

1

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

Surely Hitler must be expecting an Allied invasion.

2

00:00:12,440 --> 00:00:16,760

These guys are going to get out of a boat, and they're going to climb up these sheer

3

00:00:16,760 --> 00:00:18,400

cliffs.

4

00:00:18,400 --> 00:00:25,400

But there's stuff coming to light every day, stuff that nobody really knew before.

5

00:00:27,960 --> 00:00:29,720

Why did so few citizens perish?

6

00:00:29,720 --> 00:00:31,680

There is a secret.

7

00:00:31,680 --> 00:00:32,680

The secret's down there.

8

00:00:32,680 --> 00:00:33,680

Yes.

9

00:00:33,680 --> 00:00:35,680

Okay, here we go into the darkness.

10

00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:39,840

Look at this place.

11

00:00:39,840 --> 00:00:44,320

Historians and experts are telling me there's nothing there.

12

00:00:44,320 --> 00:00:45,320

Jackpot.

13

00:00:45,320 --> 00:00:46,320

Look at that!

14

00:00:46,320 --> 00:00:47,320

It's a door!

15

00:00:47,320 --> 00:00:48,320

I'm in!

16

00:00:48,320 --> 00:00:51,320

Wow, look at this!

17

00:00:51,320 --> 00:00:56,520

It's an SS helmet.

18

00:00:56,520 --> 00:00:57,520

Nobody knows it's there.

19

00:00:57,520 --> 00:00:58,520

Nobody knows it's there.

20

00:00:58,520 --> 00:01:05,520

It'll be the first to see that.

21

00:01:05,520 --> 00:01:08,520

Don't touch that.

22

00:01:08,520 --> 00:01:15,520

That's an unexploded bolt.

23

00:01:15,520 --> 00:01:20,520

Back up!

24

00:01:20,520 --> 00:01:24,080

Machines of mayhem and men of might.

25

00:01:24,080 --> 00:01:29,080

It took both to launch the largest amphibious invasion in history.

26

00:01:29,080 --> 00:01:31,080

D-Day.

27

00:01:31,080 --> 00:01:39,080

In June of 1944, Allied forces invade Normandy to repel the Nazi menace that has conquered

28

00:01:39,080 --> 00:01:40,600

most of Europe.

29

00:01:40,600 --> 00:01:46,080

In the world's darkest hour, with civilization teetering on the brink, this is the Allies'

30

00:01:46,080 --> 00:01:53,080

last, best chance to turn the tide.

31

00:01:55,080 --> 00:02:00,040

Yet despite being the most important battle in modern history, there are still shocking

32

00:02:00,040 --> 00:02:05,600

secrets about the invasion that have never been revealed until now.

33

00:02:05,600 --> 00:02:11,440

Just beyond iconic Omaha Beach, a map discovered by a World War II researcher has led to an

34

00:02:11,440 --> 00:02:13,400

astonishing find.

35

00:02:13,400 --> 00:02:20,080

Buried Nazi bunkers and deadly weapons that haven't seen the light of day since 1944.

36

00:02:20,080 --> 00:02:26,600

Nearby, archaeologists have uncovered the stunning secret that saved the lives of thousands

37

00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:32,880

of civilians during one of the most intense bombing campaigns in history.

38

00:02:32,880 --> 00:02:39,080

While the battlefields may be long gone, just off the coast, the conflict is frozen in time.

39

00:02:39,080 --> 00:02:45,080

In an eerie underwater graveyard, long-silenced shipwrecks are rewriting the story of the

40

00:02:45,080 --> 00:02:46,080

invasion.

41

00:02:46,080 --> 00:02:53,080

So, after 75 years, it's time to storm the beaches once again to unearth the forgotten

42

00:02:53,080 --> 00:03:03,080

mysteries and lingering secrets of D-Day.

43

00:03:03,080 --> 00:03:07,080

My name is Josh Gates.

44

00:03:07,080 --> 00:03:08,080

Explorer.

45

00:03:08,080 --> 00:03:11,080

Adventure.

46

00:03:11,080 --> 00:03:15,080

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situations.

47

00:03:15,080 --> 00:03:17,080

That was exciting.

48

00:03:17,080 --> 00:03:22,480

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained, I travel to the ends

49

00:03:22,480 --> 00:03:28,080

of the earth investigating the greatest legends in history.

50

00:03:28,080 --> 00:03:37,680

This is Expedition Unknown.

51

00:03:37,680 --> 00:03:39,080

Welcome to Normandy.

52

00:03:39,080 --> 00:03:42,680

Today, France's northern coast is a peaceful place.

53

00:03:42,680 --> 00:03:49,440

A green landscape dotted with quaint villages and tidy farms, complete with neatly spooled

54

00:03:49,440 --> 00:03:50,440

bales of hay.

55

00:03:50,440 --> 00:03:53,280

It's practically a Monet painting.

56

00:03:53,280 --> 00:03:58,680

But this was once the site of the largest amphibious assault in history.

57

00:03:58,680 --> 00:04:04,800

Today, the only evidence of that bloody invasion are the iconic monuments dedicated to the

58

00:04:04,800 --> 00:04:11,400

men who fought here three quarters of a century ago, in a time when the very fate of the world

59

00:04:11,400 --> 00:04:16,440

was at stake.

60

00:04:16,440 --> 00:04:19,160

The year is 1944.

61

00:04:19,160 --> 00:04:23,640

World War II has ravaged Europe for six gruesome years.

62

00:04:23,640 --> 00:04:29,360

Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime has overrun the continent, occupying France, Belgium and the

63

00:04:29,360 --> 00:04:33,320

Netherlands to the west and Poland to the east.

64

00:04:33,320 --> 00:04:38,700

And it has been waging brutal campaigns over Britain and into Stalinist Russia.

65

00:04:38,700 --> 00:04:44,260

As the Nazis fight on two fronts, across the globe, the U.S. and Japan battle over the

66

00:04:44,260 --> 00:04:48,060

Pacific Theater.

67

00:04:48,060 --> 00:04:55,260

All told, 50 million people are dead in one of the bloodiest conflicts in human history.

68

00:04:55,260 --> 00:05:00,060

In a desperate bid to break the Nazi grip over Europe, the United States and its Western

69

00:05:00,060 --> 00:05:04,260

allies conceive a plan to get a foothold on the continent.

70

00:05:04,260 --> 00:05:08,140

The Allied operation is codenamed Overlord.

71

00:05:08,140 --> 00:05:12,100

And it will be the largest amphibious assault ever attempted.

72

00:05:12,100 --> 00:05:17,260

The date of the invasion is set for June 6, 1944.

73

00:05:17,260 --> 00:05:32,220

Now and forever more, known as D-Day.

74

00:05:32,220 --> 00:05:37,740

And this is where it happened.

75

00:05:38,100 --> 00:05:41,300

Imagine you're 20 years old, just out of basic training.

76

00:05:41,300 --> 00:05:46,060

You cross the English Channel in the dark and then spilled out with thousands of other

77

00:05:46,060 --> 00:05:51,460

men onto Omaha Beach at dawn.

78

00:05:51,460 --> 00:05:53,300

The water is freezing.

79

00:05:53,300 --> 00:05:59,180

You're carrying an 80-pound pack and all around you, the air is a hurricane of bullets

80

00:05:59,180 --> 00:06:01,060

and blood.

81

00:06:01,060 --> 00:06:03,740

Your friends are being shot.

82

00:06:03,740 --> 00:06:11,500

When you're dropping, grenades are exploding all around you.

83

00:06:11,500 --> 00:06:14,300

The truth is, I can't imagine it.

84

00:06:14,300 --> 00:06:15,420

Not really.

85

00:06:15,420 --> 00:06:17,780

Can anybody who wasn't there?

86

00:06:17,780 --> 00:06:23,140

What I can't imagine though is that the most terrifying thing wasn't actually on the beach.

