

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000

Do you think that there's truth to this,

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:04,000

or do you think it's all legend?

3

00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:08,000

This officially wins the award for, like,

4

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

the most dramatic place ever to meet somebody.

5

00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:15,000

Right there. There is something there.

6

00:00:15,000 --> 00:00:17,000

So what is it?

7

00:00:17,000 --> 00:00:18,000

I don't know.

8

00:00:18,000 --> 00:00:20,000

Let's go find out.

9

00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:22,000

Oh, I'm not looking down,

10

00:00:22,000 --> 00:00:25,000

because it is absolutely horrible.

11

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:28,000

It's opening up into a chamber.

12

00:00:28,000 --> 00:00:30,000

Hook, hook, hook.

13

00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:32,000

Oh, my God.

14

00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:35,000

That's a plane. Unbelievable.

15

00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:37,000

Guys, come here. Look at this.

16

00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:39,000

It's a box, for sure.

17

00:00:39,000 --> 00:00:42,000

It's just that simple. Let's get rich.

18

00:00:55,000 --> 00:00:58,000

When it comes to war, not all great military strategists

19

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,000

fought on the right side of history,

20

00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:03,000

and few of them were as brilliant, as daring,

21

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:07,000

or as wrong as the Nazi general Erwin Rommel.

22

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:10,000

As Hitler's top commander,

23

00:01:10,000 --> 00:01:13,000

Rommel leads a tank force through France and Belgium

24

00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:16,000

before sweeping across North Africa like a sandstorm,

25

00:01:16,000 --> 00:01:19,000

earning the nickname the Desert Fox.

26

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:24,000

But when he cleared out of Africa in 1943,

27

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:28,000

legend tells that Rommel took more than just his tanks.

28

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:31,000

An SS unit traveling behind Rommel

29

00:01:31,000 --> 00:01:34,000

reportedly seizes whatever valuables they can grab.

30

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Gold, as well as jewelry and art, worth tens of millions today.

31

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:42,000

Witnesses say the treasure was put on a boat

32

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:45,000

and snuck onto the occupied island of Corsica,

33

00:01:45,000 --> 00:01:48,000

but where it was hidden remains a mystery.

34

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:51,000

Now, one group of explorers believe they may have located

35

00:01:51,000 --> 00:01:54,000

the hiding spot in a cavern deep beneath the island.

36

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:57,000

And newly uncovered eyewitness accounts are being used

37

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:00,000

to pinpoint the gold's location in frigid waters

38

00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:02,000

just off the coast.

39

00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:06,000

So I'm packing my bags for Europe to see if I can help

40

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:09,000

outwit the Desert Fox one last time

41

00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:12,000

and recover Rommel's treasure.

42

00:02:17,000 --> 00:02:19,000

My name is Josh Gates.

43

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:21,000

Look at that!

44

00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:25,000

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for exploration,

45

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:29,000

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

46

00:02:29,000 --> 00:02:32,000

This is horrible. This is officially horrible.

47

00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:35,000

My travels have taken me to the ends of the earth

48

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:38,000

as I investigate the greatest legends in history.

49

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:40,000

We're going to fly, let's go!

50

00:02:40,000 --> 00:02:43,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

51

00:02:49,000 --> 00:02:52,000

Welcome to the island of Corsica.

52

00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:56,000

Rising up out of the Mediterranean

53

00:02:56,000 --> 00:02:58,000

in between France and Italy,

54

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,000

Corsica is technically part of France.

55

00:03:00,000 --> 00:03:02,000

It has been for the last 200 years,

56

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:04,000

but it's really its own thing.

57

00:03:04,000 --> 00:03:07,000

This place is an incredibly unique culture and spirit.

58

00:03:07,000 --> 00:03:09,000

It even has its own language.

59

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:10,000

What's it like here?

60

00:03:10,000 --> 00:03:13,000

Well, when your geographical neighbors are Provence and Tuscany,

61

00:03:13,000 --> 00:03:16,000

you're destined for beautiful things.

62

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:21,000

And speaking of beautiful things,

63

00:03:21,000 --> 00:03:24,000

my rental car is an absolute stunner.

64

00:03:25,000 --> 00:03:30,000

This is a mid-60s Citroen d'Aux Chavaux d'Apheur,

65

00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:33,000

which translated means two steam horses.

66

00:03:33,000 --> 00:03:35,000

But don't let the name fool you.

67

00:03:35,000 --> 00:03:38,000

This bad boy actually has 18 horsepower.

68

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:41,000

So pretty speedy.

69

00:03:41,000 --> 00:03:45,000

It also has a gear shifter that isn't exactly intuitive.

70

00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:48,000

Shifting in the Citroen is more of an interpretation.

71

00:03:48,000 --> 00:03:52,000

More of an interpretive art than a hard science, I would say.

72

00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:54,000

That could be second gear.

73

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:56,000

That could be reverse. I don't really know.

74

00:03:56,000 --> 00:03:57,000

Okay.

75

00:03:57,000 --> 00:03:59,000

One, two, trois?

76

00:03:59,000 --> 00:04:01,000

No, that's cab. That's cab.

77

00:04:01,000 --> 00:04:03,000

Trois.

78

00:04:03,000 --> 00:04:05,000

Trois.

79

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:08,000

As I wind down the coast,

80

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:12,000

I'm awestruck by Corsica's quiet and rugged nature.

81

00:04:13,000 --> 00:04:17,000

But back in 1943, quiet was in short supply.

82

00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:19,000

Corsica was a battlefield,

83

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:23,000

as the French resistance fought to expel the occupying German army.

84

00:04:23,000 --> 00:04:25,000

Meanwhile, in North Africa,

85

00:04:25,000 --> 00:04:28,000

General Erwin Rommel's forces were being routed off the continent,

86

00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:32,000

as they fled a unit of the Nazi SS followed with them,

87

00:04:32,000 --> 00:04:35,000

pillaging homes and museums as they went.

88

00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:38,000

A huge collection of gold, jewels and artwork was stolen,

89

00:04:38,000 --> 00:04:41,000

worth untold millions of dollars.

90

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:44,000

When Rommel finally left Africa,

91

00:04:44,000 --> 00:04:48,000

the treasure was supposedly secreted from Tunisia to Corsica.

92

00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,000

Ever since the end of the war,

93

00:04:52,000 --> 00:04:54,000

the legend of Rommel's treasure has only grown here.

94

00:04:54,000 --> 00:04:57,000

My first stop is to head to a southern port city here in Corsica,

95

00:04:57,000 --> 00:05:00,000

where a group of explorers believe they're close to proving

96

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:03,000

that that legend is a reality.

