

## June 2007

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Delegate from Sweden

**Milano-France-Holland-Denmark-Stockholm-Lulea-Norway-Kings Bay**  
**10 June - 18 June 1928**

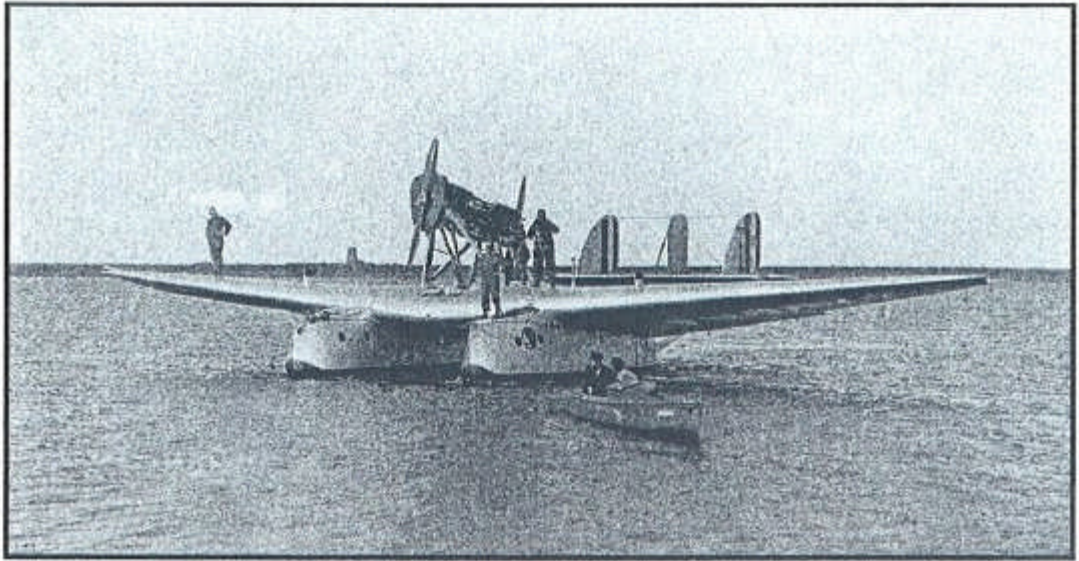


On 25 May 1928 the well-known Zeppelin Italia crashed in the pack-ice northeast of Svalbard. The rescue actions which took place after the crash were among the largest at the time – 23 aeroplanes and flying boats, 16 ships and a number of dog-sledges and ski patrols from 8 different countries took part in the search for survivors from the Zeppelin Italia. In total some 1.400 persons were involved in the search.

Some of the Italian aeroplanes that took part in the search also carried mail from Italy to the crew of the Zeppelin Italia or to the crew of the support ship Citta di Milano, which was laying at Kings Bay. Two of the Italian aeroplanes, which carried mail, made transit stops in Sweden on their route to Kings Bay.

One of the planes, Savoia 55, was flown by the Italian Major Umberto Maddalena with the crew; Lieutenant Stefano Cagna, Radio Operator Amerigo Albelli and Mechanic Rampini. The start took place in Milano and the plane landed at Copenhagen on 12 June 1928. After night stopover at Copenhagen the plane landed at Stockholm on 13 June 1928 at 12.20 am. Major Maddalena continued at 7.45 pm from Stockholm to Luleå for overnight stop and petrol refill.

The letter shown was carried with Umberto Maddalena from Italy, via Stockholm and Luleå, to Kings Bay, where the letter was arrival-stamped on the ship Citta di Milano with the handstamp "R.N.C. Di Milano, Sped. Artica 1928, 18.6.28" and with several stamps on the reverse. The letter also bears the special handstamp "Spedizione Aerea Di Soccorso, Sesto Calende – Kings Bay". A few letters were carried on the flight.



The photo shows the flying boat Savoia 55 which Major Umberto Maddalena used on the flight from Italy to Kings Bay, via Stockholm and Lulea in June 1928. A limited number of letters were carried on the flight.