87

00:06:23,140 --> 00:06:25,260

It was in the cliffs above.

88

00:06:25,260 --> 00:06:29,220

That's where the artillery and the machine guns are firing from.

89

00:06:29,220 --> 00:06:34,500

And the entire success of D-Day depends on neutralizing that firepower.

90

00:06:34,500 --> 00:06:43,060

And the most legendary story of how we did it is just now revealing its secrets.

91

00:06:43,060 --> 00:06:49,020

To understand how the Allies survived the longest day, I go to Pointe de Hoc, the one-time

92

00:06:49,020 --> 00:06:54,500

German outpost overlooking the beaches.

93

00:06:54,500 --> 00:07:04,060

There, I meet military historian and bona fide war hero Captain Dale Dye.

94

00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:05,060

Captain Dye, how are you?

95

00:07:05,060 --> 00:07:06,060

Good, good, how are you?

96

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

I'm well.

97

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

Great pleasure to meet you.

98

00:07:08,060 --> 00:07:09,060

Thank you, thank you.

99

00:07:09,060 --> 00:07:10,060

Welcome to Pointe de Hoc.

100

00:07:10,060 --> 00:07:15,420

Captain Dye is a decorated Marine, Vietnam veteran, and military advisor for films including

101

00:07:15,420 --> 00:07:16,980

Saving Private Ryan.

102

00:07:16,980 --> 00:07:21,460

It's actually a beautiful place, but we have lots of evidence that it wasn't always that

103

00:07:21,460 --> 00:07:22,460

way.

104

00:07:22,460 --> 00:07:23,460

Right.

105

00:07:23,460 --> 00:07:25,340

It was in 1944.

106

00:07:25,340 --> 00:07:28,300

And all these little valleys I see around us here?

107

00:07:28,300 --> 00:07:30,700

Those little valleys are shell holes.

108

00:07:30,700 --> 00:07:34,500

The deeper ones are primarily airstrikes.

109

00:07:34,500 --> 00:07:35,860

Wow.

110

00:07:35,860 --> 00:07:38,540

So let's go back to June of 1944.

111

00:07:38,540 --> 00:07:41,580

Surely Hitler must be expecting an Allied invasion.

112

00:07:41,580 --> 00:07:42,580

He is.

113

00:07:42,580 --> 00:07:46,020

The problem is he doesn't know where and he doesn't know exactly when.

114

00:07:46,020 --> 00:07:47,020

Right.

115

00:07:47,020 --> 00:07:48,340

So he's bought a little insurance.

116

00:07:48,340 --> 00:07:51,820

He's built this thing called the Atlantic Wall.

117

00:07:51,820 --> 00:07:56,460

Because he doesn't know where to expect the Allied invasion, Hitler constructs a lethal

118

00:07:56,460 --> 00:08:02,820

coastal network of fortifications from northern Scandinavia to the southern tip of France,

119

00:08:02,820 --> 00:08:07,980

a nearly 1700-mile defensive shield known as the Atlantic Wall.

120

00:08:07,980 --> 00:08:13,260

It's through this wall that the Allies will have to break in order to retake Europe.

121

00:08:13,260 --> 00:08:15,620

And where does he think this invasion is going to happen?

122

00:08:15,620 --> 00:08:20,300

He thinks, and we intend that he continue to think, that it's going to happen at Potta

123

00:08:20,300 --> 00:08:21,300

Calais.

124

00:08:21,300 --> 00:08:24,620

Essentially, it's only eight miles across the English Channel.

125

00:08:24,620 --> 00:08:25,620

And that makes sense, right?

126

00:08:25,620 --> 00:08:28,420

If you're going to do an invasion and you've got to get across water, you've got the shortest

127

00:08:28,420 --> 00:08:29,420

point.

128

00:08:29,420 --> 00:08:30,420

The shortest point you can pick.

129

00:08:30,420 --> 00:08:33,380

And how are we helping Hitler to believe that's what we're going to do?

130

00:08:33,380 --> 00:08:38,060

You do all sorts of false flag operations so that he thinks you're going to do one thing

131

00:08:38,060 --> 00:08:41,140

and of course you're going to do the other.

132

00:08:41,140 --> 00:08:46,740

In order for D-Day to succeed, the Allies embark on an immense disinformation campaign

133

00:08:46,740 --> 00:08:50,780

with fake radio broadcasts, counterintelligence leaks.

134

00:08:50,780 --> 00:08:56,700

And going so far as to create inflatable rubber tanks and dummy paratroopers to fool German

135

00:08:56,700 --> 00:08:58,060

reconnaissance.

136

00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:03,140

The secrecy surrounding D-Day was total, but not entirely infallible.

137

00:09:03,140 --> 00:09:08,420

A dress rehearsal for the invasion known as Exercise Tiger staged on a British beach

138

00:09:08,420 --> 00:09:13,060

was discovered by German U-boats who torpedoed the landing craft.

139

00:09:13,060 --> 00:09:18,860

746 D-Day soldiers were killed weeks before they could even leave England.

140

00:09:19,140 --> 00:09:24,580

Thankfully, the most important secret of all was kept and the Germans continued to believe

141

00:09:24,580 --> 00:09:28,980

the invasion would be at Calais.

142

00:09:28,980 --> 00:09:34,300

But of course, the Allies had another site in mind, 200 miles to the south.

143

00:09:34,300 --> 00:09:35,300

So now the big question.

144

00:09:35,300 --> 00:09:36,300

We're not going to go to Potta Calais.

145

00:09:36,300 --> 00:09:39,020

We're not going to go where the Nazis expect us.

146

00:09:39,020 --> 00:09:40,020

Why come here?

147

00:09:40,020 --> 00:09:45,300

Well, Normandy, compared with what's happening up at Potta Calais, doesn't have that big

148

00:09:45,300 --> 00:09:46,540

and organized defense.

149

00:09:46,540 --> 00:09:47,540

Right.

150

00:09:47,540 --> 00:09:50,460

There's static divisions here.

151

00:09:50,460 --> 00:09:55,180

Instead of taking the shorter route, the Allies go where Hitler would least expect it.

152

00:09:55,180 --> 00:09:59,740

A stretch of coastline in Normandy shielded by high cliffs.

153

00:09:59,740 --> 00:10:05,580

The Americans would take two beaches codenamed Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian

154

00:10:05,580 --> 00:10:09,820

forces would attack Gold, Juno, and Sword.

155

00:10:09,820 --> 00:10:14,260

But they'll have to sail into rough water and unpredictable weather, and their ships

156

00:10:14,260 --> 00:10:17,100

will be vulnerable to German artillery.

157

00:10:17,380 --> 00:10:20,660

The troops will have to land without a port to dock in.

158

00:10:20,660 --> 00:10:25,620

But of all this, perhaps the most daunting thing about the beaches of Normandy is the

159

00:10:25,620 --> 00:10:28,460

Clifftop Station at Point de Hoc.

160

00:10:28,460 --> 00:10:33,860

Point de Hoc occupies a central position to the two American beaches.

161

00:10:33,860 --> 00:10:37,060

If you look over to the west, that's Utah Beach.

162

00:10:37,060 --> 00:10:40,340

If you look over here to the east, that's Omaha Beach.

163

00:10:40,340 --> 00:10:43,860

And I can see now that we're standing out here the value of this place.

164

00:10:43,860 --> 00:10:45,980

This seems like a perfect defensive position.

165

00:10:45,980 --> 00:10:49,340

Yeah, if I was defending, I would certainly be here.

166

00:10:49,340 --> 00:10:53,460

I'm going to want artillery pieces up in here to fire in this direction and fire in this

167

00:10:53,460 --> 00:10:55,540

direction if anybody comes ashore.

168

00:10:55,540 --> 00:10:56,540

Right.