97

00:05:09,000 --> 00:05:13,000

I ditched my wheels and hiked uphill toward a massive citadel,

98

00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:17,000

a stone fortress that has guarded Bonifacio for 1100 years.

99

00:05:18,000 --> 00:05:22,000

The city itself is a weathered maze of stone buildings,

100

00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:24,000

sitting on top of alabaster cliffs.

101

00:05:24,000 --> 00:05:26,000

And the city's strategic location

102

00:05:26,000 --> 00:05:29,000

means that it's been one of the most conquered places in history,

103

00:05:29,000 --> 00:05:32,000

everybody from the barbarians and the Moors,

104

00:05:32,000 --> 00:05:34,000

to the Romans, the Genoans,

105

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:37,000

and of course, the fascists of World War II.

106

00:05:38,000 --> 00:05:43,000

The streets of Bonifacio are narrow, old, and brimming with charm.

107

00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:47,000

I duck into a local shop for a cup of coffee,

108

00:05:47,000 --> 00:05:49,000

but instead, find this.

109

00:05:51,000 --> 00:05:52,000

Bonjour.

110

00:05:52,000 --> 00:05:53,000

Bonjour. How are you?

111

00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:54,000

Good and you?

112

00:05:54,000 --> 00:05:55,000

I'm good.

113

00:05:55,000 --> 00:05:56,000

You want a drink?

114

00:05:56,000 --> 00:05:57,000

I love a drink.

115

00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:58,000

Yeah.

116

00:05:58,000 --> 00:05:59,000

Are you having a party here?

117

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:00,000

No, it's a...

118

00:06:00,000 --> 00:06:01,000

...spontine.

119

00:06:01,000 --> 00:06:02,000

Spontine?

120

00:06:02,000 --> 00:06:03,000

What's a spontine?

121

00:06:03,000 --> 00:06:05,000

It's a snack with a Cascan food.

122

00:06:05,000 --> 00:06:06,000

This is just a snack?

123

00:06:06,000 --> 00:06:07,000

Yes.

124

00:06:07,000 --> 00:06:08,000

And you do this every day?

125

00:06:08,000 --> 00:06:09,000

Every day.

126

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:10,000

Every day?

127

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:13,000

I just moved to Corsica, please forward my mail.

128

00:06:13,000 --> 00:06:16,000

It's 10.15 a.m. on a Thursday,

129

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,000

and I am just now realizing that I've been doing my work days all wrong.

130

00:06:19,000 --> 00:06:21,000

You want to test a very special cheese?

131

00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:22,000

Special cheese?

132

00:06:22,000 --> 00:06:23,000

Yeah.

133

00:06:23,000 --> 00:06:24,000

I do.

134

00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:25,000

Why are you laughing?

135

00:06:25,000 --> 00:06:26,000

What special how?

136

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:29,000

This is a sheep cheese with alcohol,

137

00:06:29,000 --> 00:06:31,000

closed for two years on.

138

00:06:31,000 --> 00:06:32,000

Okay.

139

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:38,000

Yes, yes.

140

00:06:38,000 --> 00:06:40,000

That is the strongest thing I've ever smelled.

141

00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:41,000

Wow.

142

00:06:41,000 --> 00:06:42,000

That is like nitroglycerin.

143

00:06:42,000 --> 00:06:44,000

Okay, here we go.

144

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Good luck.

145

00:06:52,000 --> 00:06:53,000

Oh my God.

146

00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Oh, man.

147

00:06:59,000 --> 00:07:01,000

It's like a complete sensory overload.

148

00:07:01,000 --> 00:07:02,000

Here's the thing though.

149

00:07:02,000 --> 00:07:04,000

It's kind of amazing.

150

00:07:04,000 --> 00:07:05,000

It's really rich.

151

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

I mean, no one's ever going to kiss me again,

152

00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:09,000

but it tastes incredible.

153

00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:10,000

Cheers.

154

00:07:10,000 --> 00:07:11,000

Cheers.

155

00:07:11,000 --> 00:07:13,000

Welcome to Corsica and welcome to Bonifacio.

156

00:07:13,000 --> 00:07:14,000

Cheers.

157

00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:18,000

Oh, even the wine is great.

158

00:07:18,000 --> 00:07:20,000

This place is magical.

159

00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:22,000

Thank you.

160

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,000

As much as I'm like to stay here for the rest of my life,

161

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:28,000

I'm off to meet with an explorer who's using eye-witness accounts

162

00:07:28,000 --> 00:07:31,000

to pinpoint the location of Rommel's treasure.

163

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:34,000

Her direction said to meet her nearby

164

00:07:34,000 --> 00:07:36,000

at the bottom of the stairs.

165

00:07:37,000 --> 00:07:39,000

Anna, come on.

166

00:07:42,000 --> 00:07:43,000

Okay.

167

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:51,000

The King Aragon steps are hand cut into the side of Bonifacio's cliffs

168

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:54,000

and drop 230 feet down to the ocean.

169

00:07:54,000 --> 00:07:56,000

How long it takes to descend depends entirely

170

00:07:56,000 --> 00:07:58,000

on how much wine and cheese you've just eaten.

171

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:01,000

Just a minute.

172

00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:03,000

Okay.

173

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:07,000

Right about now, my quads are begging for the King Aragon escalator.

174

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:17,000

Finally at the bottom, I end up ducking through a deeply worn

175

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:20,000

ocean side passage to a small grotto where I find explorer,

176

00:08:20,000 --> 00:08:22,000

Mary Ann Boulanger.

177

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:23,000

Mary Ann.

178

00:08:23,000 --> 00:08:24,000

Nice to meet you.

179

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:25,000

Nice to meet you too.

180

00:08:25,000 --> 00:08:27,000

Okay, this officially wins the award for like the most dramatic

181

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:29,000

place ever to meet somebody.

182

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Yes, it's a unique place.

183

00:08:31,000 --> 00:08:32,000

It's stunning.

184

00:08:32,000 --> 00:08:33,000

And so why here?

185

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:34,000

Why did you want to meet here?

186

00:08:34,000 --> 00:08:36,000

Because right beyond you, there is a grotto.

187

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:41,000

And the legend says that Rommel's treasure was hidden right there.

188

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:42,000

Here?

189

00:08:42,000 --> 00:08:43,000

Yes.

190

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:46,000

How do we know that it might be here?

191

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:50,000

So in 1952, there was a newspaper account that said that a Nazi

192

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:54,000

official named Walter Impe was on the ship that brought the treasure

193

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:56,000

to Bonifacio.

