

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,480

Amelia Earhart is on one of the final legs of her historic flight around the world when

2

00:00:10,480 --> 00:00:15,820

something goes terribly wrong.

3

00:00:15,820 --> 00:00:23,720

She is never seen again.

4

00:00:23,720 --> 00:00:29,640

Today more than 75 years after her disappearance, new leads send me across the world in search

5

00:00:29,640 --> 00:00:30,640

of answers.

6

00:00:30,640 --> 00:00:33,960

If you want to get more information, head down to Roball.

7

00:00:33,960 --> 00:00:34,960

Get to Roball.

8

00:00:34,960 --> 00:00:35,960

Yeah.

9

00:00:35,960 --> 00:00:36,960

First plate.

10

00:00:36,960 --> 00:00:37,960

Holy s***.

11

00:00:37,960 --> 00:00:44,040

We heard that your tribe has found wreckage in the jungles.

12

00:00:44,040 --> 00:00:45,560

Look at this, Rob, come here.

13

00:00:45,560 --> 00:00:50,800

September 1940, this is a man named Gerald Gallagher found a partial skeleton.

14

00:00:50,800 --> 00:00:52,280

This might be Amelia Earhart.

15

00:00:52,280 --> 00:00:55,960

Did they go through the underside of this house with a fine tooth comb?

16

00:00:55,960 --> 00:00:56,960

No.

17

00:00:56,960 --> 00:00:58,200

No further investigation.

18

00:00:58,200 --> 00:01:00,520

We've heard reports of some aircraft wreckage.

19

00:01:00,520 --> 00:01:02,080

They think it may be Earhart's plane.

20

00:01:02,080 --> 00:01:05,280

And the only way to know is to go out and see what we can find.

21

00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:06,880

Oh, Rod, I got a plane.

22

00:01:06,880 --> 00:01:08,680

Rod, I got a plane for sure.

23

00:01:08,680 --> 00:01:09,680

Come here.

24

00:01:09,680 --> 00:01:10,680

Look at that.

25

00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:11,680

That's a f***ing plane.

26

00:01:11,680 --> 00:01:14,680

It all leads to a series of amazing discoveries.

27

00:01:14,680 --> 00:01:19,680

It's an airplane engine?

28

00:01:19,680 --> 00:01:20,680

Yeah.

29

00:01:20,680 --> 00:01:21,680

Oh, definitely an airplane engine.

30

00:01:21,680 --> 00:01:22,680

Unbelievable.

31

00:01:22,680 --> 00:01:23,680

Definitely an airplane.

32

00:01:23,680 --> 00:01:24,680

Look at that.

33

00:01:24,680 --> 00:01:34,080

This does not look like coral to me.

34

00:01:34,080 --> 00:01:40,240

I got a bone down here.

35

00:01:40,240 --> 00:01:48,040

My name is Josh Gates with a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration.

36

00:01:48,040 --> 00:01:51,160

I have a tendency to end up in some very strange situations.

37

00:01:51,160 --> 00:01:54,520

There has got to be a better way to make a living.

38

00:01:55,360 --> 00:01:59,720

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth as I investigate the greatest legends

39

00:01:59,720 --> 00:02:00,720

in history.

40

00:02:00,720 --> 00:02:01,720

We're going to try.

41

00:02:01,720 --> 00:02:02,720

Let's go.

42

00:02:02,720 --> 00:02:12,760

This is Expedition Unknown.

43

00:02:12,760 --> 00:02:16,560

Every year, thousands of people go missing, never to be seen again.

44

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:22,240

But there is one cold case that looms above all the rest, Amelia Earhart.

45

00:02:22,240 --> 00:02:25,040

Just the name evokes a sense of wonder.

46

00:02:25,040 --> 00:02:30,920

Her disappearance during her attempt to circumnavigate the globe in 1937 is perhaps the most iconic,

47

00:02:30,920 --> 00:02:33,080

unsolved mystery in the world.

48

00:02:33,080 --> 00:02:37,960

Now, with breakthroughs in technology and the discovery of new evidence, we may be close

49

00:02:37,960 --> 00:02:42,640

to solving the puzzle once and for all.

50

00:02:42,640 --> 00:02:43,640

1937.

51

00:02:43,640 --> 00:02:48,880

Amelia Earhart is arguably the most famous woman in America, a pioneer in the field of

52

00:02:48,880 --> 00:02:52,760

aviation and a living legend.

53

00:02:52,760 --> 00:02:57,800

On July 2, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan are set to make history as they begin

54

00:02:57,800 --> 00:03:01,520

one of the last legs of their daring transworld flight.

55

00:03:01,520 --> 00:03:06,040

They take off from an airfield in Le Papua New Guinea, bound for remote Howland Island

56

00:03:06,040 --> 00:03:07,600

in the Pacific.

57

00:03:07,600 --> 00:03:17,760

Along the way, Earhart, her navigator and the famed Lockheed Electra vanish.

58

00:03:17,760 --> 00:03:22,960

In the last 75 years, there have been countless dead ends, false leads and wild conspiracy

59

00:03:22,960 --> 00:03:23,960

theories.

60

00:03:23,960 --> 00:03:24,960

But no answers.

61

00:03:24,960 --> 00:03:29,960

Well, all that may be about to change, because recent developments in two different parts

62

00:03:29,960 --> 00:03:34,040

of the world may finally crack the case.

63

00:03:34,040 --> 00:03:35,040

Theory 1.

64

00:03:35,040 --> 00:03:39,840

A team of experts recently identified a piece of aluminum debris on the Pacific Atoll of

65

00:03:39,840 --> 00:03:45,160

Nicar Mararo just south of Howland, which they believe may be a part of Earhart's

66

00:03:45,160 --> 00:03:46,160

Electra.

67

00:03:46,240 --> 00:03:51,600

Bones were also discovered on this same deserted island in 1940, only to be shipped to Fiji

68

00:03:51,600 --> 00:03:54,840

and lost.

69

00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:57,440

Could these be the bones of Amelia Earhart?

70

00:03:57,440 --> 00:04:03,360

A new search is currently underway in Fiji to locate the remains and identify them.

71

00:04:03,360 --> 00:04:04,360

Theory 2.

72

00:04:04,360 --> 00:04:08,580

Earhart circled back toward Papua New Guinea and crashed on or around the island nation

73

00:04:08,580 --> 00:04:10,080

she took off from.

74

00:04:10,080 --> 00:04:13,760

It's a long-standing hypothesis that's never been fully explored.

75

00:04:13,760 --> 00:04:18,120

But now, one local tribe claims to have found wreckage deep in the jungle, and there are

76

00:04:18,120 --> 00:04:21,800

new reports that there's also an underwater wreck just offshore.

77

00:04:21,800 --> 00:04:24,920

Either could be Amelia's plane.

78

00:04:24,920 --> 00:04:29,480

I have been fascinated with Amelia Earhart for my entire life, and I am eager to know

79

00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:34,240

if these new leads may bring us closer to the truth or whether the world is looking in

80

00:04:34,240 --> 00:04:35,800

the wrong place.

81

00:04:35,800 --> 00:04:38,320

The only way to find out is to join the search.

82

00:04:44,760 --> 00:04:48,960

There is new evidence that Amelia Earhart's plane may have crashed in the nation she last

83

00:04:48,960 --> 00:04:51,880

took off from, so I'm here to investigate.

84

00:04:54,600 --> 00:04:58,840

Wheels down Papua New Guinea, or PNG as the locals call it.

85

00:05:02,240 --> 00:05:07,000

Inside the terminal, the local baggage claim is less of a belt and more of a deli counter.

86

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:08,000

Order up!

87

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:11,000

This is an interesting system, but it works.

88

00:05:11,240 --> 00:05:13,240

I got my umbrella made in.

89

00:05:13,240 --> 00:05:14,240

Oh, sorry.

90

00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:15,240

One of the odds.

91

00:05:15,240 --> 00:05:16,240

Two guys with the same umbrella.

92

00:05:16,240 --> 00:05:17,240

Mine must still be coming.

93

00:05:17,240 --> 00:05:26,120

While I wait, it's clear that some of my other equipment may not have made it here either.

94

00:05:26,120 --> 00:05:32,120

I'm missing 799 and 872.

95

00:05:32,120 --> 00:05:33,800

This is not warm in here.

96

00:05:33,800 --> 00:05:35,520

That would really make this frustrating.

97

00:05:35,520 --> 00:05:38,440

Perhaps the customer service reps know where my bag is.

98

00:05:38,440 --> 00:05:40,440

Looking good.

99

00:05:41,400 --> 00:05:42,880

Perhaps not.

100

00:05:42,880 --> 00:05:47,360

Eventually, I'm resigned to never seeing my extra underwear, sensible evening shoes,

101

00:05:47,360 --> 00:05:49,360

and whatever else was in K799.

102

00:05:49,360 --> 00:05:53,960

Well, time to hit the streets.

103

00:05:53,960 --> 00:05:57,880

There are international capitals in the world with worse reputations, but not many.

104

00:05:57,880 --> 00:06:02,880

This is Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea, also the largest city in the South

105

00:06:02,880 --> 00:06:03,880

Pacific.

106

00:06:03,880 --> 00:06:05,120

That's kind of a rough reputation.

107

00:06:05,120 --> 00:06:09,960

It can be a little dangerous, a little gritty, but if you can look past its imperfections,

108

00:06:10,480 --> 00:06:13,760

it's actually a pretty cool spot.

109

00:06:13,760 --> 00:06:17,480

I like to think of Port Moresby as the most isly spaceport from Star Wars.

110

00:06:17,480 --> 00:06:20,040

On one hand, the Cantina Bar has a good happy hour.

111

00:06:20,040 --> 00:06:23,840

On the other hand, Han Solo might shoot you in the face.

112

00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:27,560

In other words, it pays to watch your back, which is exactly what these guys are here

113

00:06:27,560 --> 00:06:28,560

to do.

114

00:06:28,560 --> 00:06:29,560

Hey, Josh.

115

00:06:29,560 --> 00:06:30,560

How are you, Dean?

116

00:06:30,560 --> 00:06:31,560

I am.

117

00:06:31,560 --> 00:06:32,560

Nice to meet you.

118

00:06:32,560 --> 00:06:33,560

Good to meet you.

119

00:06:33,560 --> 00:06:34,560

Yeah, good to meet you.

120

00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:35,560

Hey, Jack.

121

00:06:35,560 --> 00:06:36,560

Hey, Jack, how are you?

122

00:06:36,560 --> 00:06:37,560

Nice to meet you.

123

00:06:37,560 --> 00:06:38,560

How do you think of yourself?

124

00:06:38,560 --> 00:06:39,560

I'm good.

125

00:06:40,160 --> 00:06:42,160

Looking safe and secure?

126

00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:43,560

The second B&G can be.

127

00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:44,560

Yeah, how safe is that?

128

00:06:44,560 --> 00:06:45,560

This is our insurance policy case.

129

00:06:45,560 --> 00:06:46,560

Something goes wrong.

130

00:06:46,560 --> 00:06:48,560

In case it's not safe.

131

00:06:48,560 --> 00:06:49,560

Great.

132

00:06:49,560 --> 00:06:50,560

Perfect.

133

00:06:50,560 --> 00:06:52,560

So why the muscle?

134

00:06:52,560 --> 00:06:56,560

Well, with rampant political corruption and gang-controlled neighborhoods, the capital

135

00:06:56,560 --> 00:06:58,560

can get a little interesting.

136

00:06:58,560 --> 00:07:03,060

But I like interesting, and Port Moresby is the gateway to one of the wildest nations

137

00:07:03,060 --> 00:07:04,060

on Earth.

138

00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:10,560

It's made up of a thousand different ethnic tribes speaking more than 800 languages.

139

00:07:10,560 --> 00:07:12,760

Even the National Parliament House is diverse.

140

00:07:12,760 --> 00:07:17,560

A modern government building fused with an ancient tribal spirit house.

141

00:07:17,560 --> 00:07:21,060

The people here, generally speaking, are fiercely independent.

142

00:07:21,060 --> 00:07:25,360

Locals are more apt to identify with their clan than with their fellow countrymen.

143

00:07:25,360 --> 00:07:31,060

Case in point, the Asaro Mudmen.

144

00:07:31,060 --> 00:07:35,060

Legend has it that this tribe was once on the cusp of defeat in battle and retreated

145

00:07:35,060 --> 00:07:36,560

into the nearby river.

146

00:07:36,560 --> 00:07:41,760

When they emerged, caked in dried, white mud, their enemies believed they were evil spirits

147

00:07:41,760 --> 00:07:43,060

and fled in terror.

148

00:07:43,060 --> 00:07:44,560

I can't say I blame them.

149

00:07:49,060 --> 00:07:50,060

Hi.

150

00:07:53,060 --> 00:07:54,560

Not very talkative.

151

00:07:55,560 --> 00:07:57,060

It's heavy.

152

00:07:57,060 --> 00:07:59,060

Those are real teeth?

153

00:07:59,060 --> 00:08:02,060

I'm not going to ask where those came from.

154

00:08:02,060 --> 00:08:06,560

Today, thousands of years later, they still pay homage to that legendary battle.

155

00:08:06,560 --> 00:08:09,060

And the tradition continues with me.

156

00:08:09,060 --> 00:08:10,060

It's okay?

157

00:08:10,060 --> 00:08:11,060

Yeah?

158

00:08:11,060 --> 00:08:12,060

Yeah.

159

00:08:12,060 --> 00:08:14,060

What do you think?

160

00:08:14,060 --> 00:08:16,060

Ha ha ha.

161

00:08:16,560 --> 00:08:18,560

What do you think?

162

00:08:25,560 --> 00:08:27,560

I think I'm an honorary mud man now.

163

00:08:28,560 --> 00:08:33,560

This fast-melting pot of Papua New Guinea played center stage as one of the last stops

164

00:08:33,560 --> 00:08:35,560

on Earhart's round-the-world flight.

165

00:08:35,560 --> 00:08:37,560

But I'm not just here for nostalgia purposes.

166

00:08:37,560 --> 00:08:41,560

There are those who believe that Earhart didn't just take off from PNG,

167

00:08:41,560 --> 00:08:43,560

but that she may have circled back here.

168

00:08:44,060 --> 00:08:49,060

Newly discovered wreckage in the jungles and in the ocean are waiting to be examined.

169

00:08:49,060 --> 00:08:53,060

So from the capital, I'm boarding a flight to investigate the last documented sighting

170

00:08:53,060 --> 00:08:55,060

of Earhart's Electrum.

171

00:08:55,060 --> 00:08:58,060

It's a 45-minute trip from Port Moresby to Leigh,

172

00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:02,060

where Earhart began one of the final legs of her fateful journey.

173

00:09:04,060 --> 00:09:08,060

Leigh is a bustling industrial port that links the coastal waters of PNG

174

00:09:08,060 --> 00:09:10,060

to the wild highlands of the interior.

175

00:09:10,560 --> 00:09:14,560

I'm here to meet with a local tribe who has information on a recently found wreck.

176

00:09:14,560 --> 00:09:17,560

But first, I have an important stop to make.

177

00:09:17,560 --> 00:09:21,560

In the middle of town, this narrow field of grass is today an empty lot,

178

00:09:21,560 --> 00:09:23,560

a place to stack shipping containers.

179

00:09:23,560 --> 00:09:28,560

Its true significance has been overgrown by the dense wilderness of history.

180

00:09:28,560 --> 00:09:32,560

Doesn't look like much today, but this is the old Leigh airfield.

181

00:09:32,560 --> 00:09:36,560

This is the very last place that anybody saw Amelia Earhart alive.

182

00:09:37,060 --> 00:09:42,060

On May 21, 1937, Amelia Earhart departs Oakland, California

183

00:09:42,060 --> 00:09:46,060

in an audacious attempt to be the first woman in history to circumnavigate the globe.

184

00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:51,060

Over 21 days and 25,000 miles, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan

185

00:09:51,060 --> 00:09:55,060

make stops along the top of South America, before crossing Central Africa,

186

00:09:55,060 --> 00:09:59,060

the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia.

187

00:09:59,060 --> 00:10:01,060

Finally, she lands in Papua New Guinea.

188

00:10:01,560 --> 00:10:06,560

It was here, on July 2, 1937, in this very spot,

189

00:10:06,560 --> 00:10:10,560

that a fuel-heavy Lockheed Electroplane gained momentum

190

00:10:10,560 --> 00:10:13,560

and took off into the blue for the very last time.

191

00:10:15,560 --> 00:10:20,560

Whole world was watching, and that shiny Lockheed Electro would have come right down here,

192

00:10:20,560 --> 00:10:23,560

taken off right over the Pacific, never to be seen again.

193

00:10:24,060 --> 00:10:27,060

I don't know, for me, as someone who loves Earhart,

194

00:10:27,060 --> 00:10:29,060

who really has been obsessed with her for a long time,

195

00:10:29,060 --> 00:10:35,060

to be here in this spot is kind of, I don't know, emotional.

196

00:10:35,060 --> 00:10:37,060

It's kind of a powerful place.

197

00:10:39,060 --> 00:10:41,060

With only 7,000 miles left to go,

198

00:10:41,060 --> 00:10:45,060

it's easy to imagine the excitement she must have felt at being in the home stretch,

199

00:10:45,060 --> 00:10:48,060

but she still had to face her most difficult challenge,

200

00:10:48,060 --> 00:10:51,060

crossing the immense Pacific Ocean.

201

00:10:51,560 --> 00:10:57,560

Amelia's next stop is Howland Island, about 2,500 miles and 18 long hours away.