169

00:10:56,540 --> 00:11:03,100

To protect the beaches, six 155-millimeter artillery guns with 20-foot-long barrels,

170

00:11:03,100 --> 00:11:07,980

each with 360-degree range, are positioned at Point de Hoc.

171

00:11:07,980 --> 00:11:14,260

The guns are capable of lethally broadsiding any ships approaching the invasion beaches.

172

00:11:14,260 --> 00:11:19,980

For D-Day to succeed, the Allies need to take out the guns at Point de Hoc.

173

00:11:19,980 --> 00:11:23,060

How many Allied troops spill out onto these beaches?

174

00:11:23,060 --> 00:11:27,020

There's about 150,000 that are eventually going to land on all of the beaches up and

175

00:11:27,020 --> 00:11:28,620

down the Norman coast.

176

00:11:28,620 --> 00:11:32,460

Here at Point de Hoc, it's only about 220 guys.

177

00:11:32,460 --> 00:11:35,260

And who were the people tasked with taking this position?

178

00:11:35,260 --> 00:11:38,820

The Ranger Force under Lieutenant Colonel James Rudder.

179

00:11:38,820 --> 00:11:42,380

They were aboard nine British landing craft, or LCA's.

180

00:11:42,380 --> 00:11:47,620

And as soon as three destroyers who are specifically assigned to bombard Point de Hoc, as soon as

181

00:11:47,620 --> 00:11:51,420

they finish, Rudder is supposed to come ashore.

182

00:11:51,420 --> 00:11:55,140

As they started, the landing crafts were leaking like hell.

183

00:11:55,140 --> 00:11:59,580

All the Rangers had to take their helmets and help bail out and all that sort of thing.

184

00:11:59,580 --> 00:12:04,660

And one of the landing craft in choppy seas out there in the channel actually overturned.

185

00:12:04,660 --> 00:12:08,260

And so Rudder lost 22 men of his assault force right there.

186

00:12:08,380 --> 00:12:14,300

Before they even got here, I can't think of a crazier place to try to take than what

187

00:12:14,300 --> 00:12:16,820

I'm looking at right here.

188

00:12:16,820 --> 00:12:20,700

I mean, the idea is that these guys are going to get out of a boat right here and they're

189

00:12:20,700 --> 00:12:23,100

going to climb up these sheer cliffs.

190

00:12:23,100 --> 00:12:24,100

That's the plan.

191

00:12:24,100 --> 00:12:25,780

I mean, these guys have a problem.

192

00:12:25,780 --> 00:12:26,780

Yes.

193

00:12:26,780 --> 00:12:30,820

Well, they've got a problem and they've got a truckload of guts because that's exactly

194

00:12:30,820 --> 00:12:31,820

what it takes.

195

00:12:35,500 --> 00:12:36,980

Well, here's the plan.

196

00:12:36,980 --> 00:12:40,540

They have experimented with rocket propelled grapknols.

197

00:12:40,540 --> 00:12:42,020

This is like full Batman.

198

00:12:42,020 --> 00:12:44,260

They're going to fire grappling hooks.

199

00:12:44,260 --> 00:12:45,260

Yes.

200

00:12:46,940 --> 00:12:51,940

The problem is that during the crossing, a lot of these ropes have gotten wet.

201

00:12:51,940 --> 00:12:55,340

A wet rope weighs a hell of a lot more than a dry rope.

202

00:12:55,340 --> 00:13:02,340

The lucky break was that destroyer naval gunfire that kept hitting at Point de Hoc actually

203

00:13:02,340 --> 00:13:04,300

tore a big chunk out.

204

00:13:04,300 --> 00:13:08,620

And there was at the base of the cliffs about a 40-foot rubble pile.

205

00:13:08,620 --> 00:13:13,020

They could get up on that rubble pile, slap a ladder up in there and climb up only 40

206

00:13:13,020 --> 00:13:14,500

feet instead of 100.

207

00:13:14,500 --> 00:13:21,620

The Second Ranger battalion tasked with taking Point de Hoc are sitting ducks for German guns.

208

00:13:21,620 --> 00:13:27,900

As they approach, Nazi soldiers drop grenades over the cliff and cut the American ropes

209

00:13:27,900 --> 00:13:30,780

as the men climb.

210

00:13:30,780 --> 00:13:34,900

As each Ranger falls, another rises to take his place.

211

00:13:34,900 --> 00:13:37,260

They finally got up on top of Point de Hoc.

212

00:13:37,260 --> 00:13:44,940

The fight really starts once you're up here among the German defenders.

213

00:13:44,940 --> 00:13:49,260

The remaining soldiers reach the top of the cliffs and unsurprisingly encounter heavy

214

00:13:49,260 --> 00:13:52,060

resistance from the Nazis.

215

00:13:52,060 --> 00:13:56,820

But when they finally manage to take the point, what they find is more shocking than they

216

00:13:56,820 --> 00:14:00,500

ever could have imagined.

217

00:14:00,500 --> 00:14:17,500

The Nazis preparing for an invasion force coming from a different direction had repositioned

218

00:14:17,500 --> 00:14:19,100

their artillery.

219

00:14:19,100 --> 00:14:24,780

After securing Point de Hoc, the remaining Rangers, bloody, beaten and exhausted, discover

220

00:14:24,780 --> 00:14:31,740

where the Germans had taken the guns and destroy them using thermite grenades.

221

00:14:31,740 --> 00:14:36,020

But though Point de Hoc has been disabled, the Allies on the beaches are still taking

222

00:14:36,020 --> 00:14:40,020

artillery fire.

223

00:14:40,020 --> 00:14:43,620

But from where?

224

00:14:43,620 --> 00:14:46,340

It's a question that we may finally have an answer for.

225

00:14:46,340 --> 00:14:51,780

Look, one of the interesting things about D-Day is it's such an iconic battle, but there's

226

00:14:51,780 --> 00:14:55,740

stuff coming to light every day, stuff that nobody really knew before.

227

00:14:55,740 --> 00:14:57,780

Have you ever heard of Maisie Battery?

228

00:14:57,780 --> 00:14:59,700

Maisie Battery, no.

229

00:14:59,700 --> 00:15:02,780

Not a lot of people have, but it's an interesting place.

230

00:15:02,780 --> 00:15:13,980

And if you want to dig into some of these stories that are just now coming to light, go there.

231

00:15:13,980 --> 00:15:19,660

Maisie Battery was a place unknown for decades, even to many historians of World War II.

232

00:15:19,660 --> 00:15:25,100

But now, recent discoveries there could dramatically alter the story of how the Nazis defended

233

00:15:25,100 --> 00:15:27,100

Normandy from the Allied invasion.

234

00:15:27,100 --> 00:15:32,140

This should be it, the Maisie Battery.

235

00:15:32,140 --> 00:15:41,500

I drive two miles inland for a walk into a maze of deep scars lining the landscape.

236

00:15:41,500 --> 00:15:46,340

It's hard to believe that a site this overgrown and this far from the beaches of Normandy

237

00:15:46,340 --> 00:15:49,900

would play a role in the story of D-Day.

238

00:15:49,900 --> 00:15:53,980

But that's what World War II historian Gary Stern believes.

239

00:15:53,980 --> 00:16:00,860

He's the person who rediscovered this place, whatever this place is.

240

00:16:00,860 --> 00:16:03,300

So this is really where it all began here.

241

00:16:03,300 --> 00:16:04,300

Right here?

242

00:16:04,300 --> 00:16:05,300

Yep, right here.

243

00:16:05,300 --> 00:16:06,380

Okay, so take me back in time.

244

00:16:06,380 --> 00:16:07,380

What brought you here?

245

00:16:07,380 --> 00:16:08,540

It's a crazy story, really.

246

00:16:08,540 --> 00:16:11,420

I bought some clothes belonging to a veteran.

247

00:16:11,420 --> 00:16:14,940

And in the pocket, I found this map.

248

00:16:14,940 --> 00:16:16,540

This is like too good to be true.