194

00:08:56,000 --> 00:08:57,000

From Africa?

195

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:58,000

Yes, from Africa.

196

00:08:58,000 --> 00:08:59,000

Okay.

197

00:08:59,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Impe claimed that the treasure was kept in wooden chests and was

198

00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:05,000

taken ashore in Corsica to a secret location on the island.

199

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:09,000

Later, Impe said that scuba divers concealed the treasure in an

200

00:09:09,000 --> 00:09:11,000

underground lake.

201

00:09:11,000 --> 00:09:15,000

Mary Ann, it turns out, knows of a place that fits the description

202

00:09:15,000 --> 00:09:16,000

perfectly.

203

00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:19,000

This grotto is actually another one lake.

204

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:20,000

It is?

205

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:21,000

Yes.

206

00:09:21,000 --> 00:09:22,000

So it actually goes further back?

207

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:23,000

Yes.

208

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:24,000

You want to take a look?

209

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:25,000

Yeah, I would like to.

210

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:26,000

Wow, look at that.

211

00:09:26,000 --> 00:09:34,000

And it goes way back.

212

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,000

And there's water back there?

213

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:37,000

Yes.

214

00:09:37,000 --> 00:09:39,000

Right in the back, there is a lake.

215

00:09:39,000 --> 00:09:41,000

Do we know how far back it goes?

216

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:43,000

Do we know how large the chamber is?

217

00:09:43,000 --> 00:09:47,000

No, we're really not sure how big is it because most of the place is

218

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:48,000

underwater.

219

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:49,000

And so it hasn't been fully explored?

220

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:50,000

No, it hasn't.

221

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:54,000

That's why my team and we want to explore and try to figure out

222

00:09:54,000 --> 00:09:56,000

if there is something inside.

223

00:09:56,000 --> 00:09:58,000

If there is a treasure in there?

224

00:09:58,000 --> 00:09:59,000

Yes, absolutely.

225

00:09:59,000 --> 00:10:00,000

So can you get through this?

226

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:04,000

No, it has been sealed many years ago, but we discovered another way

227

00:10:04,000 --> 00:10:05,000

to get in.

228

00:10:05,000 --> 00:10:06,000

And where is that?

229

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:07,000

It's back up on the city.

230

00:10:07,000 --> 00:10:10,000

Does that mean we have to go back up the stairs?

231

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:11,000

Yes.

232

00:10:11,000 --> 00:10:12,000

OK.

233

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:23,000

But only because I want to get rich.

234

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:26,000

And so, Diane leads me back up the staircase to join her spelunking

235

00:10:26,000 --> 00:10:30,000

team hard at work, preparing to explore Corsica's hidden caverns.

236

00:10:30,000 --> 00:10:31,000

Hi, guys.

237

00:10:31,000 --> 00:10:32,000

Josh.

238

00:10:32,000 --> 00:10:33,000

This is Pierre-Jean.

239

00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:34,000

This is Marie.

240

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:35,000

Marie.

241

00:10:35,000 --> 00:10:36,000

And this is Alain.

242

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:37,000

Bonjour.

243

00:10:37,000 --> 00:10:40,000

Since we can't access the lake through the ocean side, we're planning to descend

244

00:10:40,000 --> 00:10:43,000

something called Saint-Bartalamie's Holy Well.

245

00:10:43,000 --> 00:10:47,000

And so to get down to the grotto, it's, you use a well?

246

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:48,000

Yes.

247

00:10:48,000 --> 00:10:51,000

It's a well that has been built around 1850.

248

00:10:51,000 --> 00:10:52,000

And how far down is it?

249

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:53,000

200 feet.

250

00:10:53,000 --> 00:10:54,000

200 feet?

251

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:55,000

Yes.

252

00:10:55,000 --> 00:10:58,000

The good news is you don't have to take the staircase.

253

00:10:58,000 --> 00:10:59,000

Aha.

254

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:01,000

The bad news is it's straight down?

255

00:11:01,000 --> 00:11:02,000

Yes.

256

00:11:02,000 --> 00:11:07,000

In order to find Rommel's treasure in the underground lake, we have to be equipped to both drop

257

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:08,000

and dive.

258

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:13,000

And so, laden with scuba gear and harnesses, they lead me into the crumbling and normally

259

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:16,000

sealed off remains of an abandoned building.

260

00:11:16,000 --> 00:11:17,000

This is it?

261

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:18,000

Yes.

262

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:19,000

Yes.

263

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:26,000

And so, we're going to go down to the bottom of the lake.

264

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:31,000

Oh, my God.

265

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:36,000

I'm on the Mediterranean island of Corsica on the hunt for evidence of a multi-million-dollar

266

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:37,000

treasure.

267

00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:42,000

Legend says that gold and jewels looted as part of the campaign by Nazi commander Erwin

268

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:47,000

Rommel were taken out of North Africa and hidden somewhere on this island.

269

00:11:47,000 --> 00:11:53,000

A group of local explorers believe it's concealed in an underground lake in the city of Bonifacio.

270

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:57,680

And there's only one way to get there, by repelling down more than 200 feet inside a

271

00:11:57,680 --> 00:11:59,000

crumbling well.

272

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:01,400

Oh, my God.

273

00:12:01,400 --> 00:12:03,000

That goes all the way down to the ocean level.

274

00:12:03,000 --> 00:12:04,760

Yes, almost 200 feet.

275

00:12:04,760 --> 00:12:09,000

The well is unstable and is ringed by a hand-carved spiral staircase.

276

00:12:09,000 --> 00:12:11,000

And why aren't we taking the stairs?

277

00:12:11,000 --> 00:12:12,000

They're collapsing.

278

00:12:12,000 --> 00:12:15,000

Oh, they're more dangerous than going down that hole?

279

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:19,000

More dangerous.

280

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:23,000

The staircase has been condemned and the well is strictly closed to the public.

281

00:12:23,000 --> 00:12:27,000

Almost no one alive has laid eyes on the cavern below.

282

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:28,000

Is this floor stable?

283

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:29,000

No, no, it's very dangerous.

284

00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:31,000

No, so nothing is safe?

285

00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:32,000

No thinking is safe.

286

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:33,000

Nothing is safe.

287

00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:34,000

That's my new motto.

288

00:12:34,000 --> 00:12:38,000

Okay, here we go.

289

00:12:38,000 --> 00:12:42,000

I'll see you at the bottom, guys.

290

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:49,000

Okay, the floor is super-rodged and I'm headed down, but I'm not looking down because it

291

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:54,000

is absolutely horrible.