202

00:10:57,560 --> 00:11:01,560

Howland is merely a speck in the vast South Pacific Ocean,

203

00:11:01,560 --> 00:11:06,560

but the plane must land and refuel for the final onward flights to Honolulu and Oakland.

204

00:11:07,560 --> 00:11:10,560

Earhart transmits one of her last radio messages

205

00:11:10,560 --> 00:11:12,560

to the United States Coast Guard ship, Etasca,

206

00:11:12,560 --> 00:11:15,560

which is stationed offshore to help guide her to the island.

207

00:11:15,560 --> 00:11:18,560

We must be on you, but cannot see you.

208

00:11:18,560 --> 00:11:25,060

Have been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at 1,000 feet.

209

00:11:25,060 --> 00:11:28,060

The Etasca receives the transmission,

210

00:11:28,060 --> 00:11:31,060

but Amelia apparently can't hear the Coast Guard's response.

211

00:11:31,060 --> 00:11:33,060

Her radio is likely damaged.

212

00:11:33,060 --> 00:11:39,060

Soon after, Earhart, her navigator Fred Noonan, and the Electra disappear.

213

00:11:44,060 --> 00:11:48,060

The only evidence here in lay of that historic flight is this.

214

00:11:48,060 --> 00:11:50,060

A weathered, and by the looks of it,

215

00:11:50,060 --> 00:11:52,060

mostly forgotten memorial to a woman

216

00:11:52,060 --> 00:11:56,060

whose daring adventure still soars in our imaginations.

217

00:12:00,560 --> 00:12:05,560

Having made the pilgrimage here, I feel even more inspired to search for answers.

218

00:12:07,060 --> 00:12:10,060

To find them, I've arranged a meeting with a tribal chief

219

00:12:10,060 --> 00:12:15,060

to discuss the news reports of a recently found wreck in the jungles to the north.

220

00:12:15,560 --> 00:12:19,060

At the end of a long dirt road, I'm walked to a makeshift wall

221

00:12:19,060 --> 00:12:21,060

of what looks like jungle fronds.

222

00:12:27,060 --> 00:12:28,060

Coming up.

223

00:12:28,060 --> 00:12:32,060

13-year-old boy, you find human bones under your house?

224

00:12:32,060 --> 00:12:33,060

It freaked me out.

225

00:12:33,060 --> 00:12:35,060

It never ever came back into my life,

226

00:12:35,060 --> 00:12:38,060

until I read this thing about Amelia Earhart.

227

00:12:38,060 --> 00:12:42,060

Was the rest of that crawl space under the house thoroughly explored?

228

00:12:42,060 --> 00:12:43,060

No, not at all.

229

00:12:43,060 --> 00:12:44,060

Really?

230

00:12:44,060 --> 00:12:46,060

I got a bone down here.

231

00:12:46,060 --> 00:12:47,060

My goodness.

232

00:12:47,060 --> 00:12:48,060

There's more down here.

233

00:12:48,060 --> 00:12:50,060

There's more down here.

234

00:12:50,060 --> 00:12:51,060

It's everywhere I look.

235

00:12:51,060 --> 00:12:54,060

I mean, I'm putting the skeleton together down here.

236

00:13:00,060 --> 00:13:02,060

I'm in Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific,

237

00:13:02,060 --> 00:13:05,060

following new leads in the search for Amelia Earhart.

238

00:13:05,060 --> 00:13:08,060

I've come to a local village to meet with a chief,

239

00:13:08,060 --> 00:13:12,060

who has information about a wreck that's recently been found in the jungles.

240

00:13:12,060 --> 00:13:16,060

He leads me to what appears to be a wall of palm fronds.

241

00:13:31,060 --> 00:13:34,060

This is the craziest welcome I've ever seen.

242

00:13:34,060 --> 00:13:36,060

I mean, I assume it's a welcome.

243

00:13:36,060 --> 00:13:38,060

I could be murdered in the next 10 minutes.

244

00:13:38,060 --> 00:13:39,060

I don't know.

245

00:13:40,060 --> 00:13:43,060

This is not a tourist attraction.

246

00:13:45,060 --> 00:13:47,060

This is not a theme park.

247

00:13:47,060 --> 00:13:49,060

This is the real deal.

248

00:13:49,060 --> 00:13:50,060

It's called a sing-sing,

249

00:13:50,060 --> 00:13:54,060

a ritual in which villages come together through song and dance.

250

00:13:54,060 --> 00:13:58,060

Reasonably certain that I'm not going to end up as a human pincushion,

251

00:13:58,060 --> 00:14:01,060

I relax and enjoy the welcome.

252

00:14:01,060 --> 00:14:03,060

Like many other trods in Papua New Guinea,

253

00:14:03,060 --> 00:14:06,060

its people are caught between the past and the present.

254

00:14:06,060 --> 00:14:09,060

It seems only fitting that I meet them halfway.

255

00:14:12,060 --> 00:14:14,060

Good look for me, right?

256

00:14:26,060 --> 00:14:28,060

Thank you, goodnight!

257

00:14:28,060 --> 00:14:30,060

Thank you, Leigh!

258

00:14:30,060 --> 00:14:32,060

We'll be here all week!

259

00:14:33,060 --> 00:14:35,060

Okay, I may not be Ringo Starr,

260

00:14:35,060 --> 00:14:37,060

but my drumming is good enough that my crew and I

261

00:14:37,060 --> 00:14:40,060

have been invited to don the tribe's colors and join the clan.

262

00:14:40,060 --> 00:14:42,060

It's a genuine honor,

263

00:14:42,060 --> 00:14:44,060

though something tells me that they use more than food coloring

264

00:14:44,060 --> 00:14:46,060

in these strong smelling paint.

265

00:14:46,060 --> 00:14:47,060

Saliva?

266

00:14:47,060 --> 00:14:49,060

Is this Saliva?

267

00:14:49,060 --> 00:14:50,060

Yeah!

268

00:14:50,060 --> 00:14:51,060

Great!

269

00:14:54,060 --> 00:14:56,060

What do these markings mean?

270

00:14:58,060 --> 00:14:59,060

Brave warrior.

271

00:14:59,060 --> 00:15:00,060

Yeah.

272

00:15:00,060 --> 00:15:01,060

Yeah, right.

273

00:15:01,060 --> 00:15:03,060

Village idiot, probably.

274

00:15:03,060 --> 00:15:04,060

That's all.

275

00:15:04,060 --> 00:15:05,060

Is that it?

276

00:15:05,060 --> 00:15:06,060

Yeah.

277

00:15:06,060 --> 00:15:07,060

Okay, how do I look?

278

00:15:09,060 --> 00:15:11,060

I am joining the tribe.

279

00:15:14,060 --> 00:15:16,060

Once the sing-sing lines down,

280

00:15:16,060 --> 00:15:19,060

I'm granted an audience with the village elder named Iru,

281

00:15:19,060 --> 00:15:21,060

while my security guard serves as translator.

282

00:15:22,060 --> 00:15:24,060

So how many people live here in the village?

283

00:15:24,060 --> 00:15:26,060

We live in more than 2500.

284

00:15:26,060 --> 00:15:28,060

More than 2500?

285

00:15:28,060 --> 00:15:30,060

More than 2500, wow.

286

00:15:30,060 --> 00:15:32,060

Because it's a very big village.

287

00:15:32,060 --> 00:15:34,060

Yeah, I'm not the first Westerner to come here.

288

00:15:34,060 --> 00:15:36,060

These are the direct descendants of the tribes

289

00:15:36,060 --> 00:15:38,060

that Earhart met in 1937.

290

00:15:38,060 --> 00:15:40,060

Through oral tradition,

291

00:15:40,060 --> 00:15:43,060

they have preserved the memory of her time in PNG.

292

00:15:43,060 --> 00:15:46,060

So listen, you know, we're very interested in Amelia Earhart,

293

00:15:46,060 --> 00:15:48,060

and I've been told that you have some knowledge,

294

00:15:48,060 --> 00:15:49,060

some stories about her.

295

00:15:49,060 --> 00:15:50,060

What can you tell me?

296

00:15:53,060 --> 00:15:54,060

According to our elders,

297

00:15:54,060 --> 00:15:57,060

when she landed here, it was very exciting for our village,

298

00:15:57,060 --> 00:15:59,060

and for Papua New Guinea.

299

00:15:59,060 --> 00:16:02,060

At that time, airplanes were very uncommon.

300

00:16:02,060 --> 00:16:04,060

Most people had never seen a plane.

301

00:16:04,060 --> 00:16:06,060

Some had never seen a white woman.

302

00:16:06,060 --> 00:16:09,060

It was a big event when she took off.

303

00:16:09,060 --> 00:16:12,060

But other tribes say that she circled back here,

304

00:16:12,060 --> 00:16:15,060

that the plane crashed not far from their village.

305

00:16:16,060 --> 00:16:19,060

Those tribes weren't the only ones who thought she crashed in PNG.

306

00:16:19,060 --> 00:16:24,060

In 1945, an Australian corporal was on patrol in the same jungles,

307

00:16:24,060 --> 00:16:27,060

and stumbled on something that has baffled experts.

308

00:16:27,060 --> 00:16:30,060

A rusted and badly damaged airplane engine.

309

00:16:31,060 --> 00:16:33,060

Though he didn't know his exact position,

310

00:16:33,060 --> 00:16:37,060

he did jot down a partial serial number on a weathered map.

311

00:16:37,060 --> 00:16:41,060

Intriguingly, S3H1 is the same model series as the Electra,

312

00:16:41,060 --> 00:16:45,060

and 1055 matches the construction number of her plane.

313

00:16:45,060 --> 00:16:48,060

And has anybody since then been able to find the wreck?

314

00:16:48,060 --> 00:16:53,060

Just a few weeks ago, we heard from the village

315

00:16:53,060 --> 00:16:56,060

that the banning tribe in Raabao found the wreckage.

316

00:16:56,060 --> 00:16:58,060

They think it might be a plane.

317

00:16:58,060 --> 00:17:00,060

Her plane.

318

00:17:00,060 --> 00:17:03,060

Due to the largely impenetrable jungles,

319

00:17:03,060 --> 00:17:06,060

the plane spotted in 1945 has never been relocated.

320

00:17:06,060 --> 00:17:10,060

But now, it sounds like this remote tribe may have finally stumbled

321

00:17:10,060 --> 00:17:12,060

across the mysterious wreck.

322

00:17:12,060 --> 00:17:15,060

So why wasn't anyone searching here earlier?

323

00:17:16,060 --> 00:17:18,060

Within hours of Earhart's disappearance,

324

00:17:18,060 --> 00:17:22,060

the U.S. launched one of the most extensive manhunts in history.

325

00:17:22,060 --> 00:17:24,060

But based on fuel calculations,

326

00:17:24,060 --> 00:17:27,060

only searched a four-hour flight radius from Howland,

327

00:17:27,060 --> 00:17:30,060

which included the nearby Gilbert and Phoenix Islands.

328

00:17:30,060 --> 00:17:33,060

But some experts believe those calculations are wrong.

329

00:17:34,060 --> 00:17:36,060

To keep the plane as light as possible,

330

00:17:36,060 --> 00:17:39,060

Earhart left key navigational instruments behind.

331

00:17:39,060 --> 00:17:42,060

Though she should have had only four hours of fuel remaining

332

00:17:42,060 --> 00:17:44,060

when she reached Howland, if she was off course,

333

00:17:44,060 --> 00:17:46,060

and if she flew conservatively,

334

00:17:46,060 --> 00:17:50,060

researchers have argued that the Electra could have limped back to PNG,

335

00:17:50,060 --> 00:17:52,060

only to crash before landing.

336

00:17:53,060 --> 00:17:55,060

It says that if you want to get more information,

337

00:17:55,060 --> 00:17:59,060

head down to Rabaul and then check the people up in the tribes out there

338

00:17:59,060 --> 00:18:00,060

and go for the search.

339

00:18:00,060 --> 00:18:01,060

Get to Rabaul?

340

00:18:01,060 --> 00:18:02,060

Yep.

341

00:18:02,060 --> 00:18:03,060

Okay.

342

00:18:03,060 --> 00:18:05,060

And the tribe in Rabaul?

343

00:18:05,060 --> 00:18:06,060

They're friendly?

344

00:18:06,060 --> 00:18:08,060

They can be aggressive, but you'll be okay.

345

00:18:08,060 --> 00:18:09,060

I'll be okay?

346

00:18:09,060 --> 00:18:10,060

You'll be okay.

347

00:18:10,060 --> 00:18:11,060

Thank you very much.

348

00:18:11,060 --> 00:18:13,060

Your village is incredible.

349

00:18:13,060 --> 00:18:14,060

Ah!

350

00:18:14,060 --> 00:18:15,060

Whoa!

351

00:18:15,060 --> 00:18:16,060

Whoa.

352

00:18:16,060 --> 00:18:17,060

Earthquake.

353

00:18:17,060 --> 00:18:18,060

Whoa.

354

00:18:18,060 --> 00:18:19,060

Whoa.

355

00:18:19,060 --> 00:18:20,060

Whoa.

356

00:18:20,060 --> 00:18:21,060

Whoa.

357

00:18:21,060 --> 00:18:22,060

Whoa.

358

00:18:22,060 --> 00:18:23,060

Whoa.

359

00:18:23,060 --> 00:18:24,060

Oh, f***.

360

00:18:29,060 --> 00:18:33,060

I'm in Papua New Guinea investigating the theory that famed pilot Amelia Earhart

361

00:18:33,060 --> 00:18:35,060

could have crash landed here.

362

00:18:35,060 --> 00:18:38,060

One of the villagers has new information that a fellow tribe to the north

363

00:18:38,060 --> 00:18:42,060

has found a wreck in the jungle that could be her missing aircraft.

364

00:18:42,060 --> 00:18:44,060

He says that if you want to get more information,

365

00:18:44,060 --> 00:18:48,060

head down to Rabaul and then check the people up in the tribes out there

366

00:18:48,060 --> 00:18:49,060

and go for the search.

367

00:18:49,060 --> 00:18:50,060

Get to Rabaul.

368

00:18:50,060 --> 00:18:51,060

Yep.

369

00:18:51,060 --> 00:18:52,060

Oh!

370

00:18:52,060 --> 00:18:53,060

Oh!

371

00:18:53,060 --> 00:18:54,060

Earthquake.

372

00:18:54,060 --> 00:18:55,060

Whoa.

373

00:18:55,060 --> 00:18:56,060

Okay, that's it.

374

00:18:56,060 --> 00:18:57,060

Whoa.

375

00:18:57,060 --> 00:18:58,060

Watch out.

376

00:18:58,060 --> 00:18:59,060

Whoa.

377

00:18:59,060 --> 00:19:00,060

Whoa.

378

00:19:00,060 --> 00:19:01,060

Oh, f***.

379

00:19:01,060 --> 00:19:02,060

Oh.

380

00:19:02,060 --> 00:19:03,060

Oh.

381

00:19:03,060 --> 00:19:04,060

Oh.

382

00:19:04,060 --> 00:19:05,060

Oh, f***.

383

00:19:11,060 --> 00:19:13,060

That was insane.

384

00:19:13,060 --> 00:19:14,060

It happens a lot.

385

00:19:14,060 --> 00:19:15,060

It happens a lot here.

386

00:19:15,060 --> 00:19:16,060

It happens a lot here.

387

00:19:16,060 --> 00:19:17,060

Yeah, yeah.

388

00:19:18,060 --> 00:19:20,060

I mean, that was like, the whole plan.

389

00:19:20,060 --> 00:19:22,060

Yeah, it just went like this.

390

00:19:24,060 --> 00:19:26,060

Massive earthquake during an interview?

391

00:19:26,060 --> 00:19:27,060

Check.

392

00:19:27,060 --> 00:19:30,060

I made it through unscathed and so did the rest of the village.

393

00:19:30,060 --> 00:19:32,060

Even the pigs.

394

00:19:32,060 --> 00:19:35,060

Life goes on and so does my search for Earhart.

395

00:19:40,060 --> 00:19:43,060

With a substantial lead in the jungles to the northeast,

396

00:19:43,060 --> 00:19:45,060

I'm carrying on with my investigation.

397

00:19:46,060 --> 00:19:50,060

From Lay, I'm traveling about 400 miles to the island of New Britain

398

00:19:50,060 --> 00:19:53,060

and touching down in the former capital of Rabaul.

399

00:19:54,060 --> 00:19:58,060

The island, like much of PNG, looks to be a paradise on Earth.

400

00:19:58,060 --> 00:19:59,060

And it is.

401

00:19:59,060 --> 00:20:01,060

But it also has a dark history.

402

00:20:01,060 --> 00:20:03,060

Just beneath the jungle canopy,

403

00:20:03,060 --> 00:20:07,060

long, silenced anti-aircraft guns still point to the skies.

404

00:20:07,060 --> 00:20:10,060

A reminder that this paradise was once a war zone.

405

00:20:10,060 --> 00:20:14,060

PNG's strategic location just north of Australia

406

00:20:14,060 --> 00:20:17,060

is the prime real estate for the Japanese during World War II.

407

00:20:17,060 --> 00:20:20,060

If you look closely along the side of the road,

408

00:20:20,060 --> 00:20:24,060

you can still catch sight of foreboding tunnels that bore into the mountains.

409

00:20:24,060 --> 00:20:26,060

Inside is another world.

410

00:20:27,060 --> 00:20:30,060

This is actually the remains of an underground Japanese hospital.

411

00:20:30,060 --> 00:20:34,060

All told, there are more than 500 miles of tunnels underneath Rabaul.

412

00:20:34,060 --> 00:20:38,060

And a lot of them are filled with bats and creepy crawlies.