249

00:16:16,540 --> 00:16:21,180

So it's a map of this area of land in France where we're stood now.

250

00:16:21,180 --> 00:16:22,420

And what's interesting about it?

251

00:16:22,420 --> 00:16:27,380

Well, in the center of the map, it says area of high resistance.

252

00:16:27,380 --> 00:16:29,220

So area of high resistance.

253

00:16:29,220 --> 00:16:31,300

And was this an area of high resistance?

254

00:16:31,300 --> 00:16:33,060

Originally, nobody thought it was.

255

00:16:33,060 --> 00:16:34,980

Historically, there was nothing here.

256

00:16:34,980 --> 00:16:40,980

The map was tucked into a World War II-era uniform and showed a Nazi installation inland

257

00:16:40,980 --> 00:16:43,020

from the beaches of Normandy.

258

00:16:43,020 --> 00:16:48,340

Gary had spent years in this area, but had never noticed anything here except fields.

259

00:16:48,340 --> 00:16:51,340

So he decided to investigate.

260

00:16:51,340 --> 00:16:52,780

Everybody said, oh, you're an idiot.

261

00:16:52,780 --> 00:16:55,260

You're just a mad British guy and there's nothing here.

262

00:16:55,260 --> 00:16:56,260

Which you are.

263

00:16:56,260 --> 00:16:57,260

Which I am, of course.

264

00:16:57,260 --> 00:17:00,500

But geographically, we're right between Utah and Omaha Beach.

265

00:17:00,500 --> 00:17:02,740

So tactically speaking, it is an interesting place.

266

00:17:02,740 --> 00:17:05,420

So you've got your secret map and you come back here.

267

00:17:05,420 --> 00:17:06,820

What does it look like here?

268

00:17:06,820 --> 00:17:07,820

This high overgrown.

269

00:17:07,820 --> 00:17:08,820

Yep.

270

00:17:08,820 --> 00:17:09,820

The whole site.

271

00:17:09,820 --> 00:17:10,820

The whole site.

272

00:17:10,820 --> 00:17:12,820

And I came across an area of concrete here.

273

00:17:12,820 --> 00:17:13,620

This here.

274

00:17:13,620 --> 00:17:16,340

But it looked like a very odd thing to be on the floor of a building.

275

00:17:16,340 --> 00:17:17,340

And there's a big hole.

276

00:17:17,340 --> 00:17:19,580

And there's a big hole going down, which looks like a chimney.

277

00:17:19,580 --> 00:17:24,820

It turned out that the concrete Gary found wasn't the floor of a ruined building.

278

00:17:24,820 --> 00:17:27,820

It was the roof of an intact one.

279

00:17:27,820 --> 00:17:29,900

It's a 502 headquarters building.

280

00:17:29,900 --> 00:17:34,900

So basically it's a nerve center and a command base for the control of the operation of this

281

00:17:34,900 --> 00:17:37,780

area, this district.

282

00:17:37,780 --> 00:17:41,860

The discovery of the buried bunker put Maisie Battery back on the map.

283

00:17:41,860 --> 00:17:45,980

And Gary knew there had to be even more.

284

00:17:45,980 --> 00:17:47,580

And here's the thing about Gary.

285

00:17:47,580 --> 00:17:48,900

He's very persistent.

286

00:17:48,900 --> 00:17:52,780

Well, over a period of time, we started to discover more and more.

287

00:17:52,780 --> 00:17:56,380

We would clear a building and a trench and another building would appear and another building

288

00:17:56,380 --> 00:17:57,380

would appear.

289

00:17:57,380 --> 00:17:58,380

And you must be going mental, Jerry.

290

00:17:58,380 --> 00:18:02,620

Well, it's crazy because historians and experts are telling me there's nothing there.

291

00:18:02,620 --> 00:18:06,580

And we're digging up real, real tangible evidence that there was a battle here.

292

00:18:06,580 --> 00:18:09,580

I mean, at a certain point, this becomes undeniable.

293

00:18:09,580 --> 00:18:11,460

It's literally in stone.

294

00:18:11,460 --> 00:18:14,180

That's the point that people don't realize it's not just a building.

295

00:18:14,180 --> 00:18:15,180

It's not just a bunker.

296

00:18:15,180 --> 00:18:16,180

It's a complex.

297

00:18:16,180 --> 00:18:30,780

Look at this place.

298

00:18:30,780 --> 00:18:37,260

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces turned the tide of World War II with a daring invasion

299

00:18:37,260 --> 00:18:40,660

of Europe that began on the beaches of Normandy.

300

00:18:40,860 --> 00:18:46,580

Now, I've come to the complex known as Maisie Battery, where Gary Stern has made headline

301

00:18:46,580 --> 00:18:52,380

news by discovering a network of Nazi structures buried deep in the earth.

302

00:18:52,380 --> 00:19:00,340

Concrete buildings that stood where historians once believed there were just empty fields.

303

00:19:00,340 --> 00:19:05,220

But why was this place so valued by the Nazis?

304

00:19:05,220 --> 00:19:09,980

The answer, Gary says, will change how the world thinks about D-Day.

305

00:19:09,980 --> 00:19:14,420

Now, Josh, this is what Maisie Battery is all about.

306

00:19:14,420 --> 00:19:15,420

Firepower.

307

00:19:15,420 --> 00:19:18,140

Whoa, whoa.

308

00:19:18,140 --> 00:19:21,900

This is 150 millimeter German howitzer.

309

00:19:21,900 --> 00:19:23,220

Crazy.

310

00:19:23,220 --> 00:19:24,700

How many of these were here?

311

00:19:24,700 --> 00:19:28,260

There were four of these in one battery at the back.

312

00:19:28,260 --> 00:19:33,580

There were another six guns here and another four, a couple of hundred yards down the road.

313

00:19:33,580 --> 00:19:38,260

These guns had plenty of range to reach the Allied forces at the beachfront several miles

314

00:19:38,260 --> 00:19:44,500

away, which means as a brave squad of Army Rangers scaled the cliffs to reach guns they

315

00:19:44,500 --> 00:19:51,060

believed were on point to hawk, operational weapons were hiding back here at Maisie Battery.

316

00:19:51,060 --> 00:19:56,140

When I think of D-Day, I think of kind of the saving Private Ryan version, all this

317

00:19:56,140 --> 00:19:58,860

firepower looking down onto the beach.

318

00:19:58,860 --> 00:20:01,900

It never really occurred to me that there could be this kind of firepower raining down

319

00:20:01,900 --> 00:20:03,380

on them from miles inland.

320

00:20:03,380 --> 00:20:08,660

Well, the Germans very cleverly designed sites like this to be inland so that the Navy couldn't

321

00:20:08,660 --> 00:20:12,940

see them and it couldn't fire at them directly.

322

00:20:12,940 --> 00:20:18,180

The Germans pre-targeted their guns at known landmarks, so when an enemy got near one,

323

00:20:18,180 --> 00:20:20,900

they'd know exactly where to shoot.

324

00:20:20,900 --> 00:20:27,820

This facility could point 14 guns at the beaches of Normandy, firing 95 pound shells at almost

325

00:20:27,820 --> 00:20:30,060

1,900 feet per second.

326

00:20:30,060 --> 00:20:34,780

The complex was protected by bomb proof bunkers and a maze of trenches.

327

00:20:34,780 --> 00:20:38,500

There was even a full hospital for treating wounded men.

328

00:20:38,500 --> 00:20:43,060

Gary believes this would have made Maisie Battery one of the deadliest Nazi strongholds

329

00:20:43,060 --> 00:20:46,020

of D-Day.

330

00:20:46,020 --> 00:20:48,980

So do you feel like you've uncovered everything that's here?

331

00:20:48,980 --> 00:20:50,460

No, no way at all.

332

00:20:50,460 --> 00:20:54,100

There's a lot more to find here and in fact we're in the process of doing that right now.

