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Election Monitor

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Myanmar Images



Spitfires over Myanmar

RAF Squadron 257 - the Burma gift squadron

Royal Air Force website

On 17 May 1940 Squadron No 257 reformed at Hendon as a fighter squadron. Initially it flew Spitfires but during June exchanged these for Hurricanes, becoming operational on 1 July. The squadron was based in south-east England throughout the Battle of Britain (from mid-July to end October 1940). Night fighter patrols were also flown and in July 1942 257 Squadron converted to Typhoons which began low-level patrols in September to intercept enemy fighter-bomber raids. Escort missions were also flown and in July 1943, it began offensive operations.

Four Burmese pilots reportedly flew with the squadron. One was Pilot Officer Lam Htin Yain who was killed in action on 20 January 1945 and is buried at Dordrecht in the Netherlands. His name is recorded in the Roll of Honour at the Commonwealth War Graves Memorial near Yangon, Myanmar. His Pilot's Logbook shows that he trained in the UK on Spitfires Marks I and II as well Hurricanes Marks I and IIc, and joined 257 Squadron on 8 November 1942.

The Story of the Supermarine Spitfire

Derek Tonkin writes: In October 2012 I concluded that reports of up to 140 Mark XIV Spitfires buried in Burma at the end of World War II had no serious basis in historical fact. I accordingly relegated the story to our page on 'Political Myths' where it has appeared as Myth No. 11. The main reasons for my conclusion were the total absence of reliable documentary or other credible evidence that these aircraft were ever sent to Burma, my incredulity that these aircraft would have been disposed of by burial in this remarkable way when they were so much in demand in the South East Asian region until the mid-1950s and in Burma until the mid-1960s, and my disbelief that in any case they could have remained undiscovered all this time.

- 'Burma Spitfires' Facebook Page
- UK Aviation Forum on Spitfires in Myanmar
- Wargaming Blog on the Spitfire Recovery Project - April 2013 onwards

- Web-based details of all 22,799 Spitfires built - Marks, Production, Squadrons etc.
- "Spitfire International" - Listings of over 6,000 international sales: 480 pages
- "Spitfire: The History" - Listings of over 22,500 Spitfires manufactured: 647 pages

- New image holds key in hunt for Spitfires - Birmingham Mail 30 August 2013
- Spits crated up and buried in Burma "just a myth" - Birmingham Mail 15 July 2013
- Search for Burma Spitfire will go on in 2014 - Birmingham Mail 3 July 2013

Anatomy of a Legend: The Spitfires that never were

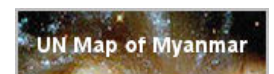
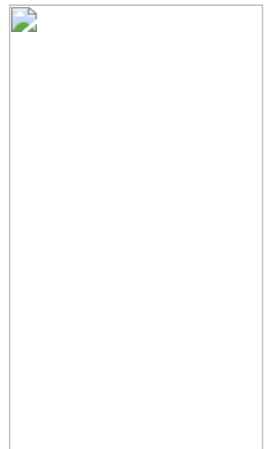
The Myanmar Times - 24 June 2013

The Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon in North London was the venue for a special presentation on the evening of 19 June 2013 given by a team of archaeologists and geophysicists associated with Leeds University. The lead archaeologist at Leeds University, Andy Brockman, confirmed that there was no evidence that crated Spitfire Mark XIVs had ever been delivered by sea to Yangon, from its capture on 3 May 1945 to the departure of the Royal Air Force in late 1947 just prior to Myanmar's independence on 4 January 1948. Continue reading.....

Warbirds into Woks: planned release of video by Wargaming - 25 June 2013



- International Crisis Group
- Google Map of Yangon
- Myanmar CSO Statistics
- ILO in Myanmar



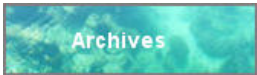
Warbirds into Woks: release of short and long videos by Wargaming - 28 June 2013

Wargaming Youtube video: short version (15 minutes)

Wargaming Youtube video: long version (90 minutes)

Wargaming Youube video: Question and Answer session (25 minutes)

Aviation Forum #2978 - Commentary by Andy Brockman, Lead Archaeologist



Myanmar People



Myanmar Historical



Myanmar Photographic



This is a serious interview, though slightly gin-soaked. The webcast of the presentation at RAF Museum Hendon on 19 June 2013 should be provided soon. No real-time webcast was possible because the broadband at Hendon was too slow. We are not sure what message this sends about the adequacy of the UK's air defences.

