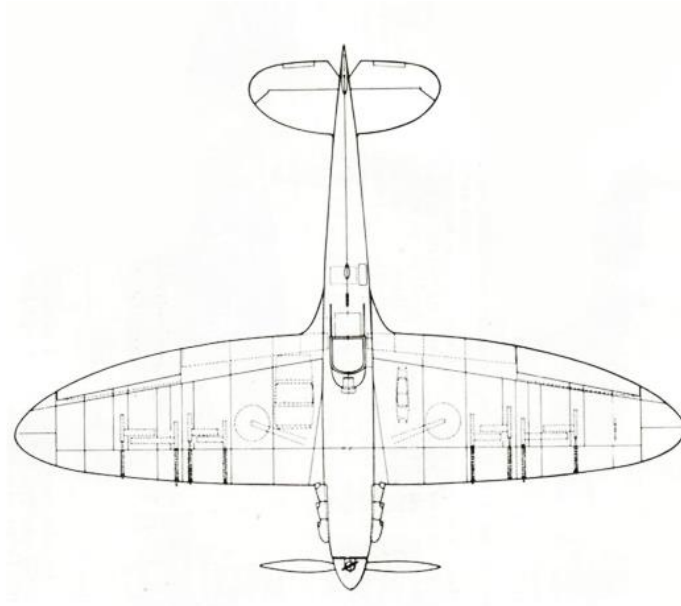


Buried in Burma

The Truth Lies Just Beneath the Surface



Wargaming presents a Room608 production a film by Mark Mannucci
Music by Dana Kaproff Edited by Lars Woodruffe Tom Patterson Leah Kayaleh
produced by Anna Bowers Mark Mannucci Jonathan Halperin
Director of Photography Adam Docker Directed by Mark Mannucci

Buried in Burma

Press Pack

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High resolution photos available [here](#).

High resolution poster available [here](#).

Logline

Buried in Burma is the story of Lincolnshire farmer David Cundall's quixotic quest to dig up a squadron of Spitfire aircraft he believes were buried at RAF Mingaladon at the end of WWII.

Synopsis (Short)

In 2012, a video game company and a British farmer join forces on an expedition to recover a cache of Spitfire aircraft reportedly buried in Burma at the end of WWII. The British press declares the search to be 'aviation's holy grail' and vows to be there for the recovery. If the expedition is successful, it will mean accolades for the company and glory for the farmer, who has spent a quarter of his life chasing the planes. But as the true color of David's obsession emerges, it's clear that this will be no simple recovery mission. Instead, the expedition descends into a dark comedy that holds up a mirror to the ways in which we all deceive ourselves.



David Cundall on his farm in Lincolnshire



A Spitfire fighter at Duxford Airfield, UK



Myanmar, where our story unfolds

Synopsis (Long)

In May 2012, an international videogame company invests in one man's dream: an expedition to unearth a lost squadron of Spitfires buried in what was then Burma at the end of World War II. He believes that the planes are buried in their original shipping crates some thirty feet under the surface of Yangon International Airport, where they await discovery. If he's correct, the find will be extraordinary, both in terms of historical and monetary value.

This dream belongs to David Cundall, a potato farmer from Lincolnshire and an amateur aviation enthusiast. The search for the Burma Spitfires began as hobby for Cundall, but it quickly became an obsession – he's spent almost a quarter of his life chasing the planes. Since 1996, he's made over a dozen trips to Burma to try and recover them, only to have his attempts frustrated by sanctions, dwindling finances, and a fickle military junta. But when a new democratic government is elected in the spring of 2012, Cundall gets his big chance.



David Cundall at his Lincolnshire Farm

Word of the buried Spitfires reaches Prime Minister David Cameron, and during his first official state visit to Myanmar, he shakes hands on a deal with the Myanmar President to recover the planes. The British press jumps on the story and turns Cundall's dream into front-page news. The headlines spark the interest of Tracy Spaight, a young executive charged by his company to scout for outside-the-box marketing ideas. Spaight is fascinated. He tracks down Cundall and offers to sponsor the dig. They sign a contract in May 2012 and head to Myanmar.



Tracy Spaight, Director of Special Projects at video game company Wargaming

It's an odd marriage, but a seemingly perfect fit. Cundall is a man determined to make his mark on history, and Wargaming is a videogame company that prides itself on the historical accuracy of its WWII era games. Together, they'll restore the planes, donate them to museums, and make a documentary film about their recovery. The final scene will feature the squadron of newly refurbished Burma Spitfires flying triumphantly over the skies of London.