292

00:12:54,000 --> 00:12:57,000

This repel is a special kind of scary.

293

00:12:57,000 --> 00:13:02,000

It's 230 feet straight down and I'm free-hanging in complete darkness.

294

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:10,000

It's helling the well already.

295

00:13:10,000 --> 00:13:13,000

Okay, oh, God, don't look down.

296

00:13:13,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Don't look down.

297

00:13:14,000 --> 00:13:16,000

Don't ever look down.

298

00:13:16,000 --> 00:13:17,000

It's bottomless.

299

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:20,000

This is a bottomless pit.

300

00:13:20,000 --> 00:13:26,000

Okay, it's opening up.

301

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:30,000

It's opening up into a chamber.

302

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:34,000

Okay, definitely water underneath me.

303

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:42,000

I'm going to drop a couple of chem lights.

304

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:47,000

In the dim light of my glow sticks and headlamp, I find myself dangling above the cave floor

305

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:51,000

with no sense of just how big this room really is.

306

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:53,000

Oh, my God.

307

00:13:53,000 --> 00:14:03,000

I'm in the grotto.

308

00:14:03,000 --> 00:14:07,000

Okay, I'm down.

309

00:14:07,000 --> 00:14:11,000

Unbelievable.

310

00:14:11,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Marianne is the next to drop into the well and she carefully descends through the darkness to the cavern floor.

311

00:14:20,000 --> 00:14:22,000

Is she down?

312

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:24,000

This is outrageous.

313

00:14:24,000 --> 00:14:25,000

Yes, I told you.

314

00:14:25,000 --> 00:14:27,000

It's unbelievable.

315

00:14:27,000 --> 00:14:29,000

It just goes and goes.

316

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:34,000

Marianne, the scuba gear is lowered.

317

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:35,000

Okay.

318

00:14:35,000 --> 00:14:37,000

Then the rest of her team.

319

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:45,000

This has been months in the planning and they arrive ready to get to work.

320

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:46,000

Welcome.

321

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:49,000

Okay, so first of all, we're alive, which I'm very excited about.

322

00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:50,000

That's a good thing.

323

00:14:50,000 --> 00:14:51,000

Okay, now what do we do?

324

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:55,000

Let's get the scuba gear on and then we go underwater.

325

00:14:55,000 --> 00:14:57,000

Okay, and does anything live in this water?

326

00:14:57,000 --> 00:15:02,000

There is a six foot hill.

327

00:15:02,000 --> 00:15:03,000

Okay, come on.

328

00:15:03,000 --> 00:15:04,000

Let's go diving.

329

00:15:04,000 --> 00:15:05,000

Okay.

330

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:23,000

We launch ourselves into the water and into an unseen world.

331

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:33,000

With the glow of our dive lights, the flooded caverns appear like an eerie dreamscape.

332

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:45,000

Though touching the fine sand on the bottom can fog the entire chamber in an instant.

333

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:53,000

We hover through the cave looking for any evidence of the wooden crates that an eyewitness claimed was hidden in an underground lake.

334

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:58,000

But we soon see that we're not the only ones poking around down here.

335

00:15:58,000 --> 00:16:00,000

Whoa, there's an eel.

336

00:16:00,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Thank God it's not six feet long.

337

00:16:04,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Marianne and her team lead on, but the walls seem to be closing in around us.

338

00:16:13,000 --> 00:16:24,000

Tunnel is narrowing, heading to the surface.

339

00:16:24,000 --> 00:16:27,000

Okay, so it looks like that's the end of the line in here.

340

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:30,000

It's just nothing but rock.

341

00:16:30,000 --> 00:16:31,000

Is this it?

342

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:32,000

Is this the end you think?

343

00:16:32,000 --> 00:16:34,000

It looks like it keeps going.

344

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:35,000

It looks like it keeps going.

345

00:16:35,000 --> 00:16:36,000

Yes.

346

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:37,000

Okay, let's stick our noses through.

347

00:16:37,000 --> 00:16:39,000

We'll see if anything's in there.

348

00:16:39,000 --> 00:16:51,000

Marianne has spied what looks like a passageway into another chamber, but since it appears to be entirely underwater, with no air pocket above, and with visibility deteriorating, we proceed cautiously.

349

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:55,000

I see it! There's a way through!

350

00:16:55,000 --> 00:17:00,000

The opening is tight, so we squeeze through in single file into a second chamber.

351

00:17:00,000 --> 00:17:08,000

It's possible we're the first people to swim in here since World War II.

352

00:17:08,000 --> 00:17:12,000

Look! A bottle!

353

00:17:12,000 --> 00:17:20,000

Unlike the first chamber, this one contains artifacts, a clear indication that someone has been down here before.

354

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:28,000

Looks like a metal fuel canister, maybe from a boat.

355

00:17:28,000 --> 00:17:39,000

As we push on, we notice what appears to be another air pocket above us, so we ascend to see exactly where we are.

356

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Look at that! It's a big chamber!

357

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:49,000

Unbelievable! Beautiful!

358

00:17:49,000 --> 00:17:51,000

Yeah, it's amazing.

359

00:17:51,000 --> 00:17:54,000

Look at those stalactites! Incredible! Why are they yellow?

360

00:17:54,000 --> 00:17:57,000

It's because of the sulfur.

361

00:17:57,000 --> 00:18:01,000

That is something else. The room is huge.

362

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:06,000

It's absolutely incredible. Nobody's coming here. It's very difficult.

363

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:11,000

Yeah, it's like some dry land over there. Let's see if we can get up there.

364

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:24,000

Our investigation moves to solid ground. We're looking for anything that backs up the eyewitness account.

365

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:27,000

There he is. Looks like maybe a piece of wood.

366

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:28,000

Where? Oh, yeah!

367

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:29,000

You see?

368

00:18:29,000 --> 00:18:30,000

Yes, I see.

369

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:31,000

Yeah, let me go over there.

370

00:18:31,000 --> 00:18:34,000

Yeah, definitely wood.

371

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:40,000

Looks like a plank. It has old nails in it. It's really rotted.

372

00:18:40,000 --> 00:18:46,000

I mean, it's literally just disintegrating in my hands, so whatever it is, has been down here for a very long time.

373

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:53,000

We fan out to check every corner of the cave for anything else that might be down here.

374

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:58,000

Guys! Guys, come here! Look at this!

375

00:18:59,000 --> 00:19:01,000

It's a box, for sure.

376

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:16,000

With a team of explorers led by Marianne Boulanger, I'm in search of a lost Nazi treasure beneath the island of Corsica off the coast of France.

377

00:19:16,000 --> 00:19:18,000

Guys! Guys, come here! Look at this!