333

00:20:54,100 --> 00:20:56,100

Do you want to come and have a look?

334

00:20:56,100 --> 00:20:58,100

Yeah, sure.

335

00:21:00,540 --> 00:21:05,300

To see what other secrets Maisie is hiding, Gary has arranged to have Isabel Heights and

336

00:21:05,300 --> 00:21:11,620

her associate do an aerial laser scan of the site in an effort to find more buried structures

337

00:21:11,620 --> 00:21:14,340

and hopefully new information about D-Day.

338

00:21:14,340 --> 00:21:15,340

Nice to meet you.

339

00:21:15,340 --> 00:21:16,340

Nice to meet you.

340

00:21:16,340 --> 00:21:17,340

Nice to meet you.

341

00:21:17,340 --> 00:21:18,340

They're helping us out with some really cool technology.

342

00:21:18,340 --> 00:21:19,780

I can see that.

343

00:21:19,780 --> 00:21:20,780

What is this, a beast?

344

00:21:20,780 --> 00:21:21,780

A drone, yes?

345

00:21:21,780 --> 00:21:24,300

Yes, it's a drone with a LiDAR capture underneath.

346

00:21:24,300 --> 00:21:27,700

For folks who don't know, LiDAR is this very magical technology.

347

00:21:27,700 --> 00:21:30,020

It's a laser mapping technology, right?

348

00:21:30,020 --> 00:21:31,340

So okay, how does it work?

349

00:21:31,340 --> 00:21:37,260

So the LiDAR emits 300,000 pulses of light every second and that can be transformed into

350

00:21:37,260 --> 00:21:42,860

a map and then we take off all the trees and vegetation and then we have the map of only

351

00:21:42,860 --> 00:21:44,420

the soil.

352

00:21:44,420 --> 00:21:48,740

Which to me is the crazy part that you can literally strip away vegetation with this

353

00:21:48,740 --> 00:21:49,740

technology.

354

00:21:49,740 --> 00:21:50,740

Exactly.

355

00:21:50,740 --> 00:21:51,860

Obviously some very powerful tech here.

356

00:21:51,860 --> 00:21:53,540

What's the plan for today?

357

00:21:53,540 --> 00:21:56,500

The plan is to go beyond what we've already discovered.

358

00:21:56,500 --> 00:21:57,500

Right.

359

00:21:57,500 --> 00:22:00,340

We're going to look for new things, look for new areas of research.

360

00:22:00,340 --> 00:22:04,580

So really this technology gives us an opportunity to look at things we just couldn't see with

361

00:22:04,580 --> 00:22:05,580

the naked eye.

362

00:22:05,580 --> 00:22:06,940

All right, well let's see what else is underground.

363

00:22:06,940 --> 00:22:10,020

Isabelle, is there anything that we can do other than get the hell out of your way?

364

00:22:10,020 --> 00:22:12,260

No guys, just a backup.

365

00:22:12,260 --> 00:22:15,260

Okay.

366

00:22:15,260 --> 00:22:20,340

Isabelle spins up the drone and it soars into the air.

367

00:22:20,340 --> 00:22:27,540

Okay, so the plan of attack here is you've got a pre-designated course.

368

00:22:27,540 --> 00:22:28,540

Is that right?

369

00:22:28,540 --> 00:22:29,540

Exactly, yes.

370

00:22:29,540 --> 00:22:31,180

It's like mowing the lawn.

371

00:22:31,180 --> 00:22:32,180

Mowing the lawn?

372

00:22:32,180 --> 00:22:33,180

Yes.

373

00:22:33,180 --> 00:22:34,180

That's the official description of LiDAR.

374

00:22:34,180 --> 00:22:35,860

It's mowing the lawn.

375

00:22:35,860 --> 00:22:40,660

And like mowing any lawn, it's going to take a while.

376

00:22:40,660 --> 00:22:45,660

For several hours, Isabelle painstakingly steers the drone up one row of the property

377

00:22:45,660 --> 00:22:50,500

and down the next as it sends billions of laser pulses to the earth.

378

00:22:50,500 --> 00:22:54,900

The scan is so shockingly detailed that if anyone loses their cell phone out here, we

379

00:22:54,900 --> 00:22:56,220

might be able to find it.

380

00:22:56,220 --> 00:22:57,900

Okay, the scan is complete.

381

00:22:57,900 --> 00:22:58,900

We're bringing home.

382

00:22:58,900 --> 00:23:03,340

Now the exciting part, the data.

383

00:23:03,340 --> 00:23:08,180

Okay guys, here we go.

384

00:23:08,180 --> 00:23:09,500

All right, what do we got?

385

00:23:09,500 --> 00:23:12,980

So you see the trees in red, but you don't see much there.

386

00:23:12,980 --> 00:23:13,980

Right.

387

00:23:13,980 --> 00:23:16,020

So we're going to take this trip off all the vegetation.

388

00:23:16,020 --> 00:23:17,900

This is my favorite part of LiDAR.

389

00:23:17,900 --> 00:23:19,820

And now we take it away.

390

00:23:19,820 --> 00:23:20,820

It's unbelievable.

391

00:23:20,820 --> 00:23:24,980

So now we can see everything right down to the field level.

392

00:23:24,980 --> 00:23:27,540

Anything that jumps out at you immediately on here.

393

00:23:27,540 --> 00:23:32,260

Something very interesting are those three mounds here that might be above ground.

394

00:23:32,260 --> 00:23:35,420

And right in the middle, you have kind of earth mound.

395

00:23:35,420 --> 00:23:37,420

Oh, right, you see that?

396

00:23:37,420 --> 00:23:38,420

Yes.

397

00:23:38,420 --> 00:23:39,420

That's superb.

398

00:23:39,420 --> 00:23:41,060

It looks like there's something in between them.

399

00:23:41,060 --> 00:23:45,300

Now that's interesting because I think I know where those three are above ground.

400

00:23:45,300 --> 00:23:47,940

They're in the tree line in the distance over there.

401

00:23:47,940 --> 00:23:50,060

Oh, those mounds back there?

402

00:23:50,060 --> 00:23:51,060

Yes.

403

00:23:51,060 --> 00:23:54,620

Gary knows the three structures Isabelle has spotted.

404

00:23:54,620 --> 00:23:59,220

They were fortified gun emplacements during the war, but there's an empty looking field

405

00:23:59,220 --> 00:24:05,700

between them that the LiDAR indicates might not be so empty after all.

406

00:24:05,700 --> 00:24:08,940

So how do we know that that bump is a building?

407

00:24:08,940 --> 00:24:09,940

Well we don't right now.

408

00:24:10,220 --> 00:24:12,060

We've got to dig it up to find out.

409

00:24:12,060 --> 00:24:13,060

Do you want to do that?

410

00:24:13,060 --> 00:24:14,060

Can you do that?

411

00:24:14,060 --> 00:24:15,060

We can do that.

412

00:24:15,060 --> 00:24:16,060

Yes.

413

00:24:19,900 --> 00:24:24,460

We thank Isabelle and walk half a mile away to the field in question.

414

00:24:24,460 --> 00:24:28,780

There may be a secret and undisturbed structure here.

415

00:24:28,780 --> 00:24:34,580

Something almost unheard of in a place as famous and well trod as Normandy.

416

00:24:34,580 --> 00:24:37,500

Or it could be a landfill.

417

00:24:37,500 --> 00:24:39,220

This is generally the spot, yeah?

418

00:24:39,220 --> 00:24:40,940

Yeah, this sort of area here.

419

00:24:40,940 --> 00:24:41,940

OK.

420

00:24:41,940 --> 00:24:43,500

There you go.

421

00:24:43,500 --> 00:24:44,780

Just start swinging these things?

422

00:24:44,780 --> 00:24:48,060

No, first of all we've got to bring in the heavy artillery.

423

00:24:48,060 --> 00:24:49,700

Clovis, come in.