Derek Tonkin writes: An interview in the same series in January 2013 reflects very much my own thoughts on this wasted effort, on which sociologists, psychologists and political scientists are likely to have equally trenchant views.

Wargaming presents the lost Spitfires of Burma: The Anatomy of a Legend

MCV (Market for Computer Games and Videos) - 15 April 2013

Wargaming's research team "now believes that facts on the ground endorse the conclusion of their documentary research which proves beyond reasonable doubt that no crated Spitfire aircraft were ever delivered to Mingaladon or Myitkyina, let alone buried in crates at either site. However, this disappointing conclusion turns out to have a silver lining." The Wargaming team are going to present the full findings of the investigation at Mingaladon in a special multimedia presentation at the Royal Air Force Museum Hendon on 19 June 2013 with the main presentation starting at 19.30hrs. Continue reading.....

Spitfire hunter insist iconic planes are buried in Burma - Birmingham Mail

Search for Spitfires resumes - The Myanmar Times

Spitfire Hunter planning dig on Far East return - Birmingham Mail

Derek Tonkin writes: We might well ask how British officials, right up to the Prime Minister David Cameron himself, could have been so seduced by the preposterous suggestion that several squadrons of Mark XIV Spitfires, without known serial numbers and in the total absence of referenced archival evidence, could have been secretly buried at airfields around Burma in the immediate aftermath of World War II. My congratulations though to Wargaming for their brilliant generation and marketing of a truly incredible legend.

Recent News

Dartford war veteran talks about the hunt for Spitfires in Burma - Local London

Burma hunt for Spitfires goes on, insists man behind mission - Birmingham Mail

Failed Burma Spitfire search a 'scientific success' - Adam Booth on ABC Australia

Letter: former British Officer with Engineering Unit at Mingaladon - Myanmar Times

On a mission to find World War II Spitfires - Los Angeles Times

Myanmar's Spitfire hunter turns to ground radar - Myanmar Times

Spitfire search continues, using Spanish technology - The New Light of Myanmar

Video press conference: David Cundall vows to continue - Telegraph (UK)

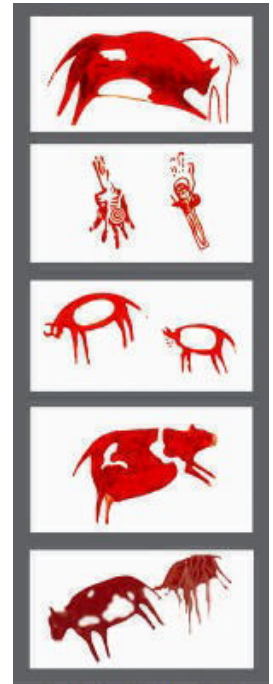
Hunt for Spitfires not over yet says Cundall - The Irrawaddy

Spitfire hunter vows to continue digging - Bangkok Post

Spitfires in Burma mystery solved?

Heritage Daily - 15 February 2013

The Wargaming team believes, based on clear documentary evidence, as well as the evidence from the fieldwork, that no Spitfires were delivered in crates and buried at RAF



Paladin Cave Paintings





Mingaladon during 1945 and 1946.

Most significantly, the archival records show that the RAF unit that handled shipments through Rangoon docks - [41 Embarkation Unit](#) - only received 37 aircraft in total from three transport ships between 1945 and 1946. None of the crates contained Spitfires and most appear to have been re-exported in the Autumn of 1946.

Lead archaeologist Andy Brockman stated: "The documents and the 'ground truthing' provided by the field archaeology show, we believe, that the Royal Air Force had neither the Means, Motive nor the Opportunity to bury Spitfires at RAF Mingaladon at the end of the War."

The full Wargaming press release is [attached at this link](#).

[Hunt for World War II Spitfires called off - Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

[Search for buried Spitfires called off - BBC News Asia](#)

[Setback in search for World War II Spitfires lost in jungle - Daily Mail](#)

[Hunt for lost Spitfires comes up empty - Fox News](#)

[No buried Spitfires in Myanmar: dig sponsor - Agence France-Presse](#)



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Myanmar's Phantom Spitfires: How a Legend was Born

[The Myanmar Times - 4 February 2013](#)

Derek Tonkin analyses the background to reports that a large number of World War II Spitfires might have been buried at airfields in Myanmar in their original crates after the Japanese surrender in August 1945. He concludes that the evidence is both sparse and unreliable, but places the story also in its current political context.