378

00:19:21,000 --> 00:19:23,000

It's a box, for sure.

379

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:26,000

Look at this!

380

00:19:31,000 --> 00:19:32,000

It's a box!

381

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:35,000

Oh, look at that!

382

00:19:35,000 --> 00:19:37,000

Is there anything in it?

383

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:42,000

It's just disintegrating. There's nothing in it. I mean, that has been down here for ages, I assume.

384

00:19:42,000 --> 00:19:43,000

Yes, I think so.

385

00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Why? Why is that even in here?

386

00:19:45,000 --> 00:19:46,000

That's the question.

387

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:49,000

I mean, that is the question. Who brought it here and what was in it?

388

00:19:49,000 --> 00:19:50,000

We don't know about this.

389

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:57,000

Yeah. Well, let's certainly have a look around underneath this to see if the contents have slipped out of it and to see if there's any more of these boxes down here.

390

00:19:57,000 --> 00:20:03,000

If it was Rommels, the crate could have held millions in gold, but there's no indication of its origin.

391

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:10,000

The visibility in here is nothing, so you literally have to just reach down and pick everything up one piece at a time.

392

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:16,000

If I bring up a handful of gold, I'll tell you what.

393

00:20:17,000 --> 00:20:21,000

Come on. What are the odds that whatever I'm touching right now is just a huge handful of gold?

394

00:20:23,000 --> 00:20:24,000

Paloax.

395

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:26,000

Who will be the next one?

396

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:34,000

We grope in the murky water, looking for the contents of the crate while the rest of the team searches the remainder of the cavern.

397

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:37,000

Hey, Joe!

398

00:20:37,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Yeah?

399

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:39,000

I've seen something.

400

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:40,000

You found something?

401

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:41,000

Yeah, I found something.

402

00:20:41,000 --> 00:20:42,000

Okay, good thing.

403

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:43,000

Okay, yes.

404

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:44,000

Yes.

405

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:46,000

You think it goes under?

406

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:47,000

Yes, yes.

407

00:20:47,000 --> 00:20:56,000

It looks like one of our divers has discovered a passageway leading to a never-before-seen chamber,

but the opening is too tight to safely pass through.

408

00:20:56,000 --> 00:20:58,000

I'm out of here. Get to it. There's a camera over there.

409

00:20:59,000 --> 00:21:03,000

To look inside the chamber, we mount a camera on an extension pole.

410

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:08,000

There's definitely a room. Look at that.

411

00:21:09,000 --> 00:21:10,000

It goes way back.

412

00:21:10,000 --> 00:21:12,000

Any more wood? Anything man-made back there?

413

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:15,000

Yeah, there's another plank down there.

414

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:22,000

The planks in this new chamber are intriguing and may be from larger crates that have disintegrated here.

415

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:24,000

Can you see how far back it goes?

416

00:21:24,000 --> 00:21:25,000

I don't see.

417

00:21:27,000 --> 00:21:29,000

I think the room is bigger than we can see.

418

00:21:30,000 --> 00:21:33,000

So what's the next step? How do you get back there? What will you do?

419

00:21:33,000 --> 00:21:39,000

So in the future, I think to go in there, we have to find something to support the roof.

420

00:21:39,000 --> 00:21:40,000

Right, stabilize it.

421

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:41,000

Yes.

422

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:44,000

Okay, when that happens, please call me.

423

00:21:44,000 --> 00:21:45,000

Okay, I did it.

424

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:48,000

Okay, we should probably get out of here before we suffocate to death.

425

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:51,000

Yeah, okay. Great work guys. That was amazing.

426

00:21:53,000 --> 00:22:00,000

The antique artifacts and remnants of wood may be the first in many discoveries waiting for

Marianne and her team,

427

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:05,000

but there are other potential locations on Corsica for Rommel's lost treasure.

428

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:14,000

In order to learn about another version of the legend, I'm going to have to take a little trip and pay a visit to Rommel's hometown in the hills of Germany.

429

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:32,000

This is Blaustein, Germany, charming little city nestled in the hills of... God, it is freezing here. It's freezing.

430

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:35,000

It's a cute town, it's in the hills. That's all I got.

431

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:50,000

Just outside of town on a quiet country road is a nearly forgotten plaque that marks the final battle of the Desert Fox.

432

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:59,000

By the middle of 1944, Rommel began to lose faith that the Germans could actually win the war.

433

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:04,000

He even openly advocated to Hitler to sign a treaty with the Brits and the Americans.

434

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:08,000

In July, Rommel was almost killed when an Allied plane shot up his car,

435

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:13,000

and three days later, a bomb nearly killed Adolf Hitler in a failed assassination attempt.

436

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:17,000

Well, rumors began to swirl that Rommel had been in on the plot,

437

00:23:17,000 --> 00:23:23,000

and either way, Hitler could no longer stand his defeatist attitude about the war, so Rommel was given a choice.

438

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:29,000

He was going to be accused of treason, he'd have to face a trial, a trial which was certainly rigged against him.

439

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:34,000

His family would have been sent to the concentration camps, or he could quietly commit suicide.

440

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:41,000

So, on October 14th, 1944, Erwin Rommel was driven to this very spy by Nazi commanders,

441

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:48,000

and given a capsule of cyanide, a gruesome end to one of the most celebrated commanders of Nazi Germany.

442

00:23:54,000 --> 00:24:02,000

Rommel's actual grave is in a cemetery on the edge of Blausdain, but it's hardly the only sign of him here.

443

00:24:02,000 --> 00:24:09,000

Next door is the eerie Villa Lindenhof, Rommel's last home, which has been converted into a museum

444

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:13,000

to offer visitors an unflinching look at his life and career.

445

00:24:13,000 --> 00:24:20,000

Inside are Rommel's strategic plans, his Field Marshal Patan, and even his death mask.

446

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:25,000

Historian Carlo Hofner is the curator of the exhibits.

447

00:24:27,000 --> 00:24:30,000

He was a very successful commander at first, right?

448

00:24:30,000 --> 00:24:38,000

Yes, even Churchill, when he was in the houses of law, said Rommel is a great general in Africa.

449

00:24:38,000 --> 00:24:42,000

Rommel was successful beating the English.

450

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:44,000

Rommel seems to captivate people.

451

00:24:44,000 --> 00:24:49,000

Because he was not typical for a general, he came from an ordinary background

452

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:57,000

like Hitler too, he didn't only follow his books, he followed the feelings in his stomach.