413

00:20:38,060 --> 00:20:40,060

After capturing Rabaul in 1942,

414

00:20:40,060 --> 00:20:43,060

the Japanese Empire immediately set their army to work,

415

00:20:43,060 --> 00:20:46,060

digging miles and miles of serpentine tunnels

416

00:20:46,060 --> 00:20:49,060

to shelter their forces from Allied attacks.

417

00:20:49,060 --> 00:20:54,060

By 1943, Rabaul was home to over 100,000 Japanese troops.

418

00:20:55,060 --> 00:20:57,060

Ghosts of the past are everywhere.

419

00:20:59,060 --> 00:21:02,060

Tanks, weapons, bombs.

420

00:21:02,060 --> 00:21:05,060

One tunnel even contains the decomposing remains

421

00:21:05,060 --> 00:21:08,060

of massive Japanese landing barges.

422

00:21:08,060 --> 00:21:11,060

I have to wonder, with all these abandoned relics of war,

423

00:21:11,060 --> 00:21:14,060

there must have been hundreds of downed planes here,

424

00:21:14,060 --> 00:21:17,060

which makes the hunt for Earhart's Electra a nightmare.

425

00:21:19,060 --> 00:21:23,060

Nearby, I descend into one of the most historic bunkers in the world.

426

00:21:25,060 --> 00:21:28,060

This fortification was the base of operations for the commander-in-chief

427

00:21:28,060 --> 00:21:30,060

of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

428

00:21:30,060 --> 00:21:34,060

This is Admiral Yamamoto's bunker from World War II.

429

00:21:34,060 --> 00:21:37,060

He's the guy who orchestrated the attack of Pearl Harbor at Midway.

430

00:21:37,060 --> 00:21:41,060

And this was the Japanese base of naval operations in World War II.

431

00:21:41,060 --> 00:21:44,060

You can still see writing on the walls.

432

00:21:44,060 --> 00:21:47,060

It's all perfectly preserved under all this concrete,

433

00:21:47,060 --> 00:21:50,060

absolutely astounding piece of World War II history.

434

00:21:50,060 --> 00:21:52,060

From this austere war room,

435

00:21:52,060 --> 00:21:56,060

Admiral Yamamoto's forces coordinated the Theater of War in the Pacific

436

00:21:56,060 --> 00:22:00,060

until his plane was shot down leaving Rabaul in 1943.

437

00:22:01,060 --> 00:22:04,060

Back above ground, I make my way to a nearby market

438

00:22:04,060 --> 00:22:08,060

to meet with a World War II aviation expert and PNG historian

439

00:22:08,060 --> 00:22:12,060

who can shed more light on the rumors of a wreck in the jungles of Rabaul.

440

00:22:17,060 --> 00:22:19,060

While I wait for him to arrive,

441

00:22:19,060 --> 00:22:22,060

I have time to sample PNG's favorite addiction.

442

00:22:22,060 --> 00:22:25,060

You may notice that nearly everyone here has a red-stained mouth.

443

00:22:25,060 --> 00:22:27,060

That's because of this.

444

00:22:27,060 --> 00:22:31,060

Buai is a seemingly random recipe of beetle nut, mustard stick, and lime.

445

00:22:31,060 --> 00:22:33,060

Show me how I do this.

446

00:22:34,060 --> 00:22:36,060

I use my teeth to open it?

447

00:22:36,060 --> 00:22:39,060

Already doesn't seem like a good idea.

448

00:22:39,060 --> 00:22:41,060

Not good for your teeth.

449

00:22:41,060 --> 00:22:42,060

Okay.

450

00:22:42,060 --> 00:22:44,060

Oh, I want the middle piece. I see.

451

00:22:44,060 --> 00:22:46,060

Soft piece. Boom. The whole thing.

452

00:22:46,060 --> 00:22:47,060

Okay.

453

00:22:47,060 --> 00:22:49,060

Oh, it's bitter.

454

00:22:49,060 --> 00:22:50,060

Now what?

455

00:22:50,060 --> 00:22:51,060

Small one.

456

00:22:51,060 --> 00:22:52,060

And the lime.

457

00:22:54,060 --> 00:22:56,060

The ingredients are combined and chewed,

458

00:22:56,060 --> 00:22:59,060

producing torrential amounts of bright red saliva,

459

00:22:59,060 --> 00:23:02,060

which Papuaen spit on just about every surface in sight.

460

00:23:02,060 --> 00:23:03,060

Maybe one more?

461

00:23:03,060 --> 00:23:04,060

No, that's enough.

462

00:23:04,060 --> 00:23:08,060

Believe it or not, this is the fourth most consumed drug in the world

463

00:23:08,060 --> 00:23:10,060

after nicotine, booze, and coffee.

464

00:23:10,060 --> 00:23:14,060

It is definitely not recommended by the American Dental Association,

465

00:23:14,060 --> 00:23:18,060

and for the uninitiated, the chemical combination can be a little intense.

466

00:23:20,060 --> 00:23:22,060

Starting to feel a little dizzy.

467

00:23:24,060 --> 00:23:25,060

It's good.

468

00:23:25,060 --> 00:23:26,060

What does it do?

469

00:23:26,060 --> 00:23:29,060

When you feel sleepy, you take this one, your eyes open.

470

00:23:29,060 --> 00:23:30,060

Your eyes open.

471

00:23:30,060 --> 00:23:32,060

I don't know about that. My eyes are about to close.

472

00:23:34,060 --> 00:23:35,060

Whoo!

473

00:23:36,060 --> 00:23:37,060

Whoo!

474

00:23:37,060 --> 00:23:39,060

Where all these people come from?

475

00:23:41,060 --> 00:23:42,060

Good day.

476

00:23:43,060 --> 00:23:47,060

Okay, I'm just gonna lay here for a while until the world stops spinning.

477

00:23:51,060 --> 00:23:53,060

Moments later, I'm back on my feet.

478

00:23:53,060 --> 00:23:54,060

Sort of.

479

00:23:54,060 --> 00:23:57,060

Apologies, just give me a moment here. It wears off fast.

480

00:23:57,060 --> 00:23:59,060

I'm good, let's go.

481

00:24:00,060 --> 00:24:04,060

Finally feeling less dizzy, I'm ready to meet up with historian Rob Rowenson.

482

00:24:04,060 --> 00:24:08,060

As an aircraft expert with the organization Pacific Rex,

483

00:24:08,060 --> 00:24:11,060

Rob lives here and speaks Papua dialects,

484

00:24:11,060 --> 00:24:14,060

making him a critical intermediary between outside investigators

485

00:24:14,060 --> 00:24:18,060

and the remote tribe that claims to have found a downed plane in the jungle.

486

00:24:19,060 --> 00:24:22,060

We've had someone report say there was an engine there,

487

00:24:22,060 --> 00:24:24,060

and some parts of an airplane.

488

00:24:24,060 --> 00:24:27,060

Of course you get these reports and then you have to go there yourself

489

00:24:27,060 --> 00:24:29,060

and try and determine what sort of airplane it was.

490

00:24:29,060 --> 00:24:31,060

Yeah, what's the road like out to this village?

491

00:24:31,060 --> 00:24:34,060

It's rough. You need vehicles that can handle those sort of conditions.

492

00:24:34,060 --> 00:24:37,060

I do know of a vehicle that might help you out.

493

00:24:37,060 --> 00:24:38,060

Okay.

494

00:24:55,060 --> 00:24:58,060

Once airborne, we loft up over the island of New Britain

495

00:24:58,060 --> 00:25:00,060

and head toward the unknown.

496

00:25:00,060 --> 00:25:05,060

The helicopter will fly us 40 miles inland to the remote village of Vunalama.

497

00:25:05,060 --> 00:25:09,060

Below us are some of the wildest and least explored jungles on Earth.

498

00:25:09,060 --> 00:25:14,060

Papua New Guinea is often referred to as the lost world, and for good reason.

499

00:25:14,060 --> 00:25:17,060

More new species are discovered here than anywhere else on Earth,

500

00:25:17,060 --> 00:25:19,060

an average of two a week.

501

00:25:20,060 --> 00:25:25,060

The tribes that live in these jungles exist off the grid and far from the reach of modern laws.

502

00:25:25,060 --> 00:25:28,060

There are still isolated reports of murder, cannibalism,

503

00:25:28,060 --> 00:25:32,060

and sacrifice associated with sorcery and tribal beliefs.

504

00:25:33,060 --> 00:25:36,060

Rob, there's supposed to be a village in these coordinates, yes?

505

00:25:36,060 --> 00:25:39,060

We're in the survival zone too, but I'm on the street in the long run now.

506

00:25:39,060 --> 00:25:41,060

We'll find out when we get on the road.

507

00:25:41,060 --> 00:25:44,060

Rob's contacts have given us the rough location of the Baining Village

508

00:25:44,060 --> 00:25:48,060

that reported the wrecked plane, but all we're seeing is jungle.

509

00:25:48,060 --> 00:25:54,060

I'm genuinely concerned here, since landing in the wrong tribe's territory could be a fatal mistake.

510

00:25:54,060 --> 00:25:59,060

But with the weather worsening, we've got one shot at this, so we touch down in a nearby clearing.

511

00:25:59,060 --> 00:26:00,060

Good, we're down.

512

00:26:00,060 --> 00:26:05,060

My cameraman leaps out first to film the landing, and before I can unhook my harness,

513

00:26:05,060 --> 00:26:07,060

he realizes that we've got company.

514

00:26:11,060 --> 00:26:14,060

You need to go be a f***ing angry looking bro.

515

00:26:14,060 --> 00:26:15,060

They're here to meet us.

516

00:26:15,060 --> 00:26:17,060

Look over there on the other side.

517

00:26:19,060 --> 00:26:25,060

With my helicopter pilot not sticking around to see how this turns out, we're on our own.

518

00:26:25,060 --> 00:26:27,060

Wait, wait, wait, wait, hey!

519

00:26:34,060 --> 00:26:37,060

I've just been dropped into the jungles of Papua New Guinea,

520

00:26:37,060 --> 00:26:42,060

looking for a local tribe with information about a plane wreck that could be Amelia Earhart's.

521

00:26:42,060 --> 00:26:43,060

Good, we're down.

522

00:26:45,060 --> 00:26:47,060

You need to go be a f***ing angry looking bro.

523

00:26:49,060 --> 00:26:52,060

I'm not sure if this is a welcome crew or a war party,

524

00:26:52,060 --> 00:26:56,060

but at 6'3", I'm a pretty easy target for a well-aimed projectile.

525

00:26:56,060 --> 00:26:58,060

Wait, wait, wait, hey!

526

00:27:02,060 --> 00:27:03,060

How are you?

527

00:27:03,060 --> 00:27:04,060

Fine, alright.

528

00:27:04,060 --> 00:27:06,060

Nice to meet you, what's your name?

529

00:27:06,060 --> 00:27:07,060

Bill.

530

00:27:07,060 --> 00:27:08,060

Bill?

531

00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:09,060

Yes.

532

00:27:09,060 --> 00:27:10,060

You don't look like a Bill.

533

00:27:10,060 --> 00:27:11,060

Nice to meet you.

534

00:27:11,060 --> 00:27:12,060

Hello.

535

00:27:12,060 --> 00:27:13,060

Hello.

536

00:27:13,060 --> 00:27:14,060

What's your name?

537

00:27:14,060 --> 00:27:15,060

Clemens.

538

00:27:15,060 --> 00:27:16,060

Clemens, nice to meet you.

539

00:27:16,060 --> 00:27:17,060

How are you doing?

540

00:27:17,060 --> 00:27:18,060

How are you?

541

00:27:18,060 --> 00:27:19,060

I'm good.

542

00:27:19,060 --> 00:27:20,060

So, you're going to go to the rain?

543

00:27:20,060 --> 00:27:21,060

Yeah.

544

00:27:21,060 --> 00:27:22,060

Some place there with cover?

545

00:27:22,060 --> 00:27:23,060

You may go to a long place.

546

00:27:23,060 --> 00:27:24,060

You're not going to rain too much.

547

00:27:24,060 --> 00:27:25,060

Yeah, go.

548

00:27:25,060 --> 00:27:26,060

Yeah?

549

00:27:26,060 --> 00:27:27,060

Okay, great, let's go.

550

00:27:28,060 --> 00:27:32,060

It turns out that Bill and Clement are more likely to offer me tea than the pointy end of their spears.

551

00:27:32,060 --> 00:27:33,060

I don't know.

552

00:27:33,060 --> 00:27:35,060

That was a little touch and go there for a minute.

553

00:27:35,060 --> 00:27:37,060

You were worried I could have put a spear through.

554

00:27:37,060 --> 00:27:40,060

The show of force is just a ritual greeting of the Baining tribe,

555

00:27:40,060 --> 00:27:44,060

and the children from the village run out to have a good laugh at our expense.

556

00:27:44,060 --> 00:27:45,060

Evan, I found an umbrella for your camera.

557

00:27:45,060 --> 00:27:49,060

I mean, what kind of land of a lost leaf is this?

558

00:27:49,060 --> 00:27:50,060

Here you go.

559

00:27:50,060 --> 00:27:51,060

Stay dry.

560

00:27:53,060 --> 00:27:56,060

With the rain coming down, we need to get to the village as quickly as possible

561

00:27:56,060 --> 00:27:59,060

before the downpour destroys our camera equipment.

562

00:27:59,060 --> 00:28:02,060

Okay, me put it like, sit down and dry, go dry, alright?

563

00:28:03,060 --> 00:28:05,060

Did you catch Rob's translation?

564

00:28:05,060 --> 00:28:08,060

The Baining tribe, like many Papuans, speak Pidgin,

565

00:28:08,060 --> 00:28:10,060

that consists largely of English and German words,

566

00:28:10,060 --> 00:28:13,060

repurposed into a unique language.

567

00:28:13,060 --> 00:28:17,060

Though the vocabulary is familiar, it sounds like total gibberish.

568

00:28:17,060 --> 00:28:19,060

One-time camera now, kiss me with a lot of camera or...

569

00:28:19,060 --> 00:28:22,060

Number one timer.

570

00:28:22,060 --> 00:28:25,060

It's the first time I've ever had new people out here with cameras.

571

00:28:25,060 --> 00:28:27,060

Yeah, that's what I was asking.

572

00:28:27,060 --> 00:28:29,060

I'm thankful when we finally arrive at the village,

573

00:28:29,060 --> 00:28:32,060

and even more thankful that these jawbones aren't human.

574

00:28:32,060 --> 00:28:34,060

Okay, first order of business is just to get dry,

575

00:28:34,060 --> 00:28:36,060

to get the equipment dry, yeah?

576

00:28:36,060 --> 00:28:40,060

It looks like they are, like, in real time, making a shelter.

577

00:28:40,060 --> 00:28:41,060

Can I help? What can I do?

578

00:28:41,060 --> 00:28:43,060

These first?

579

00:28:43,060 --> 00:28:44,060

Up, up, up?

580

00:28:44,060 --> 00:28:46,060

We're in the middle of the jungle,

581

00:28:46,060 --> 00:28:49,060

but in no time at all our new friends have built us a cozy guesthouse.

582

00:28:49,060 --> 00:28:53,060

This is now a couch they've made, and they're adding banana leaves as cushions.

583

00:28:53,060 --> 00:28:54,060

Amazing.

584

00:28:54,060 --> 00:28:57,060

This is the fastest construction crew I've ever met.

585

00:28:57,060 --> 00:29:00,060

Five minutes flat, addition to your house.

586

00:29:00,060 --> 00:29:02,060

This jungle is their home,

587

00:29:02,060 --> 00:29:05,060

and the tribe has welcomed me with five-star accommodations

588

00:29:05,060 --> 00:29:08,060

and a complimentary beverage.

589

00:29:12,060 --> 00:29:15,060

I'm anxious to speak to the chief about the wreck they discovered,

590

00:29:15,060 --> 00:29:19,060

but first, the tribe insists on welcoming us with a sacred fire dance.

591

00:29:19,060 --> 00:29:22,060

This is a seldom seen ritual.

592

00:29:33,060 --> 00:29:35,060

So the women have gone away?

593

00:29:35,060 --> 00:29:36,060

The women have gone away.

594

00:29:36,060 --> 00:29:37,060

Why is that?

595

00:29:37,060 --> 00:29:39,060

Because we'll never see this sort of thing.

596

00:29:39,060 --> 00:29:40,060

Wow.

597

00:29:40,060 --> 00:29:43,060

Only men are allowed to participate or watch.

598

00:29:43,060 --> 00:29:46,060

If any women in the village were to witness this, they would be killed.

599

00:29:46,060 --> 00:29:51,060

The men tend the fire, feeding it until the flames begin to devour the darkness.

600

00:29:52,060 --> 00:29:55,060

At which point, the dance begins.

601

00:29:58,060 --> 00:30:00,060

The dancers are completely barefoot

602

00:30:00,060 --> 00:30:02,060

and attempt to ward off evil spirits

603

00:30:02,060 --> 00:30:05,060

by passing directly through the flames and embers.

604

00:30:05,060 --> 00:30:07,060

I think that's right in the fire.

605

00:30:07,060 --> 00:30:09,060

It's amazing.

606

00:30:09,060 --> 00:30:13,060

The dance is performed to initiate young men into adulthood,

607

00:30:13,060 --> 00:30:16,060

or in this case, to celebrate visiting outsiders.

608

00:30:19,060 --> 00:30:24,060

The dance itself is frenetic, wild, and not for the faint of heart.

609

00:30:24,060 --> 00:30:28,060

And I feel totally overwhelmed at being able to witness it firsthand.