[Buried Spitfires is a tall story, says RAF veteran - Northern Echo](#)

We have not been able to archive the video associated with this YouTube page. gla...

World of War Games Blog - Ground Truthing

[Article 28 of Wargaming's Project Spitfire Blog - 30 January 2013](#)

"As the Project Lead Archaeologist Andy Brockman explained during the press launch at the Imperial War Museum back in November 2012, **the expedition was not primarily (for us) a recovery operation.** Although had Spitfires, or even parts of Spitfires or other aircraft, been found as might be expected on an airfield where many types of British, American and Japanese aircraft were maintained, the team would have been delighted and we would have recovered them using the best available technical expertise and performing the work to the highest ethical standards. Rather, it was **CSI Missing Spitfires; an evidence led, scientific study into how the legend of the Spitfires of Burma arose and whether it has a basis in fact.** To accomplish that task it was necessary to see the facts in the ground at Yangon and the physical context of the purported 'crime scene.'

"This expedition has been an unprecedented cooperation between an international team of experts and the people of Myanmar, facilitated by our partners STP and with the assistance in the background of both the Myanmar and UK governments; something which would have been impossible even a year ago.

"As Myanmar continues to open up to the possibilities of tourism and business with foreign partners, we hope our small start will inspire future projects which seek to explore the links between our various peoples and Myanmar/Burma which were forged in war and the struggle for independence, but which we can now explore together in a time of shared hope.

"With that goes the further hope that that one day the families of veterans, military historians and enthusiasts will visit the conflict sites of the forgotten war in Burma in the same way and the same numbers, as when they visited the sites of conflict in northern

France and Belgium, and that when there they do they will look, wonder and remember as we did at the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Taukkyan.

"Our team believes that the true memory of that forgotten war is far more important than any single artefact from it - however iconic or valuable, because it is the memory which brings together people from all over the world in one of the most beautiful and vibrant nations of South East Asia."



[Team still chasing Spitfire dream](#)

[The Myanmar Times - 28 January 2013](#)

U Htoo Htoo Zaw, the managing director of Shwe Taung Paw, told the state-run New Light of Myanmar on January 22 that the team would dig in another 15 places as part of its survey of Mingalardon Airport. He accused the British Broadcasting Corporation, which has reported on the search team's failure to find a Spitfire, of misleading its audience, adding: "We've only dug in one place at Mingalardon so far. The airport compound is very big."

He said it might take four or five more months before a definitive result can be announced. "We still believe there are Spitfires buried underground." The team will also pursue its search at Myitkyina. Earlier this month, they announced the discovery of a "man-made" buried object, but were unable to proceed because of "murky waters".

[I want to dig for Spitfires in Birmingham, says David Cundall](#)

[Burma's buried Spitfires: the inside story of one man's obsession - Telegraph](#)

[Audio interview and article: Hunt for fabled cache of World War II Spitfires - NPR](#)

[Transcript of the audio interview - Missouri Public Radio](#)

[Lost + Found: Spitfires over Myanmar - South China Morning Post](#)

[Spitfire Hunter pledges the search will go on](#)

[Adam Lusher: Sunday Telegraph - 20 January 2013](#)

For 16 years, Mr Cundall, 62, had been convinced that dozens of Spitfires were buried in their shipping crates, including 36 at Mingaladon, a former RAF base that is now Rangoon International Airport. This week, however, his archaeologists and the delegation sent by multi-millionaire backer who had helped fund his search will be heading home, privately accepting there are no Spitfires.

Mr Cundall himself is defiant in his belief that Burma will give up the Mark XIV Spitfires he is convinced were buried there in 1945 and 1946. He claimed the archaeologists and Wargaming "took over" and dug in the wrong place at Mingaladon. The archaeologists vigorously dispute this, saying that they clearly agreed the location of the trench with him before they started digging.

