

ATLANTIS SOCIETY C/O SAILOR'S BOOKSHELF, BOX 643, HILLSIDE,  
NEW JERSEY 07025.

July 25th, onboard the boat "Henry Wagner at Surat Thani, on  
the Gulf of Thailand.  
OUR HANDICAPPED KIDS HAVE CROSSED THAILAND (KRA) BY BOAT!.  
THE FIRST TIME EVER ACHIEVED!

Dear Supporter,

You and we have done it!.With the aim of focussing international attention on the capabilities of severely handicapped people, and in an attempt to cross, for the first recorded time, the Kra Isthmus by boat, a crew of three handicapped Thai youngsters, directed by Tristan Jones and his mate Thomas Ettenhuber, this week reached the Gulf of Thailand. Dry headwater streams, through lack of rainfall, thwarted a complete water crossing, and we were forced to make a short land-haul of 26 kilometers to reach navigable waters on the river Mai Nam Tai Pi. However, we are sure we have found a viable route for a small craft waterway in the rainy season, or following the digging of a short canal.

We departed Phuket on 16th June, in our 2-ton, 40ft sea-fishing craft "Henry Wagner" and navigated 280 kms up the winding river Nam Trang to near Tung Song, after a most difficult and arduous passage. The river water-level was very low, through lack of rainfall. Fallen trees and rocky rapids obstructed progress for 180 kms. We hand-sawed through 36 trees and shifted 50 tons of rock on rapids to get through.

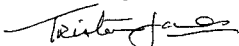
The last 16 kms were made by hauling the boat along the almost dry river bed by elephant. This was on July 8th and 9th. On July 15th we elephant-hauled the boat again 26 km to a position from where she was launched into the Mai Nam Tai Pi river. "Henry Wagner" then negotiated that river approximately 400 kms, to Surat Thani, and from here we shall navigate 700 km north to Bangkok, where we expect to arrive about the first week of August. We shall moor off the Oriental Hotel (British Naval Attache arranging) and display boat, young crew, and the Atlantis Society logo. Our motto now is "if we can do it, so can the able-bodied!". We are grateful to you people who made it possible.

Crew List: Som, 19, one arm; Anan, 15, one leg; Nok, 15, cleft palate/mastoid; Tristan Jones, 63, one leg.

We very much doubt if this arduous effort could have been made faster than our six weeks by even a crew of able-bodied strong men. Our greatest difficulty has been getting media interest because of the outlandish improbability of the whole thing. But it is now all recorded, factual and documented.

In the USA the story of our passage will appear in "Nautical Quarterly", "Cruising World" and probably in "Explorer's Journal".

Please help us pay to SUPPORT our CREW and boat in Bangkok for two months in a safe place, while Thomas and I visit the USA boatshows in September and October this year. Tristan Jones.



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