610

00:30:28,060 --> 00:30:32,060

With the ceremony complete and my eyebrows singed,

611

00:30:32,060 --> 00:30:36,060

I'm granted access to the chief to discuss the plane wreck in the jungle,

612

00:30:36,060 --> 00:30:38,060

which could be Earhart's lost Electra.

613

00:30:38,060 --> 00:30:39,060

That was incredible.

614

00:30:39,060 --> 00:30:41,060

I've never seen anything like that.

615

00:30:41,060 --> 00:30:42,060

Thank you for welcoming us here.

616

00:30:42,060 --> 00:30:43,060

Thank you.

617

00:30:43,060 --> 00:30:44,060

Thank you.

618

00:30:44,060 --> 00:30:45,060

Thank you.

619

00:30:45,060 --> 00:30:46,060

Thank you.

620

00:30:46,060 --> 00:30:47,060

Thank you.

621

00:30:47,060 --> 00:30:48,060

Thank you.

622

00:30:48,060 --> 00:30:49,060

Thank you.

623

00:30:49,060 --> 00:30:50,060

Thank you.

624

00:30:50,060 --> 00:30:51,060

Thank you.

625

00:30:51,060 --> 00:30:52,060

Thank you.

626

00:30:52,060 --> 00:30:53,060

Thank you.

627

00:30:53,060 --> 00:30:54,060

Thank you.

628

00:30:54,060 --> 00:30:55,060

Thank you.

629

00:30:55,060 --> 00:30:56,060

Thank you.

630

00:30:56,060 --> 00:30:57,060

Thank you.

631

00:30:58,060 --> 00:31:00,060

Yeah, there's some wreckage in the bush.

632

00:31:00,060 --> 00:31:02,060

They don't know who they came from.

633

00:31:02,060 --> 00:31:05,060

Is the wreckage definitely from an airplane?

634

00:31:05,060 --> 00:31:07,060

It's from a plane.

635

00:31:07,060 --> 00:31:08,060

From a plane.

636

00:31:08,060 --> 00:31:10,060

How far is the wreckage from the village?

637

00:31:10,060 --> 00:31:12,060

I'm stuck inside there.

638

00:31:12,060 --> 00:31:13,060

He says the wreckage is close by.

639

00:31:13,060 --> 00:31:14,060

Yeah.

640

00:31:14,060 --> 00:31:17,060

And could we have permission to go and to look at the wreckage?

641

00:31:17,060 --> 00:31:19,060

Can you guide us and show us where it is?

642

00:31:19,060 --> 00:31:22,060

No, one bloll is a long way to start, yes, but it will be one time.

643

00:31:22,060 --> 00:31:25,060

People who know exactly where it is, they will guide us.

644

00:31:25,060 --> 00:31:26,060

Terrific.

645

00:31:26,060 --> 00:31:27,060

Let's do it.

646

00:31:27,060 --> 00:31:28,060

Okay, okay.

647

00:31:28,060 --> 00:31:29,060

Come on.

648

00:31:29,060 --> 00:31:30,060

Okay, okay.

649

00:31:30,060 --> 00:31:41,060

The jungles of New Britain are no joke, especially at night, but some believe that Airheart's

650

00:31:41,060 --> 00:31:53,060

electric could be out here, waiting in the darkness.

651

00:31:53,060 --> 00:31:55,060

These are real deal jungles.

652

00:31:55,060 --> 00:32:01,060

A lot of predators out here, snakes, spiders, and we're very far from hospitals, so we'd

653

00:32:01,060 --> 00:32:03,060

be very, very careful going through here.

654

00:32:03,060 --> 00:32:05,060

Whoa, big hole right here.

655

00:32:05,060 --> 00:32:06,060

Whoa, big hole.

656

00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:07,060

Drops down.

657

00:32:07,060 --> 00:32:08,060

What do you think, impact point?

658

00:32:08,060 --> 00:32:09,060

It's open yet.

659

00:32:09,060 --> 00:32:14,560

In 1945, in these very jungles, an Australian Army patrol stumbled on a crash site they

660

00:32:14,560 --> 00:32:16,520

believed was Airheart's.

661

00:32:16,520 --> 00:32:18,060

But no one ever found it again.

662

00:32:18,060 --> 00:32:21,060

Could this be the same wreck?

663

00:32:21,060 --> 00:32:24,060

Oh, that's a piece of wreckage for sure.

664

00:32:24,060 --> 00:32:27,060

Look at this, Rob, come here.

665

00:32:27,060 --> 00:32:29,060

It's an airplane engine?

666

00:32:29,060 --> 00:32:30,060

Yeah.

667

00:32:30,060 --> 00:32:32,060

Oh, definitely an airplane engine.

668

00:32:32,060 --> 00:32:34,060

They've taken the propellers off.

669

00:32:34,060 --> 00:32:36,060

Let's get the vines off it.

670

00:32:36,060 --> 00:32:38,060

Airheart's elector was a twin prop plane.

671

00:32:38,060 --> 00:32:41,060

We've found one engine, and I'm desperate to find another.

672

00:32:41,060 --> 00:32:45,060

The problem is, the wreckage is scattered all over the jungle.

673

00:32:45,060 --> 00:32:46,060

Rob, check this out.

674

00:32:46,060 --> 00:32:48,060

There's an interlocking piece there.

675

00:32:48,060 --> 00:32:49,060

It looks like a fold.

676

00:32:49,060 --> 00:32:50,060

Maybe this is the strut?

677

00:32:50,060 --> 00:32:51,060

Out of the strut.

678

00:32:51,060 --> 00:32:52,060

Part of the strut for the wheel, maybe?

679

00:32:52,060 --> 00:32:53,060

Yeah.

680

00:32:53,060 --> 00:32:55,060

This looks like, what do you think, part of the strut?

681

00:32:55,060 --> 00:32:57,060

The strut and exhaust and stuff like that.

682

00:32:57,060 --> 00:33:00,060

I would say that when the plane came in, it burned.

683

00:33:00,060 --> 00:33:02,060

It burned quite severely.

684

00:33:02,060 --> 00:33:03,060

Something over there?

685

00:33:03,060 --> 00:33:04,060

Yeah.

686

00:33:04,060 --> 00:33:05,060

Let's go look.

687

00:33:05,060 --> 00:33:06,060

More.

688

00:33:06,060 --> 00:33:08,060

Rob, we got more over here.

689

00:33:08,060 --> 00:33:09,060

Unbelievable.

690

00:33:09,060 --> 00:33:11,060

Look at this.

691

00:33:16,060 --> 00:33:22,060

I'm in the jungles of Papua New Guinea investigating a wreck that could be Amelia Airheart's lost plane.

692

00:33:22,060 --> 00:33:25,060

Suddenly, we find a crucial piece of evidence.

693

00:33:25,060 --> 00:33:27,060

Something over there?

694

00:33:27,060 --> 00:33:28,060

More.

695

00:33:28,060 --> 00:33:29,060

Rob, we got more over here.

696

00:33:29,060 --> 00:33:30,060

Unbelievable.

697

00:33:30,060 --> 00:33:31,060

Look at this.

698

00:33:33,060 --> 00:33:34,060

What is this part?

699

00:33:34,060 --> 00:33:35,060

It's not the landing gear.

700

00:33:35,060 --> 00:33:36,060

It's part of the undercarriage?

701

00:33:36,060 --> 00:33:37,060

It's undercarriage, yeah.

702

00:33:37,060 --> 00:33:39,060

So, we're looking at part of the wing, yeah?

703

00:33:39,060 --> 00:33:42,060

Yeah, this will be part of the wing, and it's been fairly badly burnt too.

704

00:33:42,060 --> 00:33:43,060

Yeah, it looks very burned.

705

00:33:43,060 --> 00:33:46,060

Rob, let's pull out that schematic of the elector.

706

00:33:48,060 --> 00:33:51,060

So, elector is a twin engine, Lockheed.

707

00:33:51,060 --> 00:33:52,060

Yep.

708

00:33:52,060 --> 00:33:53,060

This looks like a twin or a single to you?

709

00:33:53,060 --> 00:33:54,060

Well, I think it's a twin.

710

00:33:54,060 --> 00:33:56,060

And what leads you to believe that it's a twin engine?

711

00:33:56,060 --> 00:33:58,060

Because this is a very strong undercarriage.

712

00:33:58,060 --> 00:33:59,060

Right.

713

00:33:59,060 --> 00:34:02,060

On a single engine aeroplane, it's usually just the one strut.

714

00:34:02,060 --> 00:34:03,060

Right.

715

00:34:03,060 --> 00:34:05,060

When we have a twin strut here, it's a radial engine too.

716

00:34:05,060 --> 00:34:06,060

Same type of engine design, right?

717

00:34:06,060 --> 00:34:07,060

Same type of engine design.

718

00:34:07,060 --> 00:34:10,060

All right, well, she's still a candidate then.

719

00:34:10,060 --> 00:34:12,060

There should be another engine here somewhere.

720

00:34:12,060 --> 00:34:14,060

Have you found a second engine?

721

00:34:14,060 --> 00:34:15,060

No.

722

00:34:15,060 --> 00:34:16,060

No, one only.

723

00:34:16,060 --> 00:34:18,060

I mean, if it hits so hard, I mean, it could have gone 200 meters down the buddy bush.

724

00:34:18,060 --> 00:34:19,060

Sure.

725

00:34:19,060 --> 00:34:20,060

You know?

726

00:34:20,060 --> 00:34:21,060

I mean, it's a Pratt & Whitney engine.

727

00:34:21,060 --> 00:34:22,060

That's right, yeah.

728

00:34:22,060 --> 00:34:23,060

Can you tell if that's a Pratt & Whitney or not?

729

00:34:23,060 --> 00:34:24,060

Well, I can't.

730

00:34:24,060 --> 00:34:25,060

That's the problem.

731

00:34:25,060 --> 00:34:26,060

It may well be a Pratt & Whitney.

732

00:34:26,060 --> 00:34:27,060

If we can get close and see some identification on it.

733

00:34:27,060 --> 00:34:28,060

Just take a look.

734

00:34:28,060 --> 00:34:31,060

Let's see if we can get some identifying marks off the engines.

735

00:34:31,060 --> 00:34:36,060

In 1945, an Australian Army patrol found a Pratt & Whitney engine here in this jungle,

736

00:34:36,060 --> 00:34:39,060

and they were convinced it belonged to Earhart's Electra.

737

00:34:39,060 --> 00:34:43,060

If this is the same engine, we might have struck gold.

738

00:34:43,060 --> 00:34:45,060

God, I wish we had a propeller or something like that,

739

00:34:45,060 --> 00:34:47,060

because on propellers, you have dates on them.

740

00:34:47,060 --> 00:34:49,060

Someone's taking a lot of the stuff away from here.

741

00:34:49,060 --> 00:34:51,060

The Pratt & Whitney airball is littered with wrecks.

742

00:34:51,060 --> 00:34:55,060

Earhart's plane has features that distinguish it from most World War II aircraft.

743

00:34:55,060 --> 00:34:59,060

It was designed with a unique twin tail, unpainted aluminum body,

744

00:34:59,060 --> 00:35:03,060

and was packed with a dozen fuel tanks in the fuselage and wings

745

00:35:03,060 --> 00:35:07,060

to feed the twin Pratt & Whitney wasp engines on her long flight.

746

00:35:07,060 --> 00:35:13,060

Any tags or identifiable parts with serial numbers have either been stolen or destroyed.

747

00:35:13,060 --> 00:35:16,060

Most of what looters left behind is burned beyond recognition.

748

00:35:16,060 --> 00:35:18,060

So we can't really tell if it's a Pratt & Whitney or not?

749

00:35:18,060 --> 00:35:21,060

Maybe, because we can't find any identifying marks on it.

750

00:35:21,060 --> 00:35:24,060

There's got to be something we're missing.

751

00:35:24,060 --> 00:35:29,060

I've just realized something. This is the undercarriage leg of a dual-leg undercarriage.

752

00:35:29,060 --> 00:35:34,060

The undercarriage on an Electra is a single oleo leg with a wishbone on the bottom

753

00:35:34,060 --> 00:35:35,060

and the wheel between them.

754

00:35:35,060 --> 00:35:36,060

Forks over the wheel?

755

00:35:36,060 --> 00:35:37,060

Forks over the wheel.

756

00:35:37,060 --> 00:35:40,060

It indicates to me a much heavier aircraft.

757

00:35:40,060 --> 00:35:43,060

This wreck has two full struts on each side of the wheels,

758

00:35:43,060 --> 00:35:47,060

but Earhart's Lockheed Electra had a single strut for each wheel

759

00:35:47,060 --> 00:35:52,060

with a wishbone that wrapped around the tire, a subtle but damning piece of evidence.

760

00:35:52,060 --> 00:35:57,060

My opinion is at present it's not an Electra.

761

00:35:57,060 --> 00:36:00,060

Now what I think it is is probably Japanese,

762

00:36:00,060 --> 00:36:04,060

and the only way to identify that is to take this information that I have now

763

00:36:04,060 --> 00:36:07,060

and compare it with information that I have back in Rival.

764

00:36:07,060 --> 00:36:11,060

So, wheel structure doesn't match the Electra, so we know it's not Earhart's plane?

765

00:36:11,060 --> 00:36:12,060

Definitely not.

766

00:36:12,060 --> 00:36:13,060

But still a mystery?

767

00:36:13,060 --> 00:36:14,060

Still a mystery.

768

00:36:14,060 --> 00:36:15,060

And an important mystery?

769

00:36:15,060 --> 00:36:20,060

Yeah, well people died here, so it deserves our attention most certainly.

770

00:36:20,060 --> 00:36:25,060

It's not Earhart's plane, but with further investigation this wreck will solve a different mystery

771

00:36:25,060 --> 00:36:29,060

and answer questions about the demise of another downed pilot.

772

00:36:29,060 --> 00:36:31,060

Thank you very much for showing us this.

773

00:36:31,060 --> 00:36:33,060

Also we're going to need somewhere to sleep.

774

00:36:33,060 --> 00:36:34,060

Ha.

775

00:36:34,060 --> 00:36:36,060

Helicopter will be back in the morning.

776

00:36:36,060 --> 00:36:38,060

Alright, we're down to our very last torches here.

777

00:36:38,060 --> 00:36:39,060

Let's get back to the village.

778

00:36:39,060 --> 00:36:42,060

Otherwise we're going to be like this plane, we're going to be out here forever.

779

00:36:42,060 --> 00:36:43,060

Ha.

780

00:36:46,060 --> 00:36:50,060

By the light of a new day, we leave the jungle behind and head back to Rival.

781

00:36:50,060 --> 00:36:55,060

The wreck may or may not be the same one that the Australians found in 1945.

782

00:36:55,060 --> 00:36:59,060

Either way, we know that it isn't Earhart's plane.

783

00:36:59,060 --> 00:37:03,060

But this isn't the only developing lead here in PNG.

784

00:37:03,060 --> 00:37:07,060

Locals believe that unidentified underwater wreckage off the coast of Rival

785

00:37:07,060 --> 00:37:10,060

may in fact be the missing Electra.

786

00:37:10,060 --> 00:37:15,060

After grabbing a set of wheels, I'm rumbling my way over to where Rival used to be.

787

00:37:15,060 --> 00:37:19,060

Back on the ground headed over to old Rival, or what's left of it,

788

00:37:19,060 --> 00:37:23,060

that is an active volcano named Vulcan.

789

00:37:23,060 --> 00:37:26,060

Still active, very much alive, very dangerous.

790

00:37:26,060 --> 00:37:31,060

This is one of two very pissed off looking volcanoes that loom over Rival.

791

00:37:31,060 --> 00:37:34,060

But its twin brother, Tarvavor, is the one to keep an eye on.

792

00:37:35,060 --> 00:37:40,060

In 1937, an eruption killed more than 500 people.

793

00:37:40,060 --> 00:37:44,060

And less than a month before my arrival, it decided to wake up again.

794

00:37:50,060 --> 00:37:53,060

Holy smoke and delete old shit.

795

00:37:53,060 --> 00:37:57,060

Along the side of the road here, you see this big wall is just 10 feet tall of ash

796

00:37:57,060 --> 00:37:59,060

and we're just driving over volcanic ash.

797

00:37:59,060 --> 00:38:02,060

All of this is just from the most recent eruption.

798

00:38:03,060 --> 00:38:07,060

Looking up at the hills, nearly every palm tree in sight is scorched to bits.

799

00:38:07,060 --> 00:38:10,060

Okay, we should be coming into Rival.

800

00:38:10,060 --> 00:38:13,060

As I approach the crater and the coordinates of old Rival,

801

00:38:13,060 --> 00:38:16,060

it might seem like I'm in the wrong spot.

802

00:38:16,060 --> 00:38:19,060

But the town is here. I'm just driving on top of it.

803

00:38:21,060 --> 00:38:24,060

Peaking up from the ash are the ghostly remains of an entire city,

804

00:38:24,060 --> 00:38:27,060

destroyed by the volcanoes in 1994.

805

00:38:27,060 --> 00:38:31,060

Motels, nightclubs, banks,

806

00:38:31,060 --> 00:38:34,060

entire city streets, gone.

807

00:38:34,060 --> 00:38:39,060

Perched atop the ring of fire, PNG is one of the most volcanic nations in the world.

808

00:38:39,060 --> 00:38:42,060

The earthquake I felt in lay is not a good sign.

809

00:38:42,060 --> 00:38:45,060

And judging by the billowing smoke rising from Tarvavor

810

00:38:45,060 --> 00:38:48,060

and the boiling water coming up by my feet,

811

00:38:48,060 --> 00:38:50,060

I'm suddenly struck by a question.

