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# Italian adventurer crosses Great Sand Sea

SIWA, Egypt, Jan. 27

(UPI) -- An Italian adventurer Friday completed his trek across the Great Sand Sea of the western Sahara -- a 344-mile odyssey.

Stefano Miglietti, 38, began his journey Jan. 20, following the same route taken by Persian King Cambyses, who perished in 532 B.C. along with 50,000 troops in a sand storm.

Miglietti trained for the effort by running through the hills near his village, pulling a tractor tire, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Miglietti, a former skier and mountaineer, called his wife shortly after arriving at Siwa, Egypt.

"He said he had stomach cramps and terrible blisters but otherwise he sounded fine. I knew he'd get there," she said.

In 2003, Miglietti became the first man to cross the Murzuq desert in Libya and set a record in 2005 for crossing the Yukon Arctic Ultra.

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