Told that the archaeologists claimed that no crated Spitfires arrived in Burma in 1945 and 1946, and that the RAF actually kept meticulous records of their aircraft in Burma, Mr Cundall said: "Well, I disagree. There is overwhelming evidence, so many eyewitnesses but the archaeologists don't trust eyewitnesses." He added that the lack of documentary records could be explained by paperwork going missing somewhere between Burma and London, and by the RAF wanting to bury the Spitfires quietly, rather than leave written evidence of what they had done.

[Spitfire dream is shot down as excavation team draw a blank - The Times](#)

[Some of our Spitfires are missing](#)

[Peter Popham: The Independent on Sunday - 20 January 2013](#)

Former collaborators of David Cundall, Keith Win and Malcolm Weale, tell their own stories of their association with the Spitfire enthusiast.

Keith Win: "In 1997, I contacted Brigadier Derrick Baynham, who had been the aide-de-camp to Reginald Dorman-Smith, the British governor of Burma at the end of the war. He had been an officer in the Special Operations Executive and he said, 'This story cannot be true. I would have known about it. I would have seen documents'."

Malcolm Weale: "David seems a little bit erratic: he runs from pillar to post, promising things to many different people. He's a dreamer – he wants to make himself out to be a bit of an Indiana Jones. Myself, I'm very, very sceptical about the story."

Latest News on the Spitfire Saga

[Spitfire search descends into farce: rival Israeli team appears - Mail Online](#)

[No 'lost Spitfires' buried in Burma - The Independent](#)

['There are no Spitfires': The dream has ended - ITV](#)

[Search for lost Spitfires ends in failure for treasure hunters - The Telegraph](#)

[Farce as Spitfire archaeologists find nothing in Burma - The Times](#)

[Cables hamper Burma Spitfire hunt - Irish Herald](#)

[Burma Spitfire hunt appears doomed after no planes found - IB Times](#)

[Archaeologists believe no Spitfires buried in Burma - BBC Asia News](#)

Derek Tonkin writes: The 'Mail Online' reference to the appearance of a rival Israeli team of Spitfire prospectors should come as no surprise. For the reasons given in a [Jane's Intelligence Review](#) article in 2000, the military relationship between Israel and Myanmar has long been close. It was known over 10 years ago that the Israeli Air Force had offered to look for these aircraft. The IAF were then reportedly offering one refurbished military helicopter for every Spitfire found in reasonable condition. In 2004 excavations were seen to be taking place on the perimeter of the main runway, under the auspices of the Head of Military Intelligence Lt Gen Khin Nyunt, who fell from grace in October of that year. However, nothing was reportedly found as a result of the excavations.

The press has reported that David Cundall may go to Myitkyina in Kachin State to continue his search. The possibility that heavy crates with Spitfires might have been transported by road or rail to Myitkyina in Kachin State, which borders on China and is some 900 miles from Rangoon, at a time when bridges were blown, roads badly damaged and railway tracks ripped up during the Japanese retreat, seems highly unlikely. If Spitfires were needed in Myitkyina for whatever reason, they would have been assembled at Mingaladon and flown up. Myitkyina, Meiktila, Akyab (Sittwe) and Mingaladon remained as operational RAF bases for some months after the Japanese surrender. All others were closed.

Scunthorpe war veteran supports 'idea' of buried Spitfires, but saw nothing

[Scunthorpe Telegraph - 15 January 2013](#)

Stanley Ross, 87, of Scunthorpe, a former Warrant Officer in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was stationed at Mingaladon airfield in Burma from 1945 to 1947. "The base was very basic and we lived in tents with the airfield one side and vehicle park the other side. I had never seen or heard anything to do with buried Spitfires until reading about this chap a short time ago..... If they are buried there, it will have been a very well-kept secret because none of the RAF lads we knew ever said a word about it."

Derek Tonkin writes: If Stanley Ross saw and heard nothing although living next to the supposed burial site for two years, it might just be because there was nothing to be seen or heard.