812

00:38:50,060 --> 00:38:53,060

What the hell am I doing here?

813

00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:57,060

Well, nobody said looking for air heart was going to be easy or safe.

814

00:38:57,060 --> 00:39:01,060

So I'm channeling my inner explorer and pressing on with the search.

815

00:39:03,060 --> 00:39:06,060

The wreck in the jungle was one of two leads here.

816

00:39:06,060 --> 00:39:09,060

Next, I'm going to explore another promising theory

817

00:39:09,060 --> 00:39:12,060

that air heart crashed in the waters off Papua New Guinea.

818

00:39:12,060 --> 00:39:15,060

Next stop here is to me with a guy named Rod,

819

00:39:15,060 --> 00:39:17,060

a dive expert and a World War II historian.

820

00:39:17,060 --> 00:39:21,060

And he knows more about down to aircraft in these parts in the waters than anybody.

821

00:39:21,060 --> 00:39:25,060

Recently, local divers reported seeing wreckage off of Rival

822

00:39:25,060 --> 00:39:28,060

that they believe looks like the Electro.

823

00:39:28,060 --> 00:39:31,060

To check out the report, I make my way down to the harbor,

824

00:39:31,060 --> 00:39:34,060

which is today home to a listing collection of ghost ships

825

00:39:34,060 --> 00:39:36,060

decimated by the volcano.

826

00:39:36,060 --> 00:39:40,060

But amidst the waterlogged fleet are a few sea-worthy vessels,

827

00:39:40,060 --> 00:39:43,060

one of which is captained by Rod Pierce.

828

00:39:43,060 --> 00:39:44,060

Hey, how are you?

829

00:39:44,060 --> 00:39:45,060

How are you, Rod?

830

00:39:45,060 --> 00:39:46,060

Good, good, yeah.

831

00:39:46,060 --> 00:39:47,060

Nice to meet you.

832

00:39:47,060 --> 00:39:48,060

Pleasure.

833

00:39:48,060 --> 00:39:50,060

So I hear you're the man in the know about airplane wrecks.

834

00:39:50,060 --> 00:39:51,060

Yes, yes.

835

00:39:51,060 --> 00:39:53,060

Been researching them since the 70s.

836

00:39:53,060 --> 00:39:54,060

And there's a lot of them here.

837

00:39:54,060 --> 00:39:59,060

There's, from World War II, there's over 500 in the Gazelle area alone.

838

00:39:59,060 --> 00:40:00,060

Amazing.

839

00:40:00,060 --> 00:40:01,060

I look for MIAs.

840

00:40:01,060 --> 00:40:07,060

I see closure to a lot of people from pilots from all nations,

841

00:40:07,060 --> 00:40:09,060

Japanese, Australians, Americans.

842

00:40:09,060 --> 00:40:10,060

How do you locate these wrecks?

843

00:40:10,060 --> 00:40:13,060

Basically with sonar.

844

00:40:13,060 --> 00:40:19,060

And that will draw you an outline of a plane or a wreck or whatever you're looking for.

845

00:40:19,060 --> 00:40:23,060

We've heard reports, recent reports of some aircraft wreckage out here near Rebal,

846

00:40:23,060 --> 00:40:27,060

and some people sort of whispering that they think it may be Airheart's plane

847

00:40:27,060 --> 00:40:28,060

that may have come back here.

848

00:40:28,060 --> 00:40:29,060

You heard those stories?

849

00:40:29,060 --> 00:40:31,060

I've also heard that.

850

00:40:31,060 --> 00:40:32,060

You think it could be her plane?

851

00:40:32,060 --> 00:40:34,060

Anything's possible.

852

00:40:34,060 --> 00:40:40,060

The only way to know is to go out, investigate it, and see what we can find.

853

00:40:40,060 --> 00:40:44,060

As we head out to sea to search the coordinates where divers claim to see a wreck

854

00:40:44,060 --> 00:40:48,060

matching the Electra, I'm captivated by the possibility of finding the plane.

855

00:40:48,060 --> 00:40:50,060

But also have been unnerved.

856

00:40:50,060 --> 00:40:54,060

After all, we're cruising in the shadow of two active volcanoes,

857

00:40:54,060 --> 00:40:56,060

one of which is still smoking.

858

00:40:56,060 --> 00:41:00,060

Even more alarming, the entire harbor is a volcanic caldera.

859

00:41:00,060 --> 00:41:03,060

1500 years ago, this bay exploded.

860

00:41:03,060 --> 00:41:08,060

The ash cloud was so huge, it darkened the skies of Europe for a year.

861

00:41:09,060 --> 00:41:11,060

Ryan, walk me through this.

862

00:41:11,060 --> 00:41:12,060

This looks like a missile.

863

00:41:12,060 --> 00:41:14,060

Okay, this is a towfish.

864

00:41:14,060 --> 00:41:20,060

The idea is to run it about five to ten metres above the bottom to get ideal footage.

865

00:41:20,060 --> 00:41:21,060

Cool.

866

00:41:21,060 --> 00:41:23,060

Looks like a pretty serious piece of equipment.

867

00:41:23,060 --> 00:41:25,060

Very serious piece of equipment.

868

00:41:25,060 --> 00:41:29,060

A capable of picking up a nipple on a mermaid.

869

00:41:29,060 --> 00:41:32,060

But it will do the job, I can assure you.

870

00:41:32,060 --> 00:41:35,060

I'm just hoping for the nipple on the mermaid at this point.

871

00:41:37,060 --> 00:41:39,060

Okay, Ryan, here we go.

872

00:41:44,060 --> 00:41:45,060

Here we go, she's gone.

873

00:41:45,060 --> 00:41:46,060

Alright.

874

00:41:47,060 --> 00:41:48,060

Keep it going.

875

00:41:52,060 --> 00:41:53,060

Okay, she's out.

876

00:41:53,060 --> 00:41:55,060

Let's see what she sees.

877

00:41:56,060 --> 00:41:58,060

With the sonar in the water, the search begins.

878

00:41:58,060 --> 00:42:04,060

We're scanning a largely unexplored area near where the divers reported seeing a wreck.

879

00:42:04,060 --> 00:42:10,060

Lockheed only produced 147 model 10 electras, only four ever visited Papua New Guinea,

880

00:42:10,060 --> 00:42:12,060

and three are accounted for.

881

00:42:12,060 --> 00:42:16,060

If Rod and I find an elector in this harbor, it's Earhart's.

882

00:42:16,060 --> 00:42:18,060

This is kind of a waiting game now.

883

00:42:18,060 --> 00:42:21,060

We've got this side scan sonar in the water, we're towing it behind the boat,

884

00:42:21,060 --> 00:42:24,060

and it's just giving us a beautiful image of the ocean floor.

885

00:42:24,060 --> 00:42:28,060

And we're just kind of going back and forth, eliminating each sector as we go through it,

886

00:42:28,060 --> 00:42:31,060

and looking for wreckage while we go.

887

00:42:31,060 --> 00:42:35,060

Rod has been investigating Papua New Guinea's waters for over 30 years.

888

00:42:35,060 --> 00:42:38,060

Needless to say, he calls the shots.

889

00:42:38,060 --> 00:42:40,060

And I take beverage orders.

890

00:42:40,060 --> 00:42:42,060

Josh, do you know how to make tea?

891

00:42:42,060 --> 00:42:44,060

Cup and tea coming up.

892

00:42:45,060 --> 00:42:47,060

And I want it before Christmas.

893

00:42:47,060 --> 00:42:48,060

Aye aye.

894

00:42:48,060 --> 00:42:50,060

I feel like I'm with Quint from Jaws.

895

00:42:50,060 --> 00:42:53,060

Oh, for a splatter of rock.

896

00:42:53,060 --> 00:42:56,060

Don't have to take this abuse much longer.

897

00:42:58,060 --> 00:43:00,060

I got the kettle on.

898

00:43:00,060 --> 00:43:03,060

So, let's see what we got here.

899

00:43:03,060 --> 00:43:05,060

Peanut butter.

900

00:43:06,060 --> 00:43:08,060

Big beans.

901

00:43:11,060 --> 00:43:13,060

Look at this mug.

902

00:43:19,060 --> 00:43:21,060

Okay, tea coming up.

903

00:43:23,060 --> 00:43:26,060

Okay, cuppa, tea coming up.

904

00:43:26,060 --> 00:43:28,060

Cheers mate. All the best.

905

00:43:28,060 --> 00:43:30,060

How's it looking up here?

906

00:43:30,060 --> 00:43:31,060

Good, good.

907

00:43:31,060 --> 00:43:33,060

Alright, I'm headed back to my station.

908

00:43:36,060 --> 00:43:38,060

Not the manliest mug.

909

00:43:41,060 --> 00:43:43,060

Oh, Rod, got something.

910

00:43:43,060 --> 00:43:45,060

Rod, come here.

911

00:43:45,060 --> 00:43:47,060

Off the starboard side.

912

00:43:47,060 --> 00:43:49,060

Something big right off the starboard side, see it?

913

00:43:49,060 --> 00:43:51,060

Oh, yes, yes.

914

00:43:51,060 --> 00:43:53,060

That's nice. That's a big ship.

915

00:43:53,060 --> 00:43:54,060

You think so?

916

00:43:54,060 --> 00:43:55,060

Yeah, it's a big ship.

917

00:43:55,060 --> 00:43:56,060

Okay.

918

00:43:56,060 --> 00:43:58,060

World War II.

919

00:43:58,060 --> 00:44:00,060

How big do you think? What's the scale?

920

00:44:00,060 --> 00:44:03,060

It's probably around about 3, 4,000 tons.

921

00:44:03,060 --> 00:44:04,060

Unbelievable.

922

00:44:04,060 --> 00:44:06,060

Lying upright.

923

00:44:06,060 --> 00:44:07,060

Crazy.

924

00:44:07,060 --> 00:44:09,060

Okay, so not a plane, but we got a wreck.

925

00:44:09,060 --> 00:44:11,060

Not a plane, unfortunately.

926

00:44:11,060 --> 00:44:13,060

Okay, all right. Keep going.

927

00:44:13,060 --> 00:44:14,060

We're on to the top.

928

00:44:14,060 --> 00:44:15,060

Top to top, we're on it.

929

00:44:15,060 --> 00:44:17,060

We're finding wrecks.

930

00:44:19,060 --> 00:44:22,060

The harbor is 8 miles long and 6 miles wide,

931

00:44:22,060 --> 00:44:25,060

and slowly but surely we're scanning every inch of it.

932

00:44:29,060 --> 00:44:30,060

Oh, Rod, I got a plane.

933

00:44:30,060 --> 00:44:32,060

Rod, I got a plane for sure. Come here.

934

00:44:32,060 --> 00:44:34,060

Look at that. Look at that.

935

00:44:34,060 --> 00:44:36,060

That's a f***ing plane.

936

00:44:40,060 --> 00:44:44,060

I'm in Papua New Guinea using side-scan sonar equipment

937

00:44:44,060 --> 00:44:47,060

to scan Rebal Harbor for Amelia Earhart's missing plane,

938

00:44:47,060 --> 00:44:49,060

and we just got a major hit.

939

00:44:50,060 --> 00:44:52,060

Oh, Rod, I got a plane.

940

00:44:52,060 --> 00:44:54,060

Rod, I got a plane for sure. Come here.

941

00:44:54,060 --> 00:44:56,060

Look at that. Look at that.

942

00:44:56,060 --> 00:44:58,060

That's a f***ing plane. That's a plane.

943

00:44:58,060 --> 00:44:59,060

Right?

944

00:44:59,060 --> 00:45:01,060

Now that is definitely a plane.

945

00:45:01,060 --> 00:45:02,060

Great.

946

00:45:03,060 --> 00:45:04,060

That's amazing.

947

00:45:04,060 --> 00:45:06,060

One wing is buried in the sand.

948

00:45:06,060 --> 00:45:07,060

Or missing.

949

00:45:07,060 --> 00:45:08,060

Or missing?

950

00:45:08,060 --> 00:45:09,060

Or missing?

951

00:45:09,060 --> 00:45:10,060

Look at that. That's a plane.

952

00:45:10,060 --> 00:45:11,060

We'll put the anchor down.

953

00:45:11,060 --> 00:45:12,060

Let's do it.

954

00:45:15,060 --> 00:45:16,060

That's a plane.

955

00:45:16,060 --> 00:45:17,060

Let's get wet.

956

00:45:33,060 --> 00:45:35,060

Okay, we're heading down the line.

957

00:45:38,060 --> 00:45:40,060

Based on the sonar readings,

958

00:45:40,060 --> 00:45:43,060

there may be multiple wrecks scattered beneath the boat,

959

00:45:43,060 --> 00:45:46,060

and we descend into the murky depths to investigate them.

960

00:45:46,060 --> 00:45:47,060

Ah!

961

00:45:47,060 --> 00:45:50,060

We're coming up on almost 60 feet down here.

962

00:45:50,060 --> 00:45:52,060

Pretty murky conditions.

963

00:45:52,060 --> 00:45:54,060

Visibility's not very good.

964

00:45:57,060 --> 00:45:59,060

Definitely see something.

965

00:45:59,060 --> 00:46:02,060

See something in the dark that's there, definitely a shape.

966

00:46:03,060 --> 00:46:04,060

Definitely an airplane.

967

00:46:04,060 --> 00:46:05,060

Look at that.

968

00:46:05,060 --> 00:46:06,060

Unbelievable.

969

00:46:18,060 --> 00:46:22,060

That's booked upside down, but amazingly intact.

970

00:46:24,060 --> 00:46:27,060

Looks like the right wing is buried in the sand.

971

00:46:27,060 --> 00:46:29,060

The left wing is fairly intact.

972

00:46:30,060 --> 00:46:34,060

The million dollar question is whether this could be the Electra.

973

00:46:34,060 --> 00:46:37,060

As we scour the wreckage, vital clues come into focus,

974

00:46:37,060 --> 00:46:40,060

including a slot on the bottom of the plane.

975

00:46:42,060 --> 00:46:43,060

Down here.

976

00:46:43,060 --> 00:46:45,060

This is the pilot.

977

00:46:45,060 --> 00:46:48,060

This is where it would have leaped into the deck of the aircraft carrier.

978

00:46:48,060 --> 00:46:49,060

There it is.

979

00:46:50,060 --> 00:46:52,060

Looks like definitely single engine.

980

00:47:00,060 --> 00:47:03,060

This could be a Japanese Zero.

981

00:47:04,060 --> 00:47:06,060

Japanese Zero, yes.

982

00:47:06,060 --> 00:47:13,060

From 1940 to 1945, the Mitsubishi A6M Zero was the infamous symbol of Japan's air power.

983

00:47:13,060 --> 00:47:17,060

A legendary long range fighter responsible for the attack on Pearl Harbor,

984

00:47:17,060 --> 00:47:20,060

the Zero was light, fast, and deadly.

985

00:47:22,060 --> 00:47:24,060

Let's see if we can get any markings out of the way.

986

00:47:25,060 --> 00:47:28,060

This is where the Inamuru shoot bay.

987

00:47:30,060 --> 00:47:32,060

That's the red circle to meet all they call it.

988

00:47:32,060 --> 00:47:34,060

Japanese flag symbol.

989

00:47:34,060 --> 00:47:35,060

Then this parade.

990

00:47:36,060 --> 00:47:39,060

If this is a Zero, we may be able to find the Inamuru,

991

00:47:39,060 --> 00:47:43,060

the red circular sun that adorned the wings of Japanese warplanes.

992

00:47:46,060 --> 00:47:48,060

There it is, right there.

993

00:47:48,060 --> 00:47:51,060

You can just see the white pane on the edge.

994

00:47:51,060 --> 00:47:53,060

You can see the curve of it right there.

995

00:47:53,060 --> 00:47:54,060

It's perfect.

996

00:47:54,060 --> 00:47:57,060

Amazing, the beach is still on there after all these years.

997

00:47:57,060 --> 00:48:03,060

Definitely, not a million airhards plain, but an amazing wreck nonetheless.

998

00:48:06,060 --> 00:48:08,060

This guy is staying out the other side.

999

00:48:08,060 --> 00:48:10,060

Copy that, right behind you.

1000

00:48:11,060 --> 00:48:15,060

The second sonar hit is located only a short distance from the Japanese Zero,

1001

00:48:15,060 --> 00:48:18,060

and it's another shot at finding airhards plain.

1002

00:48:21,060 --> 00:48:23,060

Definitely wreckage down here.

1003

00:48:23,060 --> 00:48:26,060

We've got something down here. Looks like another plane.

1004

00:48:28,060 --> 00:48:31,060

This plane looks like it's in pretty bad shape.

1005

00:48:33,060 --> 00:48:36,060

Yeah, I'm trying to land it, but it's awfully hot.

1006

00:48:36,060 --> 00:48:39,060

Rod and I scour the wreck to look for more identifying markers,

1007

00:48:39,060 --> 00:48:42,060

but this plane is badly mangled.

1008

00:48:43,060 --> 00:48:45,060

What type of aircraft is this looking at here?

1009

00:48:46,060 --> 00:48:48,060

It's in such bad condition as how it's known.

1010

00:48:49,060 --> 00:48:53,060

The cockpit on the Electra had a wide field of view, but short narrow windows.

1011

00:48:53,060 --> 00:48:57,060

The cockpit area here looks like a much more open design.

1012

00:48:58,060 --> 00:49:03,060

Let's get around to the front here and see if we can get into the cockpit area at all.

1013

00:49:07,060 --> 00:49:10,060

Looks familiar. Looks like an American plane.

1014

00:49:10,060 --> 00:49:13,060

Is it a L engine or a twin? It's hard to tell.