424

00:24:49,700 --> 00:24:50,700

Who's Clovis?

425

00:24:55,180 --> 00:24:56,180

Clovis.

426

00:24:56,180 --> 00:24:58,180

That's a Clovis.

427

00:24:59,180 --> 00:25:01,180

Nice to meet you.

428

00:25:01,180 --> 00:25:06,620

Clovis Valtier is Gary's heavy equipment operator and he is clearly not to be trifled

429

00:25:06,620 --> 00:25:07,620

with.

430

00:25:07,620 --> 00:25:09,860

See that raised up area on the lidar?

431

00:25:09,860 --> 00:25:11,220

I think we're in the middle of it.

432

00:25:11,220 --> 00:25:13,380

It's indicating something in this area here.

433

00:25:13,380 --> 00:25:14,380

Right.

434

00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:15,380

Unleash the Clovis.

435

00:25:15,380 --> 00:25:16,700

The Clovis is unleashed.

436

00:25:16,700 --> 00:25:17,700

OK.

437

00:25:17,700 --> 00:25:18,700

Hit it.

438

00:25:22,220 --> 00:25:23,220

Jeez, Clovis.

439

00:25:23,220 --> 00:25:27,140

This guy's not fooling around.

440

00:25:27,140 --> 00:25:32,300

Clovis and the excavator carefully scrape away the earth one layer at a time.

441

00:25:33,300 --> 00:25:37,980

That guy just took out a wine bottle in one piece.

442

00:25:37,980 --> 00:25:41,300

Clovis is the surgeon of construction workers.

443

00:25:47,300 --> 00:25:49,900

Whoa, oh ho, we got something.

444

00:25:49,900 --> 00:25:52,820

It's a steel reinforcing bar.

445

00:25:52,820 --> 00:25:54,300

That is a steel reinforcing bar.

446

00:25:54,300 --> 00:25:55,300

Look at that.

447

00:25:55,300 --> 00:25:56,300

Wow.

448

00:25:56,300 --> 00:25:57,980

Whether it's significant or not, who knows, but that's man-made.

449

00:25:57,980 --> 00:25:58,980

That's man-made.

450

00:25:58,980 --> 00:25:59,980

OK, good.

451

00:25:59,980 --> 00:26:00,980

We're on the right track.

452

00:26:00,980 --> 00:26:01,980

Clovis, we're good.

453

00:26:02,980 --> 00:26:07,580

Where there's rebar, there are structures, so Clovis keeps at it.

454

00:26:10,980 --> 00:26:12,620

You can feel it vibrating under our feet.

455

00:26:12,620 --> 00:26:14,660

I think we might be right on top of it.

456

00:26:16,660 --> 00:26:18,380

Whoa, that's a good sign.

457

00:26:19,380 --> 00:26:20,380

Oh, whoa, hold on.

458

00:26:20,380 --> 00:26:22,380

And soon, we have something.

459

00:26:22,380 --> 00:26:23,380

What did he hit?

460

00:26:23,980 --> 00:26:24,980

Whoa, Jack.

461

00:26:24,980 --> 00:26:25,980

Oh!

462

00:26:25,980 --> 00:26:26,980

Jackpot.

463

00:26:27,980 --> 00:26:28,980

Look at that!

464

00:26:28,980 --> 00:26:30,980

Oh, what the f\*\*\*?

465

00:26:31,980 --> 00:26:32,980

Is that a roof?

466

00:26:32,980 --> 00:26:33,980

Yep.

467

00:26:34,980 --> 00:26:35,980

We're on top of a building.

468

00:26:35,980 --> 00:26:36,980

For sure.

469

00:26:36,980 --> 00:26:37,980

100% sure.

470

00:26:37,980 --> 00:26:39,980

Unbelievable!

471

00:27:02,980 --> 00:27:03,980

Whoa, Jackpot.

472

00:27:03,980 --> 00:27:04,980

Look at that!

473

00:27:04,980 --> 00:27:07,980

Today, researcher Gary Stern and I have found one of the site's lost structures.

474

00:27:07,980 --> 00:27:08,980

Is that a roof?

475

00:27:08,980 --> 00:27:09,980

Yep.

476

00:27:09,980 --> 00:27:11,980

Oh, what the f\*\*\*?

477

00:27:11,980 --> 00:27:14,980

It would take months for us to dig our way in by hand.

478

00:27:14,980 --> 00:27:17,980

What he needs to do now is he needs to change to a bigger bucket.

479

00:27:17,980 --> 00:27:21,980

Fortunately, Clovis has outfitted the excavator with a wider bucket.

480

00:27:21,980 --> 00:27:24,980

And now, he starts clearing the roof.

481

00:27:27,980 --> 00:27:29,980

This guy can shave your beard.

482

00:27:29,980 --> 00:27:31,980

Even if you haven't got one.

483

00:27:33,980 --> 00:27:36,980

Clovis makes much better time than we ever could.

484

00:27:42,980 --> 00:27:44,980

We're on the way to the next site.

485

00:27:44,980 --> 00:27:46,980

We're on the way to the next site.

486

00:27:46,980 --> 00:27:48,980

We're on the way to the next site.

487

00:27:49,980 --> 00:27:52,980

This looks like it's a brook.

488

00:27:52,980 --> 00:27:54,980

It's a machine gun emplacement.

489

00:27:54,980 --> 00:27:55,980

Yeah.

490

00:27:55,980 --> 00:27:56,980

Yeah?

491

00:27:56,980 --> 00:27:57,980

Here.

492

00:27:57,980 --> 00:27:58,980

Ah!

493

00:27:58,980 --> 00:27:59,980

Look at that!

494

00:27:59,980 --> 00:28:01,980

That's exactly what it is!

495

00:28:03,980 --> 00:28:06,980

Start to see the shape of it there.

496

00:28:09,980 --> 00:28:10,980

It goes down.

497

00:28:11,980 --> 00:28:13,980

Can you lift that up a little bit?

498

00:28:13,980 --> 00:28:14,980

Yeah.

499

00:28:14,980 --> 00:28:16,980

Can you lift that up a little bit?

500

00:28:18,980 --> 00:28:20,980

Can you see anything?

501

00:28:23,980 --> 00:28:25,980

It's a staircase!

502

00:28:25,980 --> 00:28:26,980

Ha ha!

503

00:28:27,980 --> 00:28:31,980

This is a to brook, a round concrete machine gun nest.

504

00:28:31,980 --> 00:28:36,980

Inside this chamber, Nazi soldiers manning huge M-34 automatic guns

505

00:28:36,980 --> 00:28:42,980

could defend Maisie in all directions, firing 900 rounds per minute.

506

00:28:45,980 --> 00:28:51,980

This just gets more and more astounding.

507

00:28:51,980 --> 00:28:54,980

First of all, the bunker is enormous.

508

00:28:54,980 --> 00:28:56,980

It's huge, whatever it is.

509

00:28:56,980 --> 00:28:58,980

We found machine gun emplacement on the end.

510

00:28:58,980 --> 00:29:00,980

Probably the door is down here somewhere.

511

00:29:00,980 --> 00:29:06,980

But no question at this point, we have a really significant structure for Maisie battery.

512

00:29:06,980 --> 00:29:08,980

Just about speechless.

513

00:29:14,980 --> 00:29:24,980

Well, Gary, this is a little bit bigger than I thought it was going to be.

514

00:29:24,980 --> 00:29:26,980

Yeah, it's bigger than I thought as well.

515

00:29:26,980 --> 00:29:27,980

What the hell is this?

516

00:29:27,980 --> 00:29:29,980

Well, there's the question.

517

00:29:29,980 --> 00:29:32,980

Nobody's been inside this for 75 years, so we've no idea what's in there.

518

00:29:32,980 --> 00:29:35,980

We will only know when we get through the front doors.

