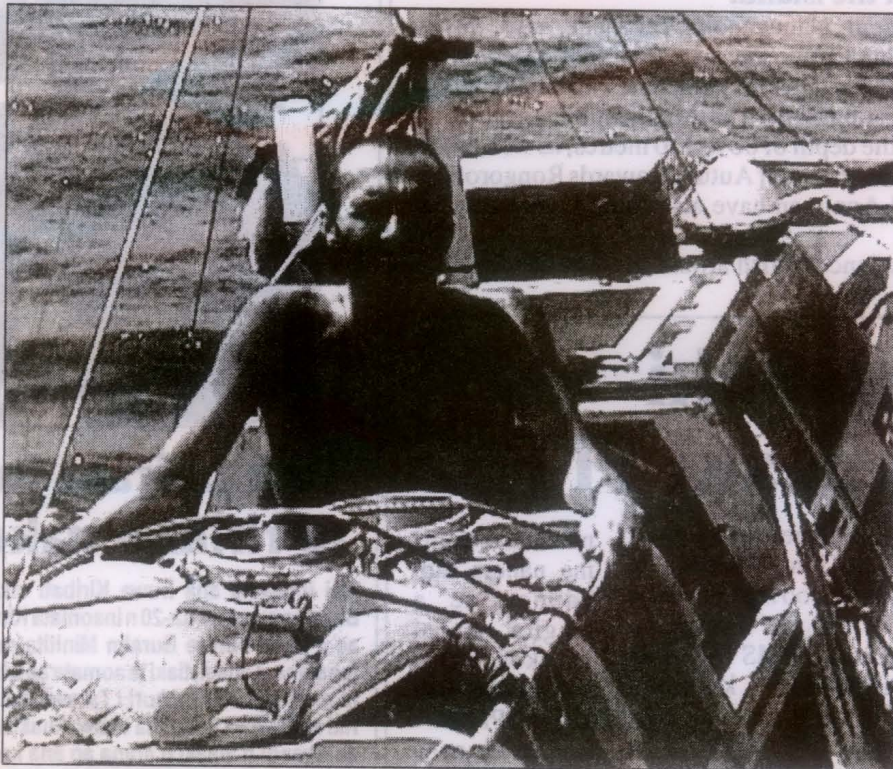
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## Solo voyager travels the world in pedal powered boat

A DARING British seafarer who pedalled his way across the high seas to fulfil his ambitions of becoming the first to circumnavigate the globe has arrived in Tarawa on Wednesday last week after travelling more than 18,000 miles from his starting point in London, England aboard his pedal-powered boat, the *Moksha*.

Jason Lewis 31, of Catterick, Yorkshire, England, a former rock band guitarist and singer, had pedalled his way halfway across the world in his tiny craft which uses man-power only and living on a very strict diet.

On arrival in Betio port, the British adventurer was welcomed by customs and immigration officials and the principal of the Tarawa Train-



Jason aboard his craft the *Moksha* as he approached Betio on Thursday afternoon

ing Institute, Mr Temaaia Ereata, who had been keeping track of the solo voyager's movements and communicating with him on the website.

His arrival in Tarawa coincided with the country's 20th independence anniversary celebrations.

Jason and another Brit-

ish companion, Steve Smith had originally put out to sea from England's Greenwich Meridian

Line in July 1994.

The pair had travelled in the *Moksha* across the sea and land to France,

Portugal and across the Atlantic to Miami in the States and Honolulu where Steve, changing his role in relation to the expedition finally decided he has had enough and quitted.

According to Jason, the ambitions to travel the world in a pedal-powered boat first started as quest when he met Steve in the UK in the summer of 1993 but this soon developed into an obsession when the two finally began to acquire equipment and built their boat and hustling for sponsorships.

However, after four years of pedalling their tiny craft halfway across the world Steve, the original initiator of Pedal for the Planet expedition, as they call their seafaring project, decided to leave for reasons which he told Jason as being against his aim in life which is to find happiness in simplicity.

But Jason who will now travel single-handedly to cover the last remaining leg of his epic voyage, a total distance of 17,000 miles said he is determine to finish what he had initially set out to do and he hopes to complete the journey in about a year's time.

While in Tarawa, Jason was able to visit schools where he conducted educational programmes to the students and exchanged views on the culture.

He leaves Tarawa for the Solomons in two weeks time then pedalled his way to Brisbane in Australia before heading for home in England.



Cooling himself with fresh water as he berthed alongside the Betio Jetty



Quenching his thirst after a hard day's pedalling



The *Moksha* as it enters Tarawa lagoon

Pictures: Buraieta Burentau  
Story by Iaram Tabureka