453

00:24:57,000 --> 00:25:03,000

So let's talk about the treasure. I've been to Corsica, I've searched in the south,

454

00:25:03,000 --> 00:25:07,000

but I know that not everyone agrees where this treasure might be.

455

00:25:07,000 --> 00:25:11,000

In your mind, where does this legend really get going?

456

00:25:11,000 --> 00:25:17,000

There was a Nazi soldier named Peter Fleig, and that's where the legend began.

457

00:25:18,000 --> 00:25:21,000

Peter Fleig was a Nazi officer under General Rommel.

458

00:25:21,000 --> 00:25:27,000

Fleig said that during the Allied bombings of the Corsican city of Bastia in 1943,

459

00:25:27,000 --> 00:25:34,000

the treasure was moved for safekeeping onto a truck and put on a barge at the port to be shipped back to Germany.

460

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:43,000

The barge though was attacked by an Allied plane, and sank, taking the treasure with it.

461

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:49,000

The Allied plane however didn't make it far, it was said to have crashed nearby.

462

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:55,000

And Fleig was convinced that the treasure was somewhere around Bastia?

463

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:59,000

It seems that he was quite sure that he could find something there.

464

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:07,000

In those times there was a young guy, Tony Cullone, who was helping Peter Fleig to look for the treasure.

465

00:26:07,000 --> 00:26:11,000

He's actually very old now, but I think it would be good to talk to him.

466

00:26:11,000 --> 00:26:12,000

Still alive?

467

00:26:12,000 --> 00:26:13,000

Yeah, still alive.

468

00:26:13,000 --> 00:26:14,000

Wow, and he was there with Fleig?

469

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:15,000

Yeah.

470

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:16,000

Amazing.

471

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:19,000

Do you think that there's truth to this, or do you think it's all legend?

472

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Every legend has in the beginning some kind of truth.

473

00:26:24,000 --> 00:26:25,000

Right.

474

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:30,000

And in Bastia, still today, they're divers looking for the treasure.

475

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:35,000

My next step is clear.

476

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:40,000

If there's someone still out there who knew one of Rommel's conspirators, I need to speak to him.

477

00:26:40,000 --> 00:26:48,000

So I put the Desert Fox's lair in my rear view and prepare for a trip back to Corsica, and an appointment with history.

478

00:26:55,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Back on the island of Corsica in my adorable French car, I'm hoping to get some first-hand testimony about where Nazi general Erwin Rommel's looted treasure might be hidden.

479

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:13,000

I'm headed now to the opposite side of the island to the northern coast in the city of Bastia, where I'm set to meet this last living link to the Rommel legend.

480

00:27:23,000 --> 00:27:28,000

Founded in the 12th century, Bastia looks like an oil painting come to life.

481

00:27:28,000 --> 00:27:32,000

It's so damn quaint here, it feels like the set of a Disney musical.

482

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:34,000

Boy, I almost broke out of the song there.

483

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:36,000

Corsica.

484

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:46,000

The Bastia Citadel, known as Taranova, has a few tributes to the island's most famous son, Napoleon Bonaparte.

485

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:51,000

Yeah, right. I mean, have you ever seen Napoleon?

486

00:27:56,000 --> 00:28:00,000

Get out of town. I'm gonna hire this sculptor to do my statue.

487

00:28:05,000 --> 00:28:10,000

At a public park in the city center, the locals play a bowling game called Petanque.

488

00:28:10,000 --> 00:28:17,000

There, I find the reigning champion and one-time confidant of Peter Fly, 88-year-old local Tony Coloni.

489

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:21,000

Nice to meet you.

490

00:28:21,000 --> 00:28:23,000

Very good. How are you?

491

00:28:23,000 --> 00:28:29,000

Josh, zeshui Josh. Nice to meet you. How are you? This is Petanque?

492

00:28:29,000 --> 00:28:30,000

You know what I'm talking about?

493

00:28:30,000 --> 00:28:32,000

I know Bacci. I know Bacci.

494

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:36,000

Okay. I'm gonna play?

495

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:37,000

Yes.

496

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Of course I am.

497

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:43,000

I don't want to get right to business, but Tony isn't talking until after his game.

498

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Nice to meet you. I'm gonna do my best not to embarrass you guys, okay?

499

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:57,000

These guys are playing for keeps.

500

00:28:57,000 --> 00:29:03,000

These gentlemen are giving off a very specific vibe. Let's just say they all seem like family men.

501

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:10,000

I get the feeling if I don't perform well here, I could wake up next to a horse head tomorrow.

502

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:12,000

You know what I mean?

503

00:29:13,000 --> 00:29:19,000

Rules of Petanque are fairly simple. You try to get your ball, the silver ball is close to the cushioned, a little red ball as possible.

504

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:24,000

Whichever team comes in last, ends up with a pair of cement shoes on the harbor.

505

00:29:25,000 --> 00:29:27,000

I think that's how it works.

506

00:29:29,000 --> 00:29:32,000

Nobody's gonna die here today, probably.

507

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:36,000

And with that, we get rolling.

508

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:40,000

Okay, ready?

509

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:44,000

Ah!

510

00:29:44,000 --> 00:29:47,000

My first roll leaves much to be desired.

511

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:48,000

They're gonna kill me.

512

00:29:48,000 --> 00:29:51,000

In this case, the desire to see my family and friends again.

513

00:29:55,000 --> 00:29:56,000

Take it easy.

514

00:29:56,000 --> 00:29:57,000

Take it easy.

515

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:00,000

Okay, here we go.

516

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:04,000

Super, super.

517

00:30:07,000 --> 00:30:09,000

I'm doing great, but I'm not on a national embarrassment either.

518

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:13,000

Fortunately, I get a bit better as the game continues.

519

00:30:15,000 --> 00:30:16,000

Okay, ready?

520

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:20,000

Yay!

521

00:30:24,000 --> 00:30:26,000

We win, I think. Maybe.

522

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:30,000

I'm gonna live, I'm gonna live, I'm gonna live.

523

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:35,000

All that matters is that now Tony is willing to talk to me about Rommel's treasure.

524

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:41,000

So listen, I wanted to come and talk to you because you knew this guy Peter, Peter Fly, yeah?

525

00:30:41,000 --> 00:30:44,000

Can you tell me about your relationship with him?

526

00:30:45,000 --> 00:30:48,000

Over the years, people have told many versions of the story.

527

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:53,000

While I'm going to tell you the truth, as I lived it, my uncle was a fisherman.

528

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:58,000

After the war in 1948, a man named Peter Flag approached him to charter his boat.

529

00:30:58,000 --> 00:31:05,000

Flag was an SS officer under Rommel and said he was there when they transported the treasure and knew where the barge sank.