Spades away! Dig begins for buried Spitfires

[Sunday Times - 13 January 2013](#)

An excavation in Burma today may reveal a stash of planes worth millions, or break aviation fans' hearts. [Read more.....](#)

[Doubts over Spitfire 'find' - Myanmar Times](#)

['Burma Spitfires' Facebook Page](#)

[UK 'Aviation Forum' latest exchanges](#)

Derek Tonkin writes: The RAF stayed in Burma until late December 1947, leaving only shortly before independence on 4 January 1948. From the capture of Rangoon in early May 1945 until independence, RAF Mingaladon was a hive of activity. So far as I am aware, no one from the RAF has confirmed the story of Spitfires being buried at Mingaladon and there is no paper trail to give credence to the

story, although it has been reported that there is a file in National Archives showing that 124 Spitfire Mark XIVs 'delivered Burma' were marked 'SOC' or "Struck Off Charge".

I have been following this story for years and concluded long ago that it was mythical. I have yet to find anyone in Myanmar who believes otherwise. I do not suppose that when David Cameron mentioned the matter to Myanmar President Thein Sein in April last year, he did so on the basis of evidence from RAF archives. But perhaps No.10 should have checked first, just to be on the safe side.

[Crate uncovered in Myitkina, spells hope for Spitfire hunters](#)

[Agence France-Presse: 9 January 2013](#)

A British-led excavation team hunting for dozens of rare Spitfires in Burma said Wednesday they were confident of recovering the World War II-era planes after finding a crate buried in the ground. Project leader David Cundall said a box found in the Kachin state capital Myitkyina appeared to contain man-made objects.

"The two people that buried them put a cross on the map and we found that position and that's where we have found a crate, a wooden crate," he said. Researchers have so far been unable to confirm the contents. A camera had been inserted into the newly discovered box but murky water was obscuring visibility, Cundall said. "That's very encouraging. That's the sort of image that I would expect to find. We've gone into a box, but we have hit this water problem. It's murky water and we can't really see very far," he said at a press conference in Rangoon. He said he was "very optimistic" about the team's chances of success and better photographic evidence could be available within weeks.

[In pictures: British archaeologists begin Spitfire search in Burma - Culture 24](#)

[Burma Spitfires: UK team searches for planes - Sky News](#)

[British team to unearth World War II Spitfires - The New Light of Myanmar](#)

[Reuters Video, with excerpt from Press Conference in Yangon on 9 January 2013](#)

[Letter to 'The Times' by a former RAF Flight Mechanic - 9 January 2013](#)

[Spitfire dig to start within days - The Irrawaddy, 9 January 2013](#)

[British Spitfire search team arrives in Burma](#)

[The Irrawaddy - 6 January 2013](#)

A team led by a British aviation enthusiast has arrived in Burma to begin the first of several digs they hope will unearth dozens of rare British fighter planes said to have been buried in the Southeast Asian country at the end of World War II.

The 21-member team led by farmer and businessman David Cundall will soon start excavations to find several stashes of Spitfires believed to be under the ground near the airport in the main city, Rangoon. [Read more.....](#)

[The bizarre case of Burma's buried Spitfires - The Times](#)

[Mission heads to Burma to unearth hidden Spitfires - The Guardian](#)

[Dig to start for lost Battle of Britain squadron in Burma - Yorkshire Post](#)

[Burma Spitfire dig set to uncover new information about World War II campaign](#)

Derek Tonkin writes: Though I very much hope that the search for these aircraft will yield at least some success, it has not yet been satisfactorily explained why the RAF should have decided to bury these latest Mark XIV aircraft when they had such commercial value. In the immediate post-war years, Spitfires were sold to both Thailand and India, as well as to the French Air Force (for use in Vietnam), to the Netherlands Air Force (for use in Indonesia) and also to Burma (!) for use in counter-insurgency operations. It is difficult to understand how the presence of these aircraft in Burma could have been overlooked when they were so much in demand in the South Asian and South East Asian regions.

[Wargaming announces backing of Spitfire Expedition](#)

[Heritage Daily - 27 November 2012](#)

Tracy Spaight, Director of Special Projects at Wargaming, has spent the past several months traveling with Lincolnshire farmer and Spitfire enthusiast David Cundall back and forth to Myanmar and the UK. Wargaming will soon launch a blog detailing Tracy and David's various adventures.

The blog - authored by Tracy - will provide a first-hand account of living and working in Myanmar, archival sleuthing in the UK, a look inside the discipline of conflict archaeology, the geophysics of surveying, and the actual excavation work in Myanmar, which is expected to commence later this Autumn or early in the New Year. The blog will also shine a spotlight on the Burma Campaign, the so called "Forgotten War" of WW2.