519

00:29:38,980 --> 00:29:43,980

Based on the layout of the building, Gary has a good idea which side will have an entrance into the bunker.

520

00:29:45,980 --> 00:29:53,980

He sends Clovis over to the edge to get digging, while other members of Gary's team, including his son, come in to help.

521

00:30:02,980 --> 00:30:04,980

Look at that!

522

00:30:04,980 --> 00:30:05,980

Jackpup.

523

00:30:05,980 --> 00:30:08,980

Oh my god, it's a door!

524

00:30:09,980 --> 00:30:11,980

Is it blocked or can you get in there?

525

00:30:11,980 --> 00:30:12,980

I think you can get in there.

526

00:30:12,980 --> 00:30:13,980

Yeah?

527

00:30:13,980 --> 00:30:14,980

Yeah, I think so.

528

00:30:17,980 --> 00:30:21,980

This place doesn't exactly have an elevator, so we make our own.

529

00:30:21,980 --> 00:30:22,980

Okay, can you take me down?

530

00:30:22,980 --> 00:30:24,980

Down, yeah?

531

00:30:24,980 --> 00:30:25,980

Ha ha!

532

00:30:25,980 --> 00:30:26,980

I owe you.

533

00:30:33,980 --> 00:30:34,980

Okay.

534

00:30:36,980 --> 00:30:37,980

Love it.

535

00:30:38,980 --> 00:30:39,980

Merci.

536

00:30:41,980 --> 00:30:42,980

Oh!

537

00:30:42,980 --> 00:30:43,980

Did you hit something?

538

00:30:43,980 --> 00:30:44,980

Yeah.

539

00:30:44,980 --> 00:30:45,980

What'd you hit?

540

00:30:46,980 --> 00:30:51,980

Before we can clear the door, though, we spot something buried in the earth outside the bunker.

541

00:30:52,980 --> 00:30:53,980

What the heck is this?

542

00:30:53,980 --> 00:30:54,980

It looks like a cannon.

543

00:30:55,980 --> 00:30:56,980

This is the back end?

544

00:30:56,980 --> 00:30:57,980

Yeah.

545

00:30:57,980 --> 00:30:58,980

This is a cannon?

546

00:30:58,980 --> 00:30:59,980

Yeah, it looks like it.

547

00:31:00,980 --> 00:31:01,980

Loantemont, loantemont.

548

00:31:02,980 --> 00:31:03,980

He's gonna try and pull it?

549

00:31:03,980 --> 00:31:04,980

Yeah.

550

00:31:04,980 --> 00:31:05,980

Okay.

551

00:31:05,980 --> 00:31:06,980

Wow.

552

00:31:06,980 --> 00:31:07,980

We're gonna lift it out.

553

00:31:08,980 --> 00:31:09,980

One huge piece.

554

00:31:10,980 --> 00:31:13,980

We give Clovis a hand so he can hoist it out of the hole.

555

00:31:16,980 --> 00:31:17,980

There it goes.

556

00:31:18,980 --> 00:31:19,980

Yay!

557

00:31:19,980 --> 00:31:20,980

We did it!

558

00:31:20,980 --> 00:31:21,980

Yes!

559

00:31:24,980 --> 00:31:26,980

Superb, superb.

560

00:31:26,980 --> 00:31:28,980

Makes you wonder what else is here.

561

00:31:28,980 --> 00:31:30,980

Yeah, unbelievable.

562

00:31:30,980 --> 00:31:37,980

This is a 105-millimeter check-made field cannon, their version of the Howitzer.

563

00:31:37,980 --> 00:31:42,980

One of the original guns that was hurling explosive shells at Allied forces on D-Day.

564

00:31:42,980 --> 00:31:47,980

It's slightly smaller caliber than its big brothers nearby, but its presence helps make

565

00:31:47,980 --> 00:31:54,980

clear why this place had to be neutralized and why the Allies buried the site after its capture.

566

00:31:54,980 --> 00:31:55,980

Wow.

567

00:31:55,980 --> 00:31:56,980

Look at this.

568

00:31:56,980 --> 00:31:57,980

Okay, let's try and dig it out.

569

00:31:57,980 --> 00:31:58,980

Dig it.

570

00:31:58,980 --> 00:31:59,980

Can I take that pick?

571

00:31:59,980 --> 00:32:03,980

With the outside cleared, we now need to get inside the bunker.

572

00:32:03,980 --> 00:32:06,980

It's blocked with decades of fill and debris.

573

00:32:07,980 --> 00:32:10,980

It's like they dumped all this garbage in here.

574

00:32:10,980 --> 00:32:12,980

Look at that, it's not blocked.

575

00:32:12,980 --> 00:32:14,980

That goes down and down and down into the dark.

576

00:32:14,980 --> 00:32:15,980

I can see it.

577

00:32:18,980 --> 00:32:19,980

Whoa, look at this.

578

00:32:20,980 --> 00:32:21,980

Dan, what do you think of that?

579

00:32:21,980 --> 00:32:22,980

German barbed wire.

580

00:32:22,980 --> 00:32:23,980

Is it?

581

00:32:23,980 --> 00:32:24,980

Yes, indeed.

582

00:32:24,980 --> 00:32:25,980

How do we know it's German?

583

00:32:25,980 --> 00:32:26,980

Nice and tight on the left.

584

00:32:26,980 --> 00:32:27,980

How do we know it's German?

585

00:32:27,980 --> 00:32:29,980

Nice and tight on the little roundalls here.

586

00:32:29,980 --> 00:32:33,980

So the Allies would put the spikes much further apart here, whereas the Germans would put

587

00:32:33,980 --> 00:32:34,980

them very tight together.

588

00:32:34,980 --> 00:32:35,980

It's very nasty stuff.

589

00:32:35,980 --> 00:32:36,980

It would catch you.

590

00:32:36,980 --> 00:32:37,980

It was horrible to get through.

591

00:32:37,980 --> 00:32:38,980

That's the engineering.

592

00:32:38,980 --> 00:32:39,980

Very much so.

593

00:32:39,980 --> 00:32:40,980

That was finest.

594

00:32:40,980 --> 00:32:41,980

Look at that.

595

00:32:41,980 --> 00:32:43,980

So we've got some writing on the wall at the side here.

596

00:32:43,980 --> 00:32:44,980

Oh, look at that.

597

00:32:44,980 --> 00:32:45,980

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

598

00:32:45,980 --> 00:32:46,980

Looks like maybe a seven, maybe a one.

599

00:32:46,980 --> 00:32:48,980

Zero, zero, one, seven maybe.

600

00:32:48,980 --> 00:32:49,980

Okay.

601

00:32:49,980 --> 00:32:53,980

Look, we're not even inside yet, but just based on the architecture you see here, can you

602

00:32:53,980 --> 00:32:54,980

tell what this is?

603

00:32:54,980 --> 00:32:55,980

Not yet.

604

00:32:55,980 --> 00:32:57,980

We've not seen this type of building before.

605

00:32:57,980 --> 00:33:03,980

It's going to be tight, but we can get in there.

606

00:33:03,980 --> 00:33:04,980

Okay, let's go for it.

607

00:33:04,980 --> 00:33:05,980

After you.

608

00:33:05,980 --> 00:33:07,980

Okay, well, here goes nothing.

609

00:33:07,980 --> 00:33:08,980

Okay.

610

00:33:08,980 --> 00:33:14,980

This is going to be messy and muddy and horrible.

611

00:33:14,980 --> 00:33:15,980

Okay.

612

00:33:15,980 --> 00:33:16,980

Man.

613

00:33:16,980 --> 00:33:20,980

We take our first steps into the bunker.

614

00:33:20,980 --> 00:33:24,980

The first steps anyone has taken into it in 75 years.

615

00:33:24,980 --> 00:33:26,980

Okay, I'm in.

616

00:33:26,980 --> 00:33:28,980

What can you see?

617

00:33:28,980 --> 00:33:31,980

Well, it goes back to a solid wall.