But neither the film, nor the expedition, would end that way.

Shortly after Cundall and Wargaming come together as partners, the story of the Spitfires, accepted as fact by 10 Downing Street, the Myanmar government, and the world media, begins to unravel.

Cundall has stacks of official documents, eyewitness letters, and geophysical data that pinpoint the location of the planes. He's charming, knowledgeable, and above all, utterly certain. He's got what looks like iron-clad proof, but upon deeper scrutiny, his evidence doesn't stack up.

Andy Brockman, an archaeologist who's been following the story, questions Cundall's facts. Brockman reveals that there were no orders to bury the planes, and no record of this shipment of Spitfires ever having arrived in Burma. He suspects that the Burma Spitfires are more likely to be mythical creatures than buried airplanes.



Cundall brushes aside Brockman's findings. In fact, the more evidence to the contrary, the stronger his belief. And there are two pieces of evidence that are very hard to dismiss: a living eyewitness, and a young geophysicist who has detected metal objects thirty feet deep at the alleged burial site.

Still, doubts about Cundall's character begin to emerge – has he manipulated the “evidence”? Has he made false claims? What drives him to pursue his quest so single-mindedly?

Spaight begins to realize that Cundall's faith in his Spitfires is unshakable, perhaps quixotic. And yet, he's captivated by the Spitfire story – how did it start? How did it survive all these years? Why do so many people believe it? Though a historian by training, Spaight can't help but get caught up in the Spitfire fever that has gripped the world's media.

Whether or not the Spitfires exist, one thing becomes clear: what began as a simple recovery mission has become a search for the truth. The truth about the planes, a man, and a legend.

Despite his doubts, Spaight decides to go ahead with the expedition, in part because he believes it will make for a good media story, whatever they find. He engages Brockman, who puts together a team of archaeologists, and enlists Stanley Coombe and Adam Booth, the eyewitness and the geophysicist, to help search for the planes. Brockman and Spaight craft a cautious message for the press – they say they're going to Myanmar to uncover the truth about the story of buried Spitfires. But Cundall's grandiose vision is no match for rationality. The press can't wait to see the first Spitfire pop out of the ground – they feed on Cundall's enthusiasm and print his every word. With a defiant and unabashed Cundall they all set off for Myanmar to solve the mystery.



It's an expedition with as many agendas as there are players. Everyone has something to gain – and even more to lose. And with the world's press watching, they're acutely aware of the stakes, most of all Cundall who has waited 16 years to be proven right. Everyone wants to dig up the truth about the Burma Spitfires, but what they unearth proves to be very different than what anyone expected.



Film Crew Bios

Mark Mannucci, Director



Mannucci created *Curious*, (2008 Gold Hugo, Cine Golden Eagle) the stories of 10 scientists whose work yielded breakthroughs in the fields of cancer therapy, neuroscience, and alternative energy. At WNET, Mannucci was co-creator of *Egg* the arts show, which earned the 2002 Peabody Award, four 2002 national Emmy nominations, five New York Emmy Awards, 19 Cine Golden Eagles, a Special International Prize from the City of Montreux, and a place on the *Los Angeles Times*' Best of Television.

He created and produced the documentary series *City Life*, which received a 2000 Peabody Award, as well as 9 New York Emmys and 2 CINE Golden Eagles. For six years, he also produced the PBS Tony Awards, whose format, a hybrid doc/awards show, he co-created. For PBS' *Great Performances*, Mannucci produced and directed *Bill Irwin Clown Prince* (2005 Gold Hugo), about the work of actor, director, writer and clown, Bill Irwin. Other work includes episodes for *The Music in Me*, a documentary series for HBO about kids who've made music a central part of their lives (Peabody Award); *Johnny and the Sprites*, a puppet-based musical comedy for kids, created by Avenue Q's John Tartaglia for the Disney Channel; and thirty-five episodes of the PBS series *Reading Rainbow*, for which he received two Emmy's for outstanding directing.

Jonathan Halperin, Producer



Jonathan is an Emmy-award winning documentary producer, writer and (former) television executive. Jonathan has produced, directed and written films and shows for PBS, NBC, the National Geographic Channel and Tech TV. Most recently, Jonathan was at National Geographic Television where he was the senior executive producer of event programming and the executive producer of *Explorer*, the premier documentary strand on NGC. His favorite movie is *Chinatown*, but he wished he had directed *The Thin Blue Line*.