530

00:31:05,000 --> 00:31:10,000

He paid me and my uncle to take him out multiple times to surveil on the coast.

531

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:16,000

According to Tony, the local mafia got wind of the story and were putting pressure on Fly to find the gold.

532

00:31:16,000 --> 00:31:20,000

Fly asked Tony's uncle to do a dive at night in secret.

533

00:31:20,000 --> 00:31:25,000

My uncle refused, saying it was too dangerous. Then Fly got arrested.

534

00:31:25,000 --> 00:31:29,000

When he was released from jail, he disappeared and I never saw him again.

535

00:31:30,000 --> 00:31:37,000

So your recollection, did Flag seem confident that he knew where it was or was he kind of not sure?

536

00:31:38,000 --> 00:31:43,000

Flag was extremely sure. Why would a man go through all this trouble if there wasn't a treasure?

537

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:47,000

He knew exactly where he intended to dive. I can show you here.

538

00:31:48,000 --> 00:31:54,000

If you leave from the port and go out until the water is 40 meters deep, you can use landmarks to find it.

539

00:31:54,000 --> 00:31:58,000

I have a friend who's planning to dive this area soon. All you need to do is talk to him.

540

00:31:58,000 --> 00:32:04,000

Okay, okay, leave just that simple. Let's get rich.

541

00:32:05,000 --> 00:32:14,000

And so the next morning, I prepare to sail out of the Port of Bastia with a friend of Tony Cologny, diver and salvage expert, Stéphane Legalle.

542

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:17,000

For years, Stéphane has been fascinated by the Rommel legend.

543

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:25,000

Now, with Tony's help, some cutting-edge sonar and a lot of dive gear, he's been able to narrow down a possible search zone.

544

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:38,000

First, he's taking me to a site that he believes is ironclad proof that Peter Fly's story is true.

545

00:32:39,000 --> 00:32:40,000

How far to the site?

546

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:42,000

About 20 minutes or so.

547

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:43,000

20 minutes?

548

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:44,000

Yeah.

549

00:32:44,000 --> 00:32:45,000

And so what is this thing?

550

00:32:45,000 --> 00:32:47,000

I show you when you're under watch out with me.

551

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:49,000

Okay, man of secrets. Okay.

552

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:50,000

Yeah.

553

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:51,000

All right.

554

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:58,000

Using Stéphane's sonar and topographical maps of the sea floor, we arrive at his first site.

555

00:32:58,000 --> 00:33:04,000

We drop anchor and prepare to dive in rough seas, sending down a guideline so we don't drift too far.

556

00:33:04,000 --> 00:33:05,000

Okay.

557

00:33:05,000 --> 00:33:08,000

And then it's into the drink.

558

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:11,000

Water is freezing.

559

00:33:11,000 --> 00:33:13,000

Yeah, it's very cold.

560

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:14,000

Very cold.

561

00:33:14,000 --> 00:33:17,000

We go down the line at 60 feet.

562

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:18,000

50 feet?

563

00:33:18,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Yeah.

564

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Okay, right behind you. Here we go.

565

00:33:21,000 --> 00:33:23,000

Disability, not very good.

566

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:25,000

Disability is poor.

567

00:33:25,000 --> 00:33:27,000

Stay with me. We go this way.

568

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:29,000

Okay, right behind you.

569

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:34,000

The deep waters of the Mediterranean turn dark and cloudy as we descend.

570

00:33:34,000 --> 00:33:39,000

We need bright lights to make out objects right in front of us.

571

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:42,000

We quickly get to the bottom of the ocean.

572

00:33:42,000 --> 00:33:45,000

We're going to get to the bottom of the ocean.

573

00:33:45,000 --> 00:33:48,000

We're going to get to the bottom of the ocean.

574

00:33:48,000 --> 00:33:51,000

We're going to get to the bottom of the ocean.

575

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:55,000

We need bright lights to make out objects right in front of us.

576

00:33:55,000 --> 00:34:00,000

We quickly encounter something though that doesn't require a flashlight to see.

577

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:03,000

Cook, cook, cook.

578

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:10,000

Oh my God. That's a plane. Unbelievable.

579

00:34:22,000 --> 00:34:27,000

My search for Rommel's treasure has brought me face to face with a historic sunken aircraft.

580

00:34:27,000 --> 00:34:32,000

Oh my God. That's a plane. Unbelievable.

581

00:34:32,000 --> 00:34:34,000

It's from the war.

582

00:34:34,000 --> 00:34:37,000

1943. American plane.

583

00:34:37,000 --> 00:34:38,000

It's American.

584

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:39,000

Yeah.

585

00:34:39,000 --> 00:34:40,000

What time?

586

00:34:40,000 --> 00:34:41,000

B-47.

587

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:42,000

The fighter plane.

588

00:34:42,000 --> 00:34:43,000

Yeah.

589

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:46,000

Wow. Unbelievable.

590

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:52,000

The story told by Peter Flag had a plane just like this one shooting down the barge with the treasure on it,

591

00:34:52,000 --> 00:34:55,000

before itself being brought down nearby.

592

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:58,000

It's possible that this is that very plane.

593

00:34:58,000 --> 00:35:04,000

You can still see the controls in here. You can see the foot pedals. Amazing.

594

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:08,000

There is an octagon here on the plane.

595

00:35:11,000 --> 00:35:13,000

This is where the guns were mounted.

596

00:35:13,000 --> 00:35:14,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

597

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:20,000

There is a damage of the plane.

598

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:21,000

On the side panel.

599

00:35:21,000 --> 00:35:22,000

Yeah.

600

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:25,000

You think it took fire here?

601

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:27,000

Yeah, you can see the damage.

602

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:34,000

The plane is historic, but it may also be an important reference marker for locating Stefan's next dive site.

603

00:35:34,000 --> 00:35:37,000

Let's go back to the surface.

604

00:35:37,000 --> 00:35:39,000

Yep, up right behind you.

605

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Wow. Beautiful.

606

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:50,000

Yeah.

607

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:51,000

You think that's the plane from the attack, yeah?

608

00:35:51,000 --> 00:35:52,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

609

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:55,000

So you think that means that the treasure is nearby?

610

00:35:55,000 --> 00:35:56,000

This.

611

00:35:56,000 --> 00:35:57,000

This direction.

612

00:35:57,000 --> 00:35:58,000

There's a piece of mid-order.

613

00:35:58,000 --> 00:35:59,000

We have to boat it.

614

00:35:59,000 --> 00:36:00,000

Aha. On the sonar.