1015

00:49:14,060 --> 00:49:18,060

I would have to guess, single engine, TBS, TBS, L engine.

1016

00:49:19,060 --> 00:49:24,060

Based on the configuration, Rod believes that this is a Grumman TBF Avenger,

1017

00:49:24,060 --> 00:49:28,060

an Allied torpedo bomber that proved indispensable in defeating the Japanese.

1018

00:49:29,060 --> 00:49:34,060

This is where the cockpit should be, but it's just about to come out of us.

1019

00:49:35,060 --> 00:49:39,060

Just going to sit in this sand lightly, trying not to disturb anything too much in here.

1020

00:49:39,060 --> 00:49:42,060

See if we can see anything very dark in here.

1021

00:49:44,060 --> 00:49:46,060

I think we have human remains here.

1022

00:49:47,060 --> 00:49:51,060

We have a phone down here. Looks like there may be human remains in the cockpit still.

1023

00:49:52,060 --> 00:49:57,060

Shockingly, it appears the three-person crew are still trapped in the cockpit.

1024

00:49:58,060 --> 00:50:00,060

That certainly reminds me.

1025

00:50:00,060 --> 00:50:03,060

How many crew would have been aboard this type of plane, do you think?

1026

00:50:04,060 --> 00:50:07,060

It would have been K, D, M, T, D, N, T, and three.

1027

00:50:08,060 --> 00:50:11,060

Want to leave this and tag it for further analysis?

1028

00:50:11,060 --> 00:50:13,060

Certainly don't want to disturb us in here.

1029

00:50:15,060 --> 00:50:17,060

Yep, yep, let's do that.

1030

00:50:18,060 --> 00:50:22,060

Let's make our way back to the surface and continue from there.

1031

00:50:24,060 --> 00:50:29,060

The plane and the soldiers inside are likely either from New Zealand or the United States.

1032

00:50:29,060 --> 00:50:32,060

Even though this isn't the Electra, it's a major find.

1033

00:50:33,060 --> 00:50:38,060

Since Rod and his team can now begin the important work of identifying the servicemen who died here,

1034

00:50:38,060 --> 00:50:40,060

and having these heroes repatriate at home.

1035

00:50:41,060 --> 00:50:46,060

Perhaps in time, this will bring closure to someone searching for these missing pilots.

1036

00:50:48,060 --> 00:50:53,060

It's time for me to bid farewell to the exotic shores of Papua New Guinea.

1037

00:50:54,060 --> 00:50:58,060

After exploring the jungles of New Britain and scanning the harbor of Rabaul,

1038

00:50:59,060 --> 00:51:02,060

we've eliminated two high-profile leads in the case.

1039

00:51:03,060 --> 00:51:05,060

With so many aircraft wrecks yet to be identified here,

1040

00:51:06,060 --> 00:51:09,060

it's easy to see why people believe airhards could be among them.

1041

00:51:10,060 --> 00:51:14,060

But at the end of the day, I don't believe there's enough physical evidence to support the theory.

1042

00:51:14,060 --> 00:51:20,060

Furthermore, I remain personally doubtful that she could have had enough fuel to limp all the way back here.

1043

00:51:21,060 --> 00:51:23,060

But my search for answers has just begun.

1044

00:51:24,060 --> 00:51:30,060

There's another breaking lead in the case, one that's so compelling it has recently captured worldwide attention.

1045

00:51:31,060 --> 00:51:35,060

There's stunning new evidence to suggest that once Airheart failed to locate Howland Island,

1046

00:51:35,060 --> 00:51:38,060

she headed someplace much closer than PNG.

1047

00:51:38,060 --> 00:51:44,060

Just 400 miles south of her target, crash landing on the uninhabited island of Nica Mararo.

1048

00:51:45,060 --> 00:51:49,060

A renowned expert believes she may have died on this lonely island as a castaway.

1049

00:51:50,060 --> 00:51:54,060

And the kicker? He may actually have a piece of her plane to prove it.

1050

00:51:55,060 --> 00:51:56,060

Coming up.

1051

00:51:57,060 --> 00:52:00,060

13-year-old boy, you find human bones under your house?

1052

00:52:01,060 --> 00:52:05,060

It never ever came back into my life until I read this thing about Amelia.

1053

00:52:05,060 --> 00:52:09,060

Was the rest of that crawl space under the house thoroughly explored?

1054

00:52:09,060 --> 00:52:10,060

No, not at all.

1055

00:52:10,060 --> 00:52:11,060

Really?

1056

00:52:11,060 --> 00:52:12,060

Never.

1057

00:52:12,060 --> 00:52:13,060

I got a bone down here.

1058

00:52:13,060 --> 00:52:14,060

There's more down here.

1059

00:52:14,060 --> 00:52:15,060

There's more down here.

1060

00:52:15,060 --> 00:52:18,060

It might be time to call the police department to come over here and take a look,

1061

00:52:18,060 --> 00:52:21,060

because a couple of them could be human, I don't know.

1062

00:52:26,060 --> 00:52:30,060

I'm flying at about 35,000 feet and headed to Wilmington, Delaware

1063

00:52:30,060 --> 00:52:34,060

to interview an expert on the disappearance of Amelia Airheart.

1064

00:52:34,060 --> 00:52:41,060

On one of the last legs of her transworld flight, Airheart was supposed to travel 2,500 miles from
Lea Papua New Guinea

1065

00:52:41,060 --> 00:52:44,060

to tiny Howland Island in the middle of the South Pacific.

1066

00:52:45,060 --> 00:52:50,060

But she never reached her destination and vanished without a trace.

1067

00:52:51,060 --> 00:52:53,060

Or so we all thought.

1068

00:52:55,060 --> 00:53:01,060

Rick Gillespie is the executive director of Tiger, an organization dedicated to finding Airheart's Electra.

1069

00:53:01,060 --> 00:53:07,060

He believes that Airheart missed Howland Island and crashed on the nearby atoll of Nica Moraro.

1070

00:53:07,060 --> 00:53:14,060

When we started this organization, my attitude toward looking for Amelia Airheart was,

1071

00:53:14,060 --> 00:53:19,060

she probably just got lost looking for a tiny island in a big ocean, ran out of gas, crashed it,

1072

00:53:19,060 --> 00:53:24,060

see the technology doesn't exist to find such a small target in such a big ocean.

1073

00:53:24,060 --> 00:53:31,060

And it wasn't until two of our members who were retired military aerial navigators came to us and said,

1074

00:53:31,060 --> 00:53:37,060

the things that Airheart is known to have said on the radio make perfect sense to a navigator.

1075

00:53:37,060 --> 00:53:45,060

She was doing exactly what she should have done and that should have brought her to one of two islands that she had enough fuel to get to.

1076

00:53:45,060 --> 00:53:47,060

And nobody ever looked at her.

1077

00:53:47,060 --> 00:53:53,060

Airheart's final transmissions indicate that her and Noonan believed they were in the right spot,

but couldn't see Howland.

1078

00:53:54,060 --> 00:53:59,060

You're on the line, one, five, seven, three, three, seven, two, one, keep this message.

1079

00:53:59,060 --> 00:54:02,060

You're running on line north to south.

1080

00:54:02,060 --> 00:54:08,060

If in fact Airheart followed that line, it would have likely passed near the Phoenix Group, leading straight to Gardner Island,

1081

00:54:08,060 --> 00:54:11,060

known today as Nica Moraro.

1082

00:54:11,060 --> 00:54:18,060

Okay, if all those radio signals people thought were genuine were real, then the airplane would have to be on land.

1083

00:54:18,060 --> 00:54:21,060

We've looked on the land and there's no airplane on the land.

1084

00:54:21,060 --> 00:54:24,060

Therefore, the radio signals must be somehow bogus.

1085

00:54:24,060 --> 00:54:28,060

Let's go look in the ocean for a floating airplane and that's what they did.

1086

00:54:28,060 --> 00:54:30,060

They didn't find one. They didn't find anything.

1087

00:54:30,060 --> 00:54:32,060

How many times have you been out to Nica Moraro?

1088

00:54:32,060 --> 00:54:34,060

I've been in Nica Moraro ten times.

1089

00:54:34,060 --> 00:54:37,060

Ten times? And not an easy island to reach?

1090

00:54:37,060 --> 00:54:40,060

No, it's one of the most remote places on earth.

1091

00:54:40,060 --> 00:54:44,060

And what's your level of confidence that that's where she set that plane down?

1092

00:54:44,060 --> 00:54:45,060

Hundred percent.

1093

00:54:45,060 --> 00:54:46,060

Hundred percent?

1094

00:54:46,060 --> 00:54:47,060

Hundred percent.

1095

00:54:47,060 --> 00:54:59,060

We just established last week that a piece of aluminum that we found on that island in 1991 matches in every respect

1096

00:54:59,060 --> 00:55:02,060

a unique part of Airheart's airplane.

1097

00:55:05,060 --> 00:55:14,060

When Airheart was in Miami, she had a special custom-made window on the right side of the airplane replaced

1098

00:55:15,060 --> 00:55:17,060

with a plain aluminum patch.

1099

00:55:17,060 --> 00:55:24,060

It has a unique rivet pattern, unique proportions dictated by the size of the hole it was covering and the structure of the airplane.

1100

00:55:24,060 --> 00:55:25,060

Right.

1101

00:55:25,060 --> 00:55:28,060

So a piece of a million Airheart's airplane ended up on that island.

1102

00:55:28,060 --> 00:55:33,060

Critics will say, yeah, well, it could have floated up there because we found it washed up.

1103

00:55:33,060 --> 00:55:39,060

And if that was the only thing we'd ever found on Nica Moraro, you could say, yeah, well, maybe.

1104

00:55:39,060 --> 00:55:42,060

But it's not the only thing we've ever found.

1105

00:55:43,060 --> 00:55:47,060

September 1940, this is a man named Gerald Galleher.

1106

00:55:47,060 --> 00:55:54,060

He went down there and found a partial skeleton, total of 13 bones.

1107

00:55:54,060 --> 00:56:01,060

And it looked like this person had been lying under a tree and had died there.

1108

00:56:01,060 --> 00:56:05,060

And he looked at this and said, this might be a million Airheart.

1109

00:56:06,060 --> 00:56:11,060

Galleher was a colonial soldier who landed on Nica Moraro as part of a British settlement.

1110

00:56:11,060 --> 00:56:16,060

He packed the skeleton he discovered into a box and took it back to Fiji for analysis.

1111

00:56:16,060 --> 00:56:21,060

The bones were sent to the School of Medicine and given only a cursory examination,

1112

00:56:21,060 --> 00:56:24,060

in which the doctor concluded they were from a male.

1113

00:56:24,060 --> 00:56:28,060

Before anyone could test to see if they belonged to Airheart's navigator,

1114

00:56:28,060 --> 00:56:31,060

the bones disappeared somewhere in the island's archives.

1115

00:56:32,060 --> 00:56:39,060

But we have the notes the doctor took of the measurements of those bones.

1116

00:56:39,060 --> 00:56:44,060

And we've given those measurements to two independent forensic anthropologists,

1117

00:56:44,060 --> 00:56:47,060

plugs it into the databases available now.

1118

00:56:47,060 --> 00:56:51,060

What comes out of the computer is white female of Northern European descent

1119

00:56:51,060 --> 00:56:53,060

who stood 5'7", 5'8".

1120

00:56:53,060 --> 00:56:56,060

Whoa, there's nobody else like that missing out there.

1121

00:56:56,060 --> 00:56:59,060

That's a description of a millionaire Airheart.

1122

00:56:59,060 --> 00:57:04,060

It's an amazing lead, but the question remains, what became of the bones?

1123

00:57:06,060 --> 00:57:10,060

Fiji's main newspaper is now reporting a new lead in the case.

1124

00:57:10,060 --> 00:57:15,060

If the bones can be found, it may finally close the greatest missing persons case in history.

1125

00:57:15,060 --> 00:57:20,060

Time for me to head back to the skies, get to Fiji and join the search.

1126

00:57:21,060 --> 00:57:26,060

Since the dawn of aviation, every pilot and passenger has seen this view,

1127

00:57:26,060 --> 00:57:29,060

the endless cloudscape that swaddles planet Earth.

1128

00:57:29,060 --> 00:57:34,060

It was just over a century ago, on a windy stretch of beach in North Carolina,

1129

00:57:34,060 --> 00:57:37,060

that the Wright brothers launched the first powered aircraft,

1130

00:57:37,060 --> 00:57:39,060

the fragile looking Wright Flyer 1.

1131

00:57:39,060 --> 00:57:42,060

The plane may have only flown for 12 seconds,

1132

00:57:42,060 --> 00:57:45,060

but humanity's terrestrial shackles were finally broken.

1133

00:57:45,060 --> 00:57:47,060

The world would never be the same.

1134

00:57:47,060 --> 00:57:50,060

It's hard to know to what extent early aviation pioneers like Airheart

1135

00:57:50,060 --> 00:57:52,060

envisioned what would follow,

1136

00:57:52,060 --> 00:57:58,060

but she probably never imagined Richard Branson, seatback TVs, or double-decker jumbo jets.

1137

00:57:59,060 --> 00:58:03,060

And yet, despite this technological golden age of aviation,

1138

00:58:03,060 --> 00:58:05,060

some things haven't changed.

1139

00:58:05,060 --> 00:58:07,060

We still lose planes.

1140

00:58:07,060 --> 00:58:12,060

In fact, more than 80 aircraft have completely vanished since the end of World War II.

1141

00:58:17,060 --> 00:58:20,060

Many aspects of Airheart's disappearance seem eerily relevant

1142

00:58:20,060 --> 00:58:23,060

with the recent loss of Malaysia Flight 370.

1143

00:58:23,060 --> 00:58:27,060

It serves to remind us that our dominion over the skies is not absolute,

1144

00:58:27,060 --> 00:58:33,060

and that an awe-inspiring 90% of the world's oceans remain unexplored.

1145

00:58:33,060 --> 00:58:36,060

Thanks to brave aviation pioneers like Airheart,

1146

00:58:36,060 --> 00:58:41,060

my modern jumbo jet will make the 5,000-mile trip across the Pacific in a matter of hours.

1147

00:58:42,060 --> 00:58:45,060

I touch down in the Fijian capital of Suva,

1148

00:58:46,060 --> 00:58:50,060

a bustling and cosmopolitan town with a laid-back island charm.

1149

00:58:50,060 --> 00:58:54,060

This is the last place the missing remains from Nicarmarro were taken.

1150

00:58:57,060 --> 00:59:00,060

Exploring a new culture is always an eye-opening experience,

1151

00:59:00,060 --> 00:59:02,060

and Suva is no exception,

1152

00:59:02,060 --> 00:59:05,060

like seeing these authentic Fijian recliners.

1153

00:59:05,060 --> 00:59:08,060

I like your chairs. Do you mind?

1154

00:59:08,060 --> 00:59:10,060

This is very nice.

1155

00:59:12,060 --> 00:59:14,060

Oh, yeah, you guys got it all figured out here.

1156

00:59:14,060 --> 00:59:16,060

Are you guys working right now?

1157

00:59:16,060 --> 00:59:18,060

Yeah, you are.

1158

00:59:18,060 --> 00:59:20,060

We're not allowed to drink beer when you're working.

1159

00:59:20,060 --> 00:59:22,060

Are you allowed to sit in a wheelbarrow?

1160

00:59:26,060 --> 00:59:31,060

I'm in town to meet with Nemané Dela Batiki, the editor-in-chief of the Fiji Sun.

1161

00:59:31,060 --> 00:59:33,060

His name is Nemané Dela Batiki,

1162

00:59:33,060 --> 00:59:36,060

and he's a great actor and a great actor.

1163

00:59:37,060 --> 00:59:40,060

His paper recently published a new report on the missing bones

1164

00:59:40,060 --> 00:59:44,060

that came to Fiji from Nicarmarro, where Earhart may have perished.

1165

00:59:44,060 --> 00:59:47,060

According to the article, a doctor Kenneth Gilchrist,

1166

00:59:47,060 --> 00:59:49,060

the former head of the Fiji Medical School,

1167

00:59:49,060 --> 00:59:52,060

may have been in possession of the bones.

1168

00:59:52,060 --> 00:59:54,060

The doctor has passed away,

1169

00:59:54,060 --> 00:59:57,060

but three Fijian employees were named as beneficiaries in his will.

1170

00:59:57,060 --> 00:59:59,060

All three men have also died,

1171

00:59:59,060 --> 01:00:01,060

and investigators believe that the box of bones

1172

01:00:01,060 --> 01:00:04,060

may have been inherited by one of their family members.

1173

01:00:04,060 --> 01:00:09,060

There were three Fijians who were close to the doctor,

1174

01:00:09,060 --> 01:00:12,060

and apparently they had knowledge of the box.

1175

01:00:12,060 --> 01:00:16,060

The mystery is which one got the box.

1176

01:00:16,060 --> 01:00:19,060

Two of the men's families have already been interviewed,

1177

01:00:19,060 --> 01:00:21,060

and neither have the bones.

1178

01:00:21,060 --> 01:00:23,060

The third man's son has yet to be found.

1179

01:00:23,060 --> 01:00:25,060

If I can find him and the box,

1180

01:00:25,060 --> 01:00:30,060

DNA testing could prove whether the bones are the remains of Earhart or her navigator.

1181

01:00:30,060 --> 01:00:33,060

We heard that the bones were found in the box.

1182

01:00:33,060 --> 01:00:36,060

We heard that one of the three people

1183

01:00:36,060 --> 01:00:39,060

lived in Navala, a remote village.

1184

01:00:39,060 --> 01:00:40,060

Navala.

