

The second polar expedition on the airship "**Italy**" to the North pole.

In 1926 **Umberto Nobile** on the airship "**Norway**" under the command of **Roald Engelbregt Gravning Amundsen** participated in a successful expedition to the North Pole. Nobile was the designer of the airship, so along with **Amundsen** he was deservedly considered one of the heroes of the entire expedition.

After the end of the expedition by "**Norway**", **Nobile** began to plan for a new flight to the North Pole on the airship. A dirigible "Italy" was built, the design of which in general terms repeated "Norway". In addition to Nobile, the crew of the airship included fifteen Italians, the Czech physicist **Behounek** and the Swedish meteorologist **Malmgren**

Before the beginning of the expedition, **Nobile** and his companions were received by the **Pope Pius XI** at the Vatican. On April 5, 1928, the expedition departed from Milan and arrived to Spitsbergen on May 8. It was delayed due to minor breakdowns. Due to bad weather conditions, **Nobile** had to return twice to the base, and at midnight from 23 to 24 May the airship with sixteen passengers (two other members of the expedition did not participate in this flight) reached the Pole.

The return journey also took place in severe weather conditions with a strong headwind. The airship got iced up and at some point began to drop sharply and fell to the ice. The catastrophe occurred on May 25. First, a motor gondola hit the ice, and the motorist who was in it died, then nine aeronauts, including **Nobile**, were thrown out of the broken control room.

The six people who stayed in the airship were blown away in an unknown direction. Their destiny is unknown. In the accident, Nobile broke his wrist and lower leg. The crew managed to save part of the supplies and equipment, including food, radio transmitter and tent. The tent was then painted red ("**Red Tent**") to facilitate the search from the air.

The Italian radio operator **Biaggi** at first could not establish a connection with the "**Citta di Milano**", and later his signals, although received, were not identified and were simply ignored.

June 3, **Nikolai Schmidt**, a radio amateur from the North-Dvinskaya province (he lived in the village of Vokhma, Kostroma region), managed to hear signals of the **Biaggi** radio station and informed Moscow by telegram. Immediately, the "**Italy**" Crew Assistance Committee was created, which was headed by **Joseph Unshlicht**, and on June 4 the information that Umberto Nobile and part of his team are alive was handed over to the Italian government. This facilitated the establishment of the radio link on the 8th of June between the "**Citta di Milano**" and the radio operator of "**Italy**", who gave the exact coordinates of the camp. A few days after the fall the camp was abandoned by a group of three people who decided to get to Svalbard on foot. Two of them were saved as a result, the third, **Malmgren**, perished along the way.

In order to save Nobile, rescue expeditions were organized in Italy, Norway, the Soviet Union and other countries. **Amundsen** on an airplane with a French crew flew from the Norwegian city of Tromsø on June 18. The last communication with **Amundsen** took place two hours forty-five minutes after his departure, then his plane crashed somewhere in the Barents Sea. On June 23, the pilot of the Swedish Air Force, **Einar Lundborg**, landed on the ice floe where the camp was located. There was only one passenger seat on the plane.

Nobile insisted that the mechanic **Chechona** whose leg was broken had to be evacuated first, but **Lundborg** refused to take on board anybody but Nobile. Presumably, he had to follow the orders of his superiors. Nobile took his dog and left the ice floe on the airplane and the next day was taken to the Italian ship "**Citta di Milano**" to command the rescue operation to save the remaining participants of his expedition. All the other surviving members of the crew of "Italy" were rescued by the Soviet icebreaker "**Krasin**" on July 12, 1928.

90 years of the Nobile Expedition to the North pole ***"NOBILE-90"***

In connection with the 90th anniversary of reaching the North Pole by the Umberto Nobile's expedition on the airship and the rescue of the expedition team after the crash of the airship by the Krasin icebreaker, the "Arktika" radio club, together with the "INORC" radio club Italy introduce award Nobile-90, a plaque Nobile-90 ("Club "Arktika"), awards "Dirigibile ITALIA", "Umberto Nobile" (Club "INORC").

To get the awards, one needs to score **90** points for radio communications with the icebreaker's Krasin callsign **R1LK**, with memorial callsign **IROUN** (Umberto Nobile), **IROIT** (Dirigibile ITALIA), members of the radio club "Arktika", radio stations from the Arctic regions of Russia, amateur radio club "INORC" (Italy) and radio stations of the Kostroma region (radio amateur Nikolai Shmidt lived in Vokhma, Kostroma region).

The time of the awards program:

from 00-00 utc on April 5, 2018 to 23-59 utc on December 31, 2018.

Operating schedule of the memorial Callsigns IROIT, IROUN:

from 00-00 utc on April 5, 2018 to 23-59 utc on July 12, 2018.

For radio communications with the memorial callsigns **IROUN**, **IROIT**, radio station of icebreaker "Krasin" **R1LK** and radio station from Kostroma **RX3N**, **RX3N/P** (radio station "Nikolay Schmidt") are worth **10** points each. For radio communications with members of the "Arktika" radio club, Russian polar radio stations, radio amateurs of the "INORC" club and radio amateurs of the Kostroma region, **6** points are awarded.

At least one QSO with the anniversary callsign *IROUN, IROIT, R1LK* or with **5** QSO with different members of the club "Arktika" is mandatory. For QSO with *RX3N and RX3N/P*, applicants additionally will be awarded "**NOBILE-90**" with commemorative stamps: "*RX3N - SCHMIDT*", "*RX3N/P - SCHMIDT - VOKHMA*". Repeated QSO are allowed on different HF-VHF bands, on different types of modulation, DIGI (once regardless of any kind and speed).

For applicants from Asia, Oceania, North and South America, Africa, in ITU zones 22-26, 32-35 gained points are multiplied by **2**.

Operating time for TOP-10:

from 00-00utc on April 5, 2018 to 23-59utc on July 12, 2018.

To receive diplomas, activists members of the "Arktika" club, Russian Polar radio stations, members of the "INORC" club, operators from the Kostroma Region and the operators of the anniversary calls *IROUN, IROIT, R1LK, RX3N*, it is necessary to conduct 300 radio communications and download on hamlog.ru

To get a plaque, applicants need to score **90** points, activators need to conduct **180** radio communications and download links in the adif format to the site hamlog.ru

Order a plaque - send a request to the address: rw3dd@mail.ru

Observers send applications to the address: ra9dz@mail.ru

Diplomas are available for download at <http://nobile90.hamlogs.net/>

The list of radio stations of the diploma program NOBILE-90 is under the link <https://www.rcarktika.net/дипломная-программа/nobile90-list/>