615

00:36:00,000 --> 00:36:01,000

Yeah.

616

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Let's go look at it.

617

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:03,000

We dine.

618

00:36:03,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Lunch?

619

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:05,000

Yeah, we dine.

620

00:36:05,000 --> 00:36:06,000

I think we go and dive, no?

621

00:36:06,000 --> 00:36:08,000

We dive, then we eat lunch.

622

00:36:08,000 --> 00:36:10,000

God, the French.

623

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

We're on the heels of treasure here, man.

624

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:13,000

Yeah.

625

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:20,000

We move up the coast, scanning the rough waters to pinpoint our next target.

626

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:24,000

And then suddenly, our sonar kicks up a signal.

627

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:25,000

We can go.

628

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:28,000

Yeah, you can see in the sonar now.

629

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:29,000

Right there.

630

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:30,000

Yeah.

631

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:31,000

There is something there.

632

00:36:31,000 --> 00:36:32,000

So what is it?

633

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:33,000

I don't know.

634

00:36:33,000 --> 00:36:35,000

We are going to see it.

635

00:36:35,000 --> 00:36:36,000

Let's go find out.

636

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:37,000

Yeah.

637

00:36:37,000 --> 00:36:38,000

You ready?

638

00:36:38,000 --> 00:36:39,000

Yeah.

639

00:36:39,000 --> 00:36:40,000

Let's go.

640

00:36:40,000 --> 00:36:43,000

The sonar hit confirms there's some sort of wreckage beneath us.

641

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:44,000

But what exactly?

642

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:46,000

There's only one way to find out.

643

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:58,000

How far down are we going?

644

00:36:58,000 --> 00:37:02,000

We'll stand at 100 feet.

645

00:37:02,000 --> 00:37:07,000

It's pretty clear why nobody has found Rommel's treasure just laying around down here.

646

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:11,000

These waters are cold, dark, and deep.

647

00:37:11,000 --> 00:37:16,000

This is not going to be a pleasure dive, but it doesn't take long to see what's set off the sonar.

648

00:37:16,000 --> 00:37:18,000

There's definitely wreckage underneath us.

649

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:19,000

Yeah.

650

00:37:21,000 --> 00:37:25,000

It's a sparse of wrecks, but I don't know what did it.

651

00:37:28,000 --> 00:37:31,000

It's incredibly spooky down here.

652

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:33,000

Down to a strange atmosphere.

653

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:40,000

The wild card here is that while this could be a barge, it's mixed in with wreckage from what looks like a dozen other things.

654

00:37:40,000 --> 00:37:45,000

This looks like gears, maybe part of an engine.

655

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Yeah, you see middle pieces everywhere.

656

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:53,000

You think this is from a vessel?

657

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:55,000

This from a boat or a plane?

658

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:57,000

I don't know.

659

00:37:57,000 --> 00:37:59,000

I don't know what is it.

660

00:38:00,000 --> 00:38:04,000

Then you can see inside of it, it's all sinking in the sand.

661

00:38:06,000 --> 00:38:08,000

Let's keep looking.

662

00:38:08,000 --> 00:38:11,000

Absolutely. Let's see what else is here.

663

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:21,000

There's lots of stuff buried down in the sand here.

664

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:25,000

I'm going to just start sifting through.

665

00:38:26,000 --> 00:38:35,000

Stefan and I begin systematically exploring around the wreckage, pulling out bits of metal and other clues from the past.

666

00:38:40,000 --> 00:38:48,000

After working our way around to the back of the wreckage, we're about to bail and head to the surface, when our luck takes an incredible turn.

667

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:50,000

Stefan, come here. Look! Look!

668

00:38:51,000 --> 00:38:53,000

Look at that!

669

00:38:53,000 --> 00:38:55,000

This is a Nazi coin.

670

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:08,000

In the cold depths of the Mediterranean Sea, I've made an amazing discovery as I explore the legend of Rommel's treasure.

671

00:39:08,000 --> 00:39:11,000

There's definitely wreckage underneath us.

672

00:39:11,000 --> 00:39:15,000

More wreckage off the coast of Corsica and a coin from the Third Reich.

673

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:18,000

Stefan, come here. Look! Look!

674

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:22,000

Look at that!

675

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:24,000

This is a Nazi coin.

676

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:30,000

This is from the period. This is from the 1940s.

677

00:39:31,000 --> 00:39:33,000

Yeah! Fantastic!

678

00:39:34,000 --> 00:39:36,000

This is amazing!

679

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:41,000

This is history! Who knows? This could be part of the treasure.

680

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:50,000

This is a Reichsfenig currency from the Nazi regime, and proof that some of this wreckage is German in origin.

681

00:39:52,000 --> 00:39:54,000

Let's keep looking.

682

00:39:54,000 --> 00:39:56,000

Absolutely. Let's see what else is here.

683

00:40:07,000 --> 00:40:14,000

At this depth, we can't stay down here forever, so we continue to search the ocean floor until we're dangerously low on air.

684

00:40:17,000 --> 00:40:20,000

Stefan, time's up. We better head to the surface.

685

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:22,000

We are off to Kamakas.

686

00:40:23,000 --> 00:40:29,000

For sure. A lot more diving to do here, Stefan. Thank you so much.

687

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:30,000

God!

688

00:40:31,000 --> 00:40:32,000

Let's go get warm, okay?

689

00:40:32,000 --> 00:40:34,000

Okay, okay.

690

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:43,000

The coin we found is both from the right era and exactly where witnesses placed the treasure, and could therefore be part of Rommel's hoard.

691

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:52,000

With this site marked and other targets to explore along the coast in the coming months, Stefan could confirm the legend once and for all.

692

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:58,000

We speed back to Bastia, shaking cold and full of adrenaline at our find.

693

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:03,000

Beneath us, the dive site recedes into the darkness, but it still looms large in my thoughts.

694

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:13,000

The search for Rommel's treasure has been a trip through one of history's darkest chapters, but there has been surprising light.

695

00:41:15,000 --> 00:41:21,000

In the wonder of Bonifacio's underground lakes and the discovery of their unexplored chambers.

696

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:28,000

In the making of new friends, along with some healthy competition.

697

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:38,000

And in the revelation of historic wrecks and the discovery of artifacts that may prove this legend is no mere folk tale.

698

00:41:39,000 --> 00:41:41,000

Who knows? This could be part of the treasure.

699

00:41:44,000 --> 00:41:51,000

Erwin Rommel may have been one of the 20th century's most cunning tacticians, but the Desert Fox was eventually outwitted.

700

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:56,000

And soon, his fabled treasure may finally surrender as well.