1185

01:00:40,060 --> 01:00:43,060

Navala village on the western side of Fiji.

1186

01:00:50,060 --> 01:00:53,060

With no time to lose, I'm heading to the village to investigate.

1187

01:00:53,060 --> 01:00:55,060

Since I'll be showing up uninvited,

1188

01:00:55,060 --> 01:00:57,060

it's important that I don't go empty-handed.

1189

01:00:57,060 --> 01:01:00,060

So I'm heading to the market to pick up a gift.

1190

01:01:04,060 --> 01:01:09,060

We got spices. We got beans. We got whatever that is.

1191

01:01:09,060 --> 01:01:13,060

Since I'm not seeing any Starbucks cards or vanilla-scented candles,

1192

01:01:13,060 --> 01:01:15,060

I decide to go with a Fijian classic.

1193

01:01:15,060 --> 01:01:19,060

Kava. You have lots of kava. I need to buy some.

1194

01:01:19,060 --> 01:01:21,060

The roots of the kava plant are mashed

1195

01:01:21,060 --> 01:01:26,060

and turned into an intoxicating sedative that's wildly popular in this part of the world.

1196

01:01:26,060 --> 01:01:27,060

How much is it?

1197

01:01:27,060 --> 01:01:29,060

\$35 a kilo.

1198

01:01:29,060 --> 01:01:30,060

\$35 a kilo.

1199

01:01:30,060 --> 01:01:32,060

Sounds like a fair price.

1200

01:01:32,060 --> 01:01:35,060

I don't know how much kava is supposed to cost, so I trust you.

1201

01:01:35,060 --> 01:01:36,060

\$10 a kilo.

1202

01:01:36,060 --> 01:01:38,060

Okay, I'll take a kilo.

1203

01:01:38,060 --> 01:01:40,060

Do you drink kava?

1204

01:01:40,060 --> 01:01:41,060

Does he drink kava?

1205

01:01:41,060 --> 01:01:42,060

No.

1206

01:01:42,060 --> 01:01:43,060

No, he doesn't like it?

1207

01:01:43,060 --> 01:01:45,060

It's an acquired taste.

1208

01:01:45,060 --> 01:01:46,060

Look at that.

1209

01:01:46,060 --> 01:01:48,060

That looks amazing.

1210

01:01:48,060 --> 01:01:50,060

The quidditch with this thing.

1211

01:01:50,060 --> 01:01:51,060

Bye.

1212

01:01:51,060 --> 01:01:55,060

With my offering in hand, I'm starting my journey to the village.

1213

01:01:55,060 --> 01:02:00,060

I'm hopeful to find the man who may be in possession of the missing bones.

1214

01:02:00,060 --> 01:02:06,060

Here, in Fiji's rugged back country, may be the answers to one of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries.

1215

01:02:08,060 --> 01:02:09,060

Coming up.

1216

01:02:09,060 --> 01:02:10,060

This is where it happened.

1217

01:02:10,060 --> 01:02:11,060

Right there.

1218

01:02:11,060 --> 01:02:14,060

There has gotta be a better way to make a living.

1219

01:02:14,060 --> 01:02:20,060

When you found the box, did they go through the underside of this house with a fine-tooth comb?

1220

01:02:20,060 --> 01:02:21,060

Nope.

1221

01:02:21,060 --> 01:02:22,060

This looks like bone.

1222

01:02:22,060 --> 01:02:26,060

It might be time to call the police department to come over here and take a look.

1223

01:02:31,060 --> 01:02:46,060

I'm on the island of Viti Levu in Fiji, searching for a man who may be in possession of bones that were brought here from a remote Pacific island in 1945, and which could be the remains of Amelia Earhart.

1224

01:02:46,060 --> 01:02:54,060

After picking up a traditional offering of kava plant, I'm heading off the grid to search a remote village where the man was last known to live.

1225

01:02:55,060 --> 01:03:00,060

Beyond the capital, Fiji reveals her true colors.

1226

01:03:00,060 --> 01:03:04,060

These islands are an undeveloped wonderland brimming with stunning natural beauty.

1227

01:03:05,060 --> 01:03:12,060

While the small village of Navala is just 55 miles northeast of Suva, the road system isn't exactly state-of-the-art.

1228

01:03:13,060 --> 01:03:18,060

Fiji's rustic charm may be pleasing to the eye, but it does come with some minor drawbacks.

1229

01:03:19,060 --> 01:03:20,060

No rush.

1230

01:03:35,060 --> 01:03:38,060

Okay, that may be the end of this road.

1231

01:03:39,060 --> 01:03:42,060

Hopefully the village is not too far from here.

1232

01:03:43,060 --> 01:03:44,060

Here we go.

1233

01:03:44,060 --> 01:03:50,060

In this part of the world, reaching a remote village involves more than just a bumpy ride down a dirt road.

1234

01:03:50,060 --> 01:03:54,060

In this case, I'll have to channel my inner huck fin to reach my destination.

1235

01:03:54,060 --> 01:03:55,060

Buda!

1236

01:03:58,060 --> 01:04:00,060

Are you going to the village?

1237

01:04:00,060 --> 01:04:01,060

To the village?

1238

01:04:01,060 --> 01:04:02,060

Can I have a ride?

1239

01:04:03,060 --> 01:04:04,060

Okay.

1240

01:04:06,060 --> 01:04:08,060

Think I'm about to sink your boat.

1241

01:04:14,060 --> 01:04:15,060

Alright, we're floating.

1242

01:04:16,060 --> 01:04:25,060

A few generations ago, an outsider like myself arriving uninvited at some Fijian villages could have become the main course in a cannibalistic feast.

1243

01:04:25,060 --> 01:04:33,060

While I'm not afraid of winding up on the menu these days, I am worried that it's going to take me a month to paddle there on what the locals call a Billy Billy Raft.

1244

01:04:34,060 --> 01:04:38,060

This is the 2014 model of the Billy Billy Raft.

1245

01:04:38,060 --> 01:04:42,060

It comes with a full bamboo sunroof, obviously.

1246

01:04:44,060 --> 01:04:45,060

Natural air conditioning.

1247

01:04:46,060 --> 01:04:47,060

Manual transmission.

1248

01:04:51,060 --> 01:04:52,060

Here?

1249

01:04:52,060 --> 01:04:53,060

Village?

1250

01:04:53,060 --> 01:04:54,060

Yeah.

1251

01:04:55,060 --> 01:04:56,060

Okay.

1252

01:04:56,060 --> 01:05:00,060

I don't really know where the emergency brake is on this thing, so I'm just going to smash it into the rocks here.

1253

01:05:04,060 --> 01:05:05,060

Okay, my friend.

1254

01:05:05,060 --> 01:05:06,060

Benaka, vaca, levo.

1255

01:05:06,060 --> 01:05:07,060

Bye.

1256

01:05:13,060 --> 01:05:18,060

It wasn't exactly an express trip, but the journey comes with an instant reward.

1257

01:05:18,060 --> 01:05:25,060

The traditional village is beautiful beyond words, and the brilliant smiles of its youngest residents make the journey well worth the effort.

1258

01:05:34,060 --> 01:05:45,060

This village is reportedly home to a man who may have inherited the possible remains of Amelia Earhart, but an outsider doesn't just waltz in and start snooping around.

1259

01:05:45,060 --> 01:05:48,060

First, I'll need to get approval from the village chief.

1260

01:05:51,060 --> 01:05:53,060

I'm immediately led to the chief's hut.

1261

01:05:53,060 --> 01:05:54,060

His word is law here.

1262

01:05:54,060 --> 01:06:01,060

With the future of my investigation riding on winning him over, I'm hoping my kilo of kava helps grease the wheels.

1263

01:06:04,060 --> 01:06:06,060

And the old lady.

1264

01:06:06,060 --> 01:06:07,060

And the old lady.

1265

01:06:07,060 --> 01:06:08,060

And the old lady.

1266

01:06:12,060 --> 01:06:21,060

So when you present your ship, if it's accepted, that means you are welcome to the village.

1267

01:06:24,060 --> 01:06:28,060

The men take away the root, mash it, and turn it into a drink.

1268

01:06:29,060 --> 01:06:35,060

Though it's consumed by millions of people throughout the Pacific, to outsiders, kava is an acquired taste.

1269

01:06:36,060 --> 01:06:45,060

Yes, it's bitter, gritty, and resembles muddy water, but it also comes with a warm wave of euphoria, thanks to its properties as a natural sedative.

1270

01:06:46,060 --> 01:06:47,060

I pass to you.

1271

01:06:47,060 --> 01:06:49,060

No, you have to finish it.

1272

01:06:49,060 --> 01:06:50,060

I have to finish it.

1273

01:06:50,060 --> 01:06:52,060

Kava is more than a drink.

1274

01:06:52,060 --> 01:06:53,060

It's ceremonial.

1275

01:06:53,060 --> 01:06:57,060

Not finishing every last drop is considered an insult.

1276

01:06:57,060 --> 01:06:59,060

So, bottoms up.

1277

01:07:07,060 --> 01:07:09,060

And now, it all comes down to the chief.

1278

01:07:09,060 --> 01:07:11,060

His is the final approval.

1279

01:07:11,060 --> 01:07:18,060

I'm in a small Fijian village looking for answers to the disappearance of Amelia Earhart.

1280

01:07:18,060 --> 01:07:24,060

A recent news story reported that a man in this village may have a box containing her bones.

1281

01:07:24,060 --> 01:07:30,060

If I can find these remains, it may solve one of the greatest puzzles in modern human history.

1282

01:07:31,060 --> 01:07:36,060

But first, I need to win over the chief, who is the absolute authority here.

1283

01:07:36,060 --> 01:07:41,060

Without his permission, I won't be able to stay in the village and continue my investigation.

1284

01:07:41,060 --> 01:07:46,060

After downing a few cups of ceremonial kava, the chief is ready to make his decision.

1285

01:07:46,060 --> 01:07:49,060

Hopefully, he thinks I'm a good drinking buddy.

1286

01:07:49,060 --> 01:07:51,060

But I'm not going to be able to do that.

1287

01:07:51,060 --> 01:07:53,060

I'm going to be able to do that.

1288

01:07:53,060 --> 01:07:55,060

I'm going to be able to do that.

1289

01:07:55,060 --> 01:07:58,060

And now, it's time for the chief to make his decision.

1290

01:07:58,060 --> 01:08:01,060

Hopefully, he thinks I'm a good drinking buddy.

1291

01:08:01,060 --> 01:08:03,060

Everything is accepted.

1292

01:08:03,060 --> 01:08:09,060

You are no longer a visitor here. You are part of our village family.

1293

01:08:09,060 --> 01:08:12,060

Oh, that's very nice to hear. Thank you very much, Venaka.

1294

01:08:12,060 --> 01:08:19,060

Thank you very much for allowing me to come here and for accepting the kava and for sharing the drink with me.

1295

01:08:19,060 --> 01:08:22,060

I appreciate it. Thank you. Venaka.

1296

01:08:22,060 --> 01:08:24,060

There are some pizzas up in here, huh?

1297

01:08:26,060 --> 01:08:30,060

If I give you one inch, don't take one mile.

1298

01:08:30,060 --> 01:08:32,060

Okay, sounds good.

1299

01:08:42,060 --> 01:08:44,060

The chief thinks I need one for the road.

1300

01:08:44,060 --> 01:08:48,060

After obliging, I head out into the village to begin my hut to hut search

1301

01:08:48,060 --> 01:08:54,060

for the man who might have the mysterious box that experts believe could contain the bones of Amelia Earhart.

1302

01:08:56,060 --> 01:08:58,060

Pula, how are you?

1303

01:08:58,060 --> 01:09:00,060

I'm good. Thank you, Anil.

1304

01:09:00,060 --> 01:09:01,060

I'm good.

1305

01:09:06,060 --> 01:09:10,060

Pula, hello. Listen, I'm trying to find these men.

1306

01:09:10,060 --> 01:09:12,060

Do you know these men? Do you know these names?

1307

01:09:12,060 --> 01:09:14,060

Do any of them live here?

1308

01:09:14,060 --> 01:09:15,060

No.

1309

01:09:15,060 --> 01:09:16,060

Strike one.

1310

01:09:16,060 --> 01:09:17,060

Okay, next.

1311

01:09:17,060 --> 01:09:18,060

No.

1312

01:09:18,060 --> 01:09:19,060

No?

1313

01:09:19,060 --> 01:09:20,060

None of them live here?

1314

01:09:20,060 --> 01:09:21,060

No.

1315

01:09:21,060 --> 01:09:22,060

Venaka.

1316

01:09:22,060 --> 01:09:23,060

Strike two.

1317

01:09:23,060 --> 01:09:27,060

Just as I'm about to give up, I meet with one last man in the village.

1318

01:09:27,060 --> 01:09:28,060

Pula.

1319

01:09:28,060 --> 01:09:29,060

Pula.

1320

01:09:29,060 --> 01:09:30,060

How are you?

1321

01:09:30,060 --> 01:09:35,060

I'm good. I'm good. I'm looking for these three men. Do any of these names look familiar to you?

1322

01:09:35,060 --> 01:09:37,060

Uh-huh. Kalabiti.

1323

01:09:38,060 --> 01:09:41,060

He was in the village, baby, but he passed away.

1324

01:09:41,060 --> 01:09:42,060

He passed away?

1325

01:09:42,060 --> 01:09:43,060

He passed away.

1326

01:09:43,060 --> 01:09:44,060

Does he have any family here still?

1327

01:09:45,060 --> 01:09:48,060

Uh, no, not what I know.

1328

01:09:48,060 --> 01:09:56,060

And we're looking for these men because they may have been in possession of a box with human bones.

1329

01:09:56,060 --> 01:10:01,060

When this man died, did he have any possessions here in the village, a box maybe?

1330

01:10:01,060 --> 01:10:03,060

Kalabiti doesn't have any belongings when he passed away.

1331

01:10:03,060 --> 01:10:04,060

Right.

1332

01:10:04,060 --> 01:10:05,060

There wasn't any box.

1333

01:10:05,060 --> 01:10:06,060

Okay.

1334

01:10:06,060 --> 01:10:10,060

I think there's another man he should see. He's staying in Suva.

1335

01:10:10,060 --> 01:10:11,060

In Suva?

1336

01:10:11,060 --> 01:10:12,060

In Suva.

1337

01:10:12,060 --> 01:10:13,060

Who is that?

1338

01:10:13,060 --> 01:10:14,060

John Gray.

1339

01:10:14,060 --> 01:10:17,060

John Gray? That's a familiar name to me. John Gray is who?

1340

01:10:17,060 --> 01:10:21,060

He was one of those, uh, some bones in the box.

1341

01:10:21,060 --> 01:10:23,060

Yes, many years ago, we found bones, right?

1342

01:10:23,060 --> 01:10:24,060

Yeah.

1343

01:10:24,060 --> 01:10:28,060

The name John Gray has long been linked to the Earhart mystery.

1344

01:10:28,060 --> 01:10:35,060

As a boy in 1968, he was exploring a crawl space underneath his home in Fiji when he made a startling discovery.

1345

01:10:35,060 --> 01:10:38,060

He found a box of bones that included a human skull.

1346

01:10:38,060 --> 01:10:43,060

Furthermore, the house had previously belonged to an employee from the Fiji School of Medicine.

1347

01:10:43,060 --> 01:10:48,060

Some believe that these bones could be the very same ones that went missing from Nicarmarro.

1348

01:10:48,060 --> 01:10:52,060

But in a maddening twist, these bones have also been lost.

1349

01:10:58,060 --> 01:11:03,060

My trip to the village has confirmed that the last man mentioned in the article didn't have the bones.

1350

01:11:03,060 --> 01:11:06,060

But a new lead is drawing me back to Suva.

1351

01:11:06,060 --> 01:11:11,060

Could John Gray provide any new insight about the bones he found nearly 50 years ago?

1352

01:11:11,060 --> 01:11:15,060

Perhaps he holds the key to solving this epic mystery.

1353

01:11:16,060 --> 01:11:18,060

So you were about how old when this happened?

1354

01:11:18,060 --> 01:11:19,060

13.

1355

01:11:19,060 --> 01:11:24,060

And so, 13-year-old boy, you find human bones under your house?

1356

01:11:24,060 --> 01:11:26,060

How did you come to be digging under your house?

1357

01:11:26,060 --> 01:11:30,060

Me and my cousins decided that we needed to go and check the place out.

1358

01:11:31,060 --> 01:11:38,060

And I crawled under this house and looked, and lo and behold, there was this box under there.

1359

01:11:38,060 --> 01:11:45,060

As we took off part of the covering, we saw this roundish, whitish-brownish thing.

1360

01:11:47,060 --> 01:11:53,060

And then, having pulled it out and seen what was the skull, it freaked me out.

1361

01:11:53,060 --> 01:11:54,060

Yeah.

1362

01:11:54,060 --> 01:11:55,060

And it's buried under your house?

1363

01:11:55,060 --> 01:11:56,060

Absolutely.

1364

01:11:56,060 --> 01:11:59,060

I mean, this is like the Poltergeist. This is like a horror movie.

1365

01:11:59,060 --> 01:12:00,060

Yeah.

1366

01:12:00,060 --> 01:12:03,060

And then what became of the box and the bones?

1367

01:12:03,060 --> 01:12:06,060

It was all given to the Fiji Museum.

1368

01:12:06,060 --> 01:12:10,060

I just really didn't want to have anything to do with that skull again.

1369

01:12:10,060 --> 01:12:11,060

Right.

1370

01:12:11,060 --> 01:12:18,060

So it never, ever came back into my life until I read this thing about Amelia Earhart.

