

We started from Cairo on the afternoon of June 14, 2012, along the way to the oases, to reach Baharyia meeting point with our Egyptian partner Mohamed Abdel Aziz of Siwa Paradise Expeditions (deep desert expeditions).

We stopped in Baharyia the time needed to take with us the border police officer accompanying us in our expeditions and we started heading south to the oasis of Farafra. After crossing the white desert and have slashed the tires of our cars to better float in soft sand we pointed directly at the Wady Obeyed, and that to the point from which our path begins to climb to the plane which lies on the plateau at about 400 meters high.

We arrived on site and immediately began our surveys, measurements and photographs. It was exciting to be there after 70 years to try to understand what really happened to Sgt Copping and his airplane.



How we found it in February



Visitors paying 80 euro each to a local agency made their "job"



May 3rd 2012



June 15th 2012.

Many new facts immediately come to light but the most important was that, unlike what was stated by the wingman of Copping and transcribed by the British authorities, the landing wheels of the plane had not locked in open position for a poorly functioning, so Copping landed 'on the belly of the' plane: It is still one of the 2 wheels perfectly in its place inside the wing and the other that it 'was snatched from under the' wing during landing is ruined and consumed only on the side where the plane has crawled on the rocky terrain.

However all the details and further news' will be published on www.arido.eu and www.gattara.it.

On the morning of June 16, 2012, we started at dawn to find the remains of the pilot in the direction that, reading reports, texts and testimonies, perhaps Copping had followed.



At 07.00 am, the temperature is already above 30 degrees and goes up quickly. We split into 5 teams supported also by local people and began to move towards the south east (towards Farafra)



We had satellite phones, radios medium-range, acoustic signals, signal flares, mirror..... and lots of water.

After about 2 hours of walking, Riccardo advised through the radio of a discovery: in the middle of nowhere..... is probably a shirt button imprinted with the date of 1939.



An hour passed by when Daniele by the mirror and Morse alphabet reported the discovery of a metal plate, unfortunately his radio had a fault and could not communicate.

This is a plate product of Elliot of Birmingham which is a company still in business that processes scrap metal and during the war had supplied the RAF



Hours passed by and the unbearable heat at about 12.00 pm exceeds 45 degrees, our rest stops are more frequent, the water that we brought because of the temperature is almost undrinkable. Watching all around with binoculars (10 x 50) I could not see a single square meter of shade.

We continued walking, I went up on every hill or ridge on my way until after another hour I saw with binoculars from a distance of 300 meters something white in a small area of shadow.

Warning others of my shift and I ask Riccardo to join me, the heat was unbearable.

We arrived on site, the others arrived and found a piece of white material stuck between the rocks beneath them and in a small creek of perhaps 2 square meters in the shade there were some bones..... they seem to be some vertebrae, ribs, collarbone and some smaller bones.



The only shade available in tens of miles, remains have been blacked out for respect.

Daniele is a hospital doctor of Bologna and was sure that are human bones.

The piece of cloth found will be later identified as a piece of cloth of a parachute.

We Immediately informed the policeman by radio, he was at our base camp and by satellite phone the English authorities' in Cairo putting ourselves at the disposal of the British and Egyptian authorities to organize the recovery.

We photographed and mapped it all, leaving the human remains to the place where we found them (as instructed)

We took with us only the metallic objects to show to the Egyptian authorities.

We don't know the human remains found in the desert June 16, 2012 belong to whom, but if after the necessary investigations should be proved to belong to DC Copping, we are proud to collaborate with the authorities making available our experience, local knowledge and organization to give proper burial in a consecrated land after 70 years to the pilot of the P40 Kittyhawk, Sgt Dennis Charles Copping.

However, on June 29 2012, 70 years and one day after DC Copping disappearance ARIDO has been invited to hold a speech and interview, with pictures of the discovery, the story of DC Copping video and further material by an Italian Local TV, as well in October we have been invited to hold another speech and interview in the Italian National TV.

On June 29, 2012 the TV program and channel are: @ 08;00 pm A.R.I.D.O. TV program ZeroTreUno of Espansione TV Rete Lombardia

Andrea Mariotti
A.R.I.D.O.