[Quest for hidden Spitfires nears completion - The Irrawaddy](#)

[The hunt for buried Spitfires in Burma - Radio Australia](#)

Derek Tonkin writes: The likelihood that a buried cache of Spitfires exists in Myanmar seems to me to be pretty remote, [for the reasons given on another page](#), but I earnestly pray that the remains of at least one Spitfire should somehow be uncovered.

[World War II Spitfires buried in Burma to be excavated by British team - Culture 24](#)

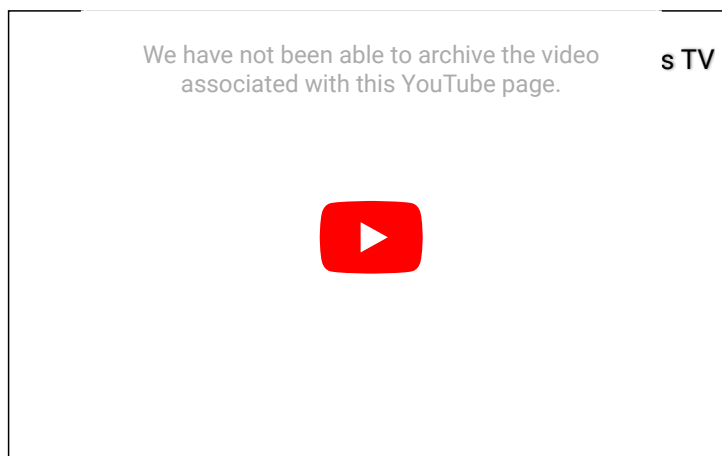
[British Spitfires to be excavated in Burma - Birmingham Mail](#)

[Britons near moment of truth in quest to find buried Spitfires - Guardian UK](#)

[Search for missing Spitfires due to begin in January - BBC News](#)

[Video - Hunt for Spitfires 'buried in Burma' after World War II - BBC News](#)

[Video - Hopes of Spitfire discovery in Burma - BBC News](#)



[Raider of the Lost Spitfires](#)

[Sunday Times - 21 October 2012](#)

David Cundall claims a camera he sent down a borehole captured shots of the planes. "We could see the side of the engine, which appeared to be intact, with just a bit of silt on the battery box," he says. An associate of Boulton Brooks says that when they asked to see the photographs Cundall could not oblige, saying the equipment had broken.

An electromagnetic survey in 2004 that found unusually high conductivity in a patch of the earth correlating with Cundall's witnesses was also far from definitive. "It's probably something metal, as there aren't any rock types which could be responsible for the conductivity," says Dr Roger Clark, senior lecturer in earth sciences at the University of Leeds, who oversaw the survey. "But we can't tell anything about its shape, nor what depth it is. I have known surveys like this which have turned up nothing more than coils of barbed wire."

[£2m bid to bring Spitfire found in Burma back to Birmingham - 21 November 2012](#)

[The hunt for buried Spitfires in Burma - Radio Australia, 31 October 2012](#)

[Victor Kislyi, wealthy backer for the buried Spitfires - Telegraph, 29 October 2012](#)

It is not too far from Cundall's Lincolnshire home to The Wash, where in 1216 King John is reputed to have lost his treasures after ordering his wagon train to make an unwise crossing of the Wellstream estuary. It is a tale that has excited treasure hunters for a century, yet with not a nugget to show for their efforts. Cundall must be hoping he has not similarly been fooled.

[Myanmar signs deal to begin excavation of World War II Spitfires - AP](#)

The 'Myanma Ahlin' daily (in Burmese, bottom left of page) has reported that an excavation agreement to recover World War II [Mark XIV Spitfires](#) was signed on 16 October 2012 by Director General of Civil Aviation Tin Naing Tun, David J Cundall on behalf of his British company DJC, and Htoo Htoo, managing director of Cundall's Myanmar partner, the Shwe Taung Paw company. "It took 16 years for Mr. David Cundall to locate the planes buried in crates. We estimate that there are at least 60 Spitfires buried and they are in good condition," Htoo Htoo Zaw said.

