



The world today doesn't know much about Thor Heyerdahl 1914-2002 or the voyage of the Kon-Tiki **LI2B** in 1947. It is a fascinating subject and of course amateur radio led to safety of life and limb. The balsa wood raft Kon-Tiki was built as a copy of a prehistoric South American vessel.

Constructed of nine balsa logs collected from Ecuador, a crew of six men sailed the raft from Callo in Peru the 28th of April 1947 and landed on the island of Raroia in Polynesia after

101 days. This successful voyage of 4300 miles proved that the islands in Polynesia were within the range of this type of prehistoric S.American vessel. A documentary of the voyage won a Oscar in 1951 and the book about the expedition has been translated into no fewer than 66 languages.

LI2B had an accident where they grounded on an uninhabited island after getting soaked in the shipwreck the ships National NC-173 receiver had serious problems. Heyerdahl describes the NC-173 slowly drying out after getting soaked in the shipwreck. "Coils and radio parts lay drying in the topical sun on a slab of coral, they had to be on the air at 10 PM." They gradually managed to send an "all well, all well" to their ham contacts to avoid a massive rescue attempt. The sending was accomplished with a WW2 British Mark II spy transmitter.

Thor Heyerdahl passed away quietly at his home in Italy April 2002 at age of 87. As one of the most famous Norwegians ever, he accomplished many different things in his life, but his name will always be intimately tied to the Kon-Tiki voyage and the archaeological investigations on Easter Island (Rapa Nui) and East Polynesia. There were more voyages in the future.

They found out the National receiver would work properly with much less B plus plate voltage and could keep the consumption to around 11ma. saving batteries. I have a few Nationals in my collection and can vouch they're well built!