Anna Bowers, Producer



Anna Bowers has produced films and television series for National Geographic, PBS, and Netflix. She was producer for two episodes of *Somebody Feed Phil* (2018), *Faces of Death* on National Geographic *Explorer* (2016), and the PBS documentary *The Day the 60's Died*, about the Kent State massacre (2015). She was line producer on the PBS documentary *A Year in Space*, which followed astronaut Scott Kelly's 12-month mission on the International Space Station (2015). Anna was the coordinating producer on *Secret Lives of the Apostles*, a television series documentary for National Geographic (2012) and coordinating producer on two episodes of National Geographic *Explorer*, *To Catch a Smuggler* (2011) and *How to Build a Beating Heart* (2011). She was associate producer on the PBS documentary movie *The Buddha* (2010).

Adam Docker, Director of Photography



Adam Docker has filmed in every imaginable environment in more than 85 countries. London-based Adam captures stirring, expressive, dramatic images to make creative visions come to life for commercials, brand films, documentaries and music videos.

As well as being a passionate cinematographer, Adam has produced and directed award-winning documentaries, earning him Kinsale Shark Awards for Best Cinematography, Best Short and Best Sound Design for "What's Wrong with Raymond?". He brings this wider perspective to every project, helping him stay inspired about new techniques, fresh approaches and cinematic trends.

If he's not filming, Adam's rarely found without a stills camera to hand whether it's digital or film. He has a UK drone licence, is fluent in Italian (with a smattering of Spanish and Portuguese) and he's never quite got over the excitement of having had his stomach tickled by the Dalai Lama.

Dana Kaproff, Original Music



Dana is an award-winning film composer, songwriter, and lecturer. He has scored close to 100 theatrical, cable, and television movies, as well as multiple series, mini-series, and documentaries. His credits include assignments for CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, HBO, Showtime, Paramount, Universal, and PBS, to name a few. He has also worked in advertising, creating music and sound design for Apple, Forex, Kraft, Kyocera, and BMW.

Kaproff's most recent film credits include the feature documentaries "Gringo: The Dangerous Life of John McAfee" for director Nanette Burstein, and "Gregory Crewdson: Brief Encounters" for director Ben Shapiro. He also wrote, directed, produced, and scored "A Child's Fate", which can be viewed on the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations official website.

From his early work with Toto band members to his recent iTunes collaboration with World Music artist Somi, Kaproff has maintained an active role in the recording industry. His song "Passo A Passo", featuring Brazilian songstress Bianca Rossini, has been streamed over a million times. Other album credits demonstrate his diversity, ranging from rocker Pat Benatar, to adult contemporary icon Dame Shirley Bassey, to jazz trumpeter Blue Mitchell.

Credits

Director: Mark Mannucci

Executive Producers: Gavin Longhurst, Tracy Spaight

Producers: Jon Halperin, Anna Bowers

Director of Photography: Adam Docker

Original Music: Dana Kaproff

Editors: Lars Woodruffe, Tom Patterson, Leah Kayaleh

Associate producers: Ivan Bess, Luke Kellner, Matt Daly, Meghan Horvath

Associate Editor: Charles Farrell

Sound design: Richard Fairbanks

Sound recordists: Brian Albritton, Simon Burles, Anthony Jeffs, Nikki French

Digital Imaging Technicians: Paul Angell, Ethan Johnson, Tom Goudsmit, Tom O'Keefe, Nathan Carr.

Production Coordinator: Tracy McDonough

Additional Cinematography: Andreas Nibelung, Ian Kerr, Liam Adams, Rob Goldie, Ethan Johnson, Charles Farrel, Anna Bowers, Mark Mannucci

Burmese Translators: Shwe Zin OO, Emma Yun

Burmese Fixer: Shwe Win

Animation Director: John Vondracek

Animation Designer: Noelle Raffaele

Animation Producer: Peter Barg

Online Editor After Effects: Charles Farrell

Colorist: Begonia Colomar

Sound designer / Mixer: Richard Fairbanks

Sound Effects Editor: Andrea Bella, Rob Daly

Foley Artist: Brian Vancho

Special Thanks: Fergus Eckersly, Mark Bauman, Daphne Short, Hollybush Pub, Shwe Taung Por, Keith Win, Alan Burdick, Brad Hornbake, Stephanie Bakal, JCB, Martin Smith, and Sebastian Cox.

Links to Social Media

Official Website: www.buriedinburma.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/buried.burma>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BuriedBurma>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/buriedinburma/>

Link to Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/362285502>

Technical Information

Completion Date: May 2019

Duration: 1 hour 33 mins 0 secs

Country of Origin: UK

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Sound: Stereo

Colour

Language: English, Burmese

Screening Format: DCP