1371

01:12:18,060 --> 01:12:24,060

Something clicked in my mind to say, John, that skull that you had is perhaps that.

1372

01:12:24,060 --> 01:12:27,060

Do you think there's a chance that it's still in the museum?

1373

01:12:27,060 --> 01:12:31,060

Well, I hope so.

1374

01:12:31,060 --> 01:12:35,060

Was the rest of that crawl space under the house thoroughly explored?

1375

01:12:35,060 --> 01:12:36,060

No, not at all.

1376

01:12:36,060 --> 01:12:37,060

Really?

1377

01:12:37,060 --> 01:12:41,060

Never. Even if I did want to, I couldn't. Because someone else owned it.

1378

01:12:41,060 --> 01:12:43,060

Now, though, it is a possibility?

1379

01:12:43,060 --> 01:12:47,060

The current owner is amenable to us going in there and excavating if we need to.

1380

01:12:47,060 --> 01:12:51,060

And you do think it's possible there could be other material remains under the house?

1381

01:12:51,060 --> 01:12:52,060

Absolutely.

1382

01:12:52,060 --> 01:12:53,060

You do?

1383

01:12:53,060 --> 01:12:55,060

Absolutely. She needs closure.

1384

01:12:55,060 --> 01:12:56,060

Hmm.

1385

01:12:56,060 --> 01:12:58,060

Amelia needs closure.

1386

01:13:03,060 --> 01:13:06,060

John made arrangements for us to search the crawl space tonight.

1387

01:13:06,060 --> 01:13:13,060

In the meantime, I want to further investigate his claim that the bones he found could still be in the archives at the Fiji Museum.

1388

01:13:13,060 --> 01:13:19,060

The museum boasts an impressive collection that spans nearly 4,000 years.

1389

01:13:19,060 --> 01:13:25,060

There are authentic Fijian rafts and even the rudder from the infamously mutineered HMS bounty.

1390

01:13:25,060 --> 01:13:29,060

But much of the collection is devoted to Fiji's violent cannibal past.

1391

01:13:29,060 --> 01:13:32,060

These islands were once a hotbed of human consumption.

1392

01:13:32,060 --> 01:13:36,060

One missionary was even eaten right down to the soles of his shoes.

1393

01:13:36,060 --> 01:13:39,060

The one part the natives found too tough to eat.

1394

01:13:39,060 --> 01:13:48,060

In a museum brimming with human remains, I'm not feeling very optimistic about finding a single box of bones handed over by a teenage boy in the 1960s.

1395

01:13:48,060 --> 01:13:53,060

But I've come this far and plan to leave no stone or bone unturned.

1396

01:13:56,060 --> 01:13:59,060

I'm fortunate to be granted access to the museum's archives.

1397

01:13:59,060 --> 01:14:06,060

However, what little hope I have shrinks as I realize that this place is essentially that room at the end of Raiders of the Lost Ark.

1398

01:14:06,060 --> 01:14:08,060

This might take a while.

1399

01:14:14,060 --> 01:14:18,060

I comb through row after row of jumbled, disintegrating files.

1400

01:14:25,060 --> 01:14:29,060

Eventually, I do manage to turn up some intriguing reports about Earhart.

1401

01:14:31,060 --> 01:14:33,060

But no potential remains.

1402

01:14:34,060 --> 01:14:39,060

As I continue to comb through the museum's collection, I find countless weapons and relics.

1403

01:14:39,060 --> 01:14:41,060

But they're not what I'm looking for.

1404

01:14:44,060 --> 01:14:46,060

Oh, box! Check this out.

1405

01:14:47,060 --> 01:14:49,060

That kind of fits the description.

1406

01:14:49,060 --> 01:14:52,060

As he said, it's got clasps on the front.

1407

01:14:55,060 --> 01:15:11,060

I'm at the Fiji Museum looking for a lost box of bones that some think can be traced to Amelia Earhart.

1408

01:15:11,060 --> 01:15:13,060

Oh, box!

1409

01:15:13,060 --> 01:15:17,060

After scouring the archives, I've come upon a box that matches the description.

1410

01:15:18,060 --> 01:15:20,060

Nothing.

1411

01:15:20,060 --> 01:15:22,060

Can't win them all.

1412

01:15:22,060 --> 01:15:26,060

My search through the museum's archives doesn't turn up the remains.

1413

01:15:28,060 --> 01:15:31,060

It costs me the day, but I haven't lost all hope.

1414

01:15:31,060 --> 01:15:36,060

I'm traveling to the childhood home where John Gray found a box of bones over 40 years ago.

1415

01:15:36,060 --> 01:15:40,060

The police never searched the crawl space after John made his discovery,

1416

01:15:40,060 --> 01:15:43,060

so there could still be more evidence buried in the dirt.

1417

01:15:43,060 --> 01:15:45,060

This is it. This is your childhood home.

1418

01:15:45,060 --> 01:15:47,060

This is the home.

1419

01:15:47,060 --> 01:15:49,060

Does it look the same?

1420

01:15:49,060 --> 01:15:54,060

A little overgrown with shrubs and things like that, but the house looks exactly the same.

1421

01:15:54,060 --> 01:15:56,060

All right, well, here we go.

1422

01:15:56,060 --> 01:15:59,060

So this is where it happened.

1423

01:15:59,060 --> 01:16:00,060

This is the entry.

1424

01:16:00,060 --> 01:16:02,060

Right there.

1425

01:16:04,060 --> 01:16:08,060

Okay, so 13-year-old boy, you decide you're going to go into that crawl space.

1426

01:16:08,060 --> 01:16:13,060

Yep, I got into that, crawled out of the house, and there it was, this box.

1427

01:16:13,060 --> 01:16:16,060

Do you think anybody has been under here since 1968?

1428

01:16:16,060 --> 01:16:18,060

Well, it looks like things, no.

1429

01:16:18,060 --> 01:16:24,060

The box of bones that John found in 1968 was strikingly similar to the one that went missing decades before.

1430

01:16:26,060 --> 01:16:30,060

If there are any more remains buried under this house, they very well could be air hearts.

1431

01:16:31,060 --> 01:16:36,060

I'm not thrilled about poking around under an old house looking for air hearts bones in the dark,

1432

01:16:36,060 --> 01:16:40,060

but I've come this far, and there's no way I'm turning back now.

1433

01:16:44,060 --> 01:16:47,060

Where under here did you find the box?

1434

01:16:47,060 --> 01:16:50,060

Right in there, where that timber stump is.

1435

01:16:51,060 --> 01:16:53,060

I see it, yeah, about halfway back.

1436

01:16:53,060 --> 01:16:54,060

That's great.

1437

01:16:54,060 --> 01:16:56,060

And it was just sitting there, it was buried?

1438

01:16:56,060 --> 01:16:57,060

It was sitting there.

1439

01:16:57,060 --> 01:17:00,060

So if you get there, that's where the box was.

1440

01:17:00,060 --> 01:17:03,060

Well, that seems like that's our spot to start digging around.

1441

01:17:04,060 --> 01:17:05,060

Here we go.

1442

01:17:07,060 --> 01:17:09,060

So please just caution as you go through.

1443

01:17:09,060 --> 01:17:10,060

Okay.

1444

01:17:13,060 --> 01:17:15,060

Definitely some spiders, God.

1445

01:17:17,060 --> 01:17:19,060

So John, you're talking about that post there?

1446

01:17:19,060 --> 01:17:21,060

Correct, right in the middle of the house.

1447

01:17:21,060 --> 01:17:23,060

If I find any money under here, I keep it, right?

1448

01:17:23,060 --> 01:17:28,060

Doesn't look like anyone's really been down here in the past 40 years.

1449

01:17:28,060 --> 01:17:31,060

I found a button, looks like a button off a piece of clothing.

1450

01:17:31,060 --> 01:17:35,060

This is the first thing I've really found down here that looks from the human world.

1451

01:17:35,060 --> 01:17:39,060

Lots of broken bits of pottery.

1452

01:17:39,060 --> 01:17:41,060

It's a glass.

1453

01:17:42,060 --> 01:17:45,060

Looks like a child's marble.

1454

01:17:45,060 --> 01:17:48,060

Yeah, we used to play with those things in the old house.

1455

01:17:48,060 --> 01:17:50,060

You've lost your marbles, John.

1456

01:17:54,060 --> 01:17:58,060

Okay, John, I'm pushing over toward the area where you found the box.

1457

01:17:58,060 --> 01:17:59,060

Oh, boy.

1458

01:17:59,060 --> 01:18:02,060

There has gotta be a better way to make a living.

1459

01:18:04,060 --> 01:18:06,060

Is it this beam right here, the small one?

1460

01:18:06,060 --> 01:18:07,060

You're right there.

1461

01:18:07,060 --> 01:18:08,060

That's it?

1462

01:18:08,060 --> 01:18:09,060

That's it.

1463

01:18:09,060 --> 01:18:10,060

Okay.

1464

01:18:10,060 --> 01:18:12,060

So this was where the box was.

1465

01:18:12,060 --> 01:18:14,060

I'm going to go down there.

1466

01:18:14,060 --> 01:18:17,060

Okay, so this was where the box was.

1467

01:18:27,060 --> 01:18:29,060

A lot of coral down here.

1468

01:18:29,060 --> 01:18:33,060

It must have, when they were building the house, used this as part of the landfill.

1469

01:18:37,060 --> 01:18:38,060

John?

1470

01:18:38,060 --> 01:18:39,060

Yep?

1471

01:18:39,060 --> 01:18:41,060

Just making sure you didn't go home.

1472

01:18:41,060 --> 01:18:43,060

When you found the box, did they go through the...

1473

01:18:43,060 --> 01:18:46,060

underside of this house with a fine tooth comb?

1474

01:18:46,060 --> 01:18:47,060

No.

1475

01:18:47,060 --> 01:18:49,060

I just wanted to get rid of the box.

1476

01:18:49,060 --> 01:18:51,060

But the police didn't come down here?

1477

01:18:51,060 --> 01:18:52,060

No.

1478

01:18:52,060 --> 01:18:56,060

You would think after they found this box filled with bones that would have come down here

1479

01:18:56,060 --> 01:19:02,060

and done a more thorough search, but I don't see anything around there other than a lot of dirt and some of this coral.

1480

01:19:05,060 --> 01:19:07,060

Hold on, let me see what's down here.

1481

01:19:09,060 --> 01:19:11,060

This does not look like coral to me.

1482

01:19:14,060 --> 01:19:16,060

This looks like bone.

1483

01:19:25,060 --> 01:19:27,060

Hold on, let me see what's down here.

1484

01:19:27,060 --> 01:19:33,060

I'm in Fiji searching underneath a home for bones that some believe may be the remains of Amelia Earhard.

1485

01:19:33,060 --> 01:19:36,060

After a bit of digging, I may have found something.

1486

01:19:36,060 --> 01:19:39,060

This does not look like coral to me.

1487

01:19:39,060 --> 01:19:41,060

This looks like bone.

1488

01:19:46,060 --> 01:19:49,060

I got a bone down here for sure.

1489

01:19:49,060 --> 01:19:51,060

A big piece of bone.

1490

01:19:51,060 --> 01:19:55,060

I don't know if it's human or not, but this is definitely bone.

1491

01:19:55,060 --> 01:19:56,060

Wow.

1492

01:19:56,060 --> 01:19:57,060

That is a bone.

1493

01:19:57,060 --> 01:19:59,060

I mean, that looks like a human bone to me.

1494

01:19:59,060 --> 01:20:01,060

Another one?

1495

01:20:01,060 --> 01:20:03,060

Part of a vertebrae?

1496

01:20:03,060 --> 01:20:04,060

My goodness.

1497

01:20:04,060 --> 01:20:06,060

More?

1498

01:20:06,060 --> 01:20:10,060

In a million years, I didn't think I was going to actually find bones under this house,

1499

01:20:10,060 --> 01:20:14,060

but I'm looking at a handful of them right here and I'm just barely scratching the surface.

1500

01:20:14,060 --> 01:20:16,060

Amazing.

1501

01:20:16,060 --> 01:20:17,060

There's more down here.

1502

01:20:17,060 --> 01:20:19,060

There's more down here.

1503

01:20:20,060 --> 01:20:22,060

I mean, there's a skeleton down here.

1504

01:20:22,060 --> 01:20:25,060

There's bits of bone all over the place down here.

1505

01:20:26,060 --> 01:20:28,060

More bones.

1506

01:20:28,060 --> 01:20:29,060

I mean, what is that from?

1507

01:20:29,060 --> 01:20:30,060

It's everywhere I look.

1508

01:20:30,060 --> 01:20:33,060

I mean, I'm putting the skeleton together down here.

1509

01:20:33,060 --> 01:20:36,060

It might be time to call the police department to come over here and take a look,

1510

01:20:36,060 --> 01:20:38,060

because a couple of them could be human.

1511

01:20:38,060 --> 01:20:39,060

I don't know.

1512

01:20:44,060 --> 01:20:46,060

All right, I'm coming out.

1513

01:20:52,060 --> 01:20:54,060

Oh my goodness.

1514

01:20:55,060 --> 01:20:57,060

Well, there's more under the house, John.

1515

01:20:57,060 --> 01:20:58,060

Vertebrae?

1516

01:20:58,060 --> 01:21:02,060

This obviously is going to be a chicken bone, something much smaller.

1517

01:21:02,060 --> 01:21:06,060

This could be a cow bone, but this, I mean, things like this, I don't know.

1518

01:21:06,060 --> 01:21:08,060

That could be human.

1519

01:21:09,060 --> 01:21:13,060

We assume that what was in the box was all that there was.

1520

01:21:13,060 --> 01:21:18,060

And for a 13-year-old kid, you never want to go back in to find out if there's anything else.

1521

01:21:22,060 --> 01:21:24,060

I'm going to do a surgical look down here.

1522

01:21:24,060 --> 01:21:26,060

So we don't need any cameras at the moment?

1523

01:21:26,060 --> 01:21:27,060

Okay.

1524

01:21:27,060 --> 01:21:28,060

Okay, we see it.

1525

01:21:28,060 --> 01:21:29,060

No cameras?

1526

01:21:29,060 --> 01:21:30,060

Oh, okay.

1527

01:21:33,060 --> 01:21:40,060

The bones that I found under the house transformed our television production into a criminal investigation.

1528

01:21:40,060 --> 01:21:46,060

After lengthy questioning at the police station, the Fiji CSI unit has bagged the evidence for review,

1529

01:21:46,060 --> 01:21:51,060

and I've got no choice but to head back to my hotel for a much-needed shower.

1530

01:21:53,060 --> 01:21:59,060

The next morning, I return to the scene of the crime, only to find more investigators crawling under the house.

1531

01:21:59,060 --> 01:22:01,060

Hazmat Suze.

1532

01:22:02,060 --> 01:22:04,060

Why didn't I think of that?

1533

01:22:06,060 --> 01:22:08,060

The police tape says it all.

1534

01:22:08,060 --> 01:22:14,060

The case is now out of my hands, and I'm told that analysis and DNA testing could take months.

1535

01:22:14,060 --> 01:22:20,060

However, the lab has already confirmed that at least one of the bones is human.

1536

01:22:21,060 --> 01:22:24,060

A revelation that turns out to be front-page news.

1537

01:22:25,060 --> 01:22:32,060

As I make my way back to the airport to bring my expedition to a close, I have a lot to reflect on.

1538

01:22:32,060 --> 01:22:40,060

The shocking discovery of human remains beneath John Gray's house is a genuinely newsworthy lead in

the search for the Queen of the Skies.

1539

01:22:40,060 --> 01:22:48,060

In addition, the potential identification of the aluminum panel from the island of Nica Moraro makes it tempting to conclude

1540

01:22:48,060 --> 01:22:52,060

that Earhart did indeed crash on or around the remote island.

1541

01:22:52,060 --> 01:22:57,060

But much of the evidence, though hugely compelling, is still circumstantial.

1542

01:22:57,060 --> 01:23:03,060

Until her bones or the full wreckage of the Electra is identified, no one can say for certain.

1543

01:23:04,060 --> 01:23:11,060

Back in Papua New Guinea, the overgrown World War II wreckage that we found in the jungle and the eerie wrecks beneath the waves

1544

01:23:11,060 --> 01:23:15,060

are, in a sense, every bit as important as Earhart's plane.

1545

01:23:15,060 --> 01:23:19,060

After all, pilots went missing, lives were lost.

1546

01:23:19,060 --> 01:23:26,060

My hope is that the bones from the sunken Allied plane can be identified and repatriated home for the burial they deserve.

1547

01:23:29,060 --> 01:23:36,060

At the heart of Earhart's world flight was a commitment to opening new frontiers and to unite the many cultures of the world.

1548

01:23:36,060 --> 01:23:40,060

In that regard, her mission has been a success.

1549

01:23:41,060 --> 01:23:47,060

She helped herald in the modern age of aviation, which now serves to connect every nation on Earth.

1550

01:23:48,060 --> 01:23:54,060

In the end, I'm most drawn to the unanswered question, why do we continue the search?

1551

01:23:54,060 --> 01:24:00,060

To me, the magnificent thing about Amelia is that in the eyes of the world, she never died.

1552

01:24:00,060 --> 01:24:04,060

Her fear never witnessed, her failure never recorded.

1553

01:24:04,060 --> 01:24:11,060

Earhart's legacy of inspiration is amplified because her adventure is perpetual, unbroken by gravity.

1554

01:24:11,060 --> 01:24:16,060

We simply think of her as missing, and perhaps that's where she belongs.

1555

01:24:16,060 --> 01:24:20,060

Somewhere over that limitless blue horizon.