[Aviation Forum discusses the reports about Burmese Spitfires - 17 October onwards](#)

[Has this English eccentric found 60 perfectly preserved Spitfires - Daily Mail](#)

[Fact or Fable: Spitfires down an Australian mine? Key.Aero, August 2011](#)

[According to agency reports:](#) "The plans under a two-year contract are to recover 60 planes in the first phase: 36 planes in Mingaladon, near Yangon's current air base and international airport; 18 in Myitkyina in Kachin State in the north; and 6 in Meiktila in

Mandalay Division in Central Myanmar. Others are to be recovered in a second phase. The Myanmar government will get one plane for display at a museum, as well as half of the remaining total. DJC, a private company headed by Cundall, will get 30% of the total and the Myanmar partner company, Shwe Taung Paw, 20%."

[Myanmar Spitfires to flood vintage market - The Express \(India\)](#)

[Spitfires to be dug up in Burma - The Irrawaddy](#)

[Fresh-out-of-the-box Spitfires take final journey back to Blighty - The Times](#)

[Castle Bromwich-made Spitfires heading home from Burma - Birmingham Mail](#)

[British aircraft enthusiast wins right to dig up Spitfires in Burma - Telegraph](#)

[Dozens of Spitfires to be excavated in Burma - Guardian](#)

[British farmer's quest to find lost Spitfires in Burma - Telegraph](#)



[Achtung! Spitfires! or David Cameron's Burmese daze](#)

[Heritage Daily - 12 May 2012](#)

A comprehensive and balanced account by Andy Brockman of events to date. All the references to investors also makes clear that the objective of the operation is purely commercial as Mr Brooks says..."It is a massive project, and it is between two nations that haven't traded for 50 years. We think it is an opportunity that just can't be passed off: to bring these machines back to England and get them flying again. We train pilots to fly Spitfires, we train engineers to build them, so yes, we would love to. We will keep this project on the road." While Mr Cundall has his own plans for the exploitation of the "find" which include a commercial deal with the Burmese and an agent in country on 20% commission.

Derek Tonkin writes: Rumours, originally from US military engineers, about the existence of these [Mark XIV aircraft](#), at locations near Yangon and upcountry and variously estimated at between 20 and 140 in number, have been rife for years. Indeed, other enthusiasts claim to have signed deals with senior figures in past military administrations to trace and excavate these aircraft. Nothing I have seen so far, however, has convinced me that these aircraft actually exist. I would be delighted to be proved wrong. The current story first broke in April this year. Here are further references:

[Cameron's claim on Spitfire trove ignites a battle](#)

[The Independent - 28 April 2012](#)

A very British row has broken out in Burma over plans to recover 20 buried Second World War Spitfires. David Cundall, a farmer from Lincolnshire, says he was pressured into giving up his claim on the 67-year-old fighters by a millionaire property developer who was part of David Cameron's business delegation to Burma two weeks ago. Mr Cundall says he has spent 15 years working to find the aircraft, but was surprised when the Prime Minister announced during the visit that the Government intended to repatriate them. [Read more.....](#)

The Wayback Machine does not have this video archived.



[Spitfire fighter planes to be dug up in Myanmar - Associated Press](#)
[Myanmar find could flood vintage Spitfire market - Associated Press](#)
[It's Spitfires at dawn in Burma - The Telegraph](#)

[Spitfires buried in Burma to be returned to Britain - The Telegraph](#)
[Spitfire exports to Burma 1948 -1954 - Spitfires Flyer](#)
[History of the Burmese Air Force - Wikipedia](#)

[Race is on to find buried 'treasures' - Spitfires worth £6 million](#)

[Yorkshire Post - 9 May 2001](#)

A 2001 report on the hunt for 12 crated Spitfires. Mr Cundall – who describes his hobby as “digging up crashed aircraft” – is working with Dr Roger Clark, the head of earth sciences at Leeds University to analyse data from a ground penetrating radar which has been used to survey the 10-acre site. The radar has shown up “boxed shape images” which Mr Cundall believes are the outlines of the containers.

He added: “The story I originally heard was that in August 1945 a group from a construction battalion were passing through Rangoon on the way to Singapore and they were asked to bury 12 planes – they actually questioned the order as it was so unusual.

“When I heard this many years ago Burma was a closed country. I advertised extensively and come up with seven eyewitnesses and 20 who know about the burials.

Instructional Video: Uncrating and Field Assembly of the P-47 Thunderbolt - 1944

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