618

00:33:31,980 --> 00:33:36,980

Back section looks flooded and then a door that goes off to the left here.

619

00:33:36,980 --> 00:33:42,980

I can see big hinges on it, but no door.

620

00:33:42,980 --> 00:33:43,980

Okay.

621

00:33:43,980 --> 00:33:45,980

You're okay.

622

00:33:45,980 --> 00:33:49,980

Bank, dark and dripping with seven decades of mold.

623

00:33:49,980 --> 00:33:51,980

This place is repulsive.

624

00:33:51,980 --> 00:33:55,980

When you remember it was once crawling with Nazis though, it's kind of an improvement.

625

00:33:55,980 --> 00:33:58,980

Oh, wow.

626

00:33:58,980 --> 00:34:02,980

Huge room.

627

00:34:02,980 --> 00:34:03,980

Very muddy.

628

00:34:03,980 --> 00:34:04,980

Yeah.

629

00:34:04,980 --> 00:34:06,980

And we got some clues in here though.

630

00:34:06,980 --> 00:34:07,980

What's that valve over there?

631

00:34:07,980 --> 00:34:09,980

That's part of the ventilation system.

632

00:34:09,980 --> 00:34:11,980

And this too, look.

633

00:34:11,980 --> 00:34:13,980

Yeah, that's all part of the ventilation system.

634

00:34:13,980 --> 00:34:14,980

Wow.

635

00:34:14,980 --> 00:34:17,980

It brought fresh air in from the outside.

636

00:34:17,980 --> 00:34:19,980

The roof, it's all burnt.

637

00:34:19,980 --> 00:34:21,980

Yeah, totally burned.

638

00:34:21,980 --> 00:34:28,980

The bunker may have been burned during the firefight to take Maisie or torched by the allies before burying the site.

639

00:34:28,980 --> 00:34:31,980

Regardless, the structure is intact.

640

00:34:31,980 --> 00:34:35,980

And so are several artifacts left behind by the former occupants.

641

00:34:35,980 --> 00:34:37,980

What is this?

642

00:34:37,980 --> 00:34:39,980

It's the end of a gas mask filter.

643

00:34:39,980 --> 00:34:42,980

Look at that.

644

00:34:42,980 --> 00:34:46,980

And another one there, it looks like too.

645

00:34:46,980 --> 00:34:57,980

These asbestos filters were placed inside Nazi gas masks to be used in case of chemical attack.

646

00:34:57,980 --> 00:34:59,980

Yeah, what's that there?

647

00:34:59,980 --> 00:35:00,980

What is that?

648

00:35:00,980 --> 00:35:01,980

Whoa, I know what that is.

649

00:35:01,980 --> 00:35:02,980

What is it?

650

00:35:02,980 --> 00:35:04,980

That's the drum of a machine gun.

651

00:35:04,980 --> 00:35:06,980

Get out of here.

652

00:35:06,980 --> 00:35:08,980

Whoa, look at that.

653

00:35:08,980 --> 00:35:12,980

Load that with 50 rounds of ammunition and it clips onto the side of a machine gun.

654

00:35:12,980 --> 00:35:15,980

Wow, it looks like it's still with its original paint.

655

00:35:15,980 --> 00:35:17,980

Wow, look at that.

656

00:35:17,980 --> 00:35:18,980

It does.

657

00:35:18,980 --> 00:35:19,980

Is this the feeder?

658

00:35:19,980 --> 00:35:21,980

Yeah, that will feed one round at a time into the gun.

659

00:35:21,980 --> 00:35:24,980

That is unbelievable.

660

00:35:24,980 --> 00:35:25,980

Okay, should we push into this room?

661

00:35:25,980 --> 00:35:26,980

I think it's dry.

662

00:35:26,980 --> 00:35:27,980

Yep, let's do that.

663

00:35:27,980 --> 00:35:28,980

Let's do that.

664

00:35:28,980 --> 00:35:34,980

We move from room to room, each one offering up haunting remnants of the past.

665

00:35:34,980 --> 00:35:36,980

There's some German barbed wire.

666

00:35:36,980 --> 00:35:38,980

Look how many twists there are.

667

00:35:38,980 --> 00:35:39,980

What is this?

668

00:35:39,980 --> 00:35:42,980

This looks like it might have been an ammunition box.

669

00:35:42,980 --> 00:35:46,980

We've got wood, brackets, bracing.

670

00:35:46,980 --> 00:35:47,980

Anything else?

671

00:35:47,980 --> 00:35:48,980

Not yet.

672

00:35:48,980 --> 00:35:50,980

Keep going this way.

673

00:35:50,980 --> 00:35:52,980

Oh, hey, look!

674

00:35:52,980 --> 00:35:54,980

Hey, hey, hey, look, that's his, don't you?

675

00:35:54,980 --> 00:35:57,980

Are you kidding me?

676

00:35:57,980 --> 00:35:59,980

Just look at that.

677

00:35:59,980 --> 00:36:01,980

Look at the condition of that.

678

00:36:01,980 --> 00:36:05,980

My word.

679

00:36:05,980 --> 00:36:06,980

Wow, look at that.

680

00:36:06,980 --> 00:36:07,980

It's got a symbol.

681

00:36:07,980 --> 00:36:08,980

Yes, the SS.

682

00:36:08,980 --> 00:36:11,980

Oh, my word, it's an SS helmet.

683

00:36:23,980 --> 00:36:32,980

In the fields overlooking Omaha Beach, researcher Gary Stern and I have discovered a buried Nazi bunker untouched since World War II.

684

00:36:33,980 --> 00:36:42,980

The German bunker is a well-known, well-known.

685

00:36:42,980 --> 00:36:48,980

And we've just uncovered something that could prove it.

686

00:36:48,980 --> 00:36:51,980

Just look at that.

687

00:36:51,980 --> 00:36:53,980

Look at the condition of that.

688

00:36:53,980 --> 00:36:56,980

Oh, my word.

689

00:36:56,980 --> 00:36:58,980

Wow, look at that.

690

00:36:58,980 --> 00:36:59,980

It's got a symbol.

691

00:36:59,980 --> 00:37:00,980

Yes, the SS.

692

00:37:00,980 --> 00:37:02,980

Oh, my word, it's an SS helmet.

693

00:37:02,980 --> 00:37:03,980

Yep.

694

00:37:03,980 --> 00:37:04,980

The runic symbol.

695

00:37:04,980 --> 00:37:05,980

Amazing.

696

00:37:05,980 --> 00:37:15,980

To just be confronted with that and to see that horrible symbol on a helmet is just unbelievable.

697

00:37:15,980 --> 00:37:27,980

This is a steel helmet belonging to a member of the Waffen SS, Hitler's elite paramilitary guard, and the arm of the German state most responsible for the atrocities of the Holocaust.

698

00:37:27,980 --> 00:37:34,980

The symbols on its side are called Siegruhns, twin lightning bolts that were intended to represent victory.

699

00:37:34,980 --> 00:37:36,980

So let's try to put this together.

700

00:37:36,980 --> 00:37:42,980

We've got a lot of remains of gas masks, maybe an ammo box, and now an SS helmet.

701

00:37:42,980 --> 00:37:44,980

This has got to be an ammunition store.

702

00:37:44,980 --> 00:37:45,980

That's what I was thinking.

703

00:37:45,980 --> 00:37:46,980

It's the only thing it could be.

704

00:37:46,980 --> 00:37:51,980

It feels like a big weapon storage area, which makes sense too, because we've got these big guns, these big casements outside.

705

00:37:51,980 --> 00:37:52,980

50 feet away.

706

00:37:52,980 --> 00:37:53,980

And this feeds them.

707

00:37:53,980 --> 00:37:54,980

Yeah.

708

00:37:54,980 --> 00:38:01,980

It appears we're standing in an immense ammo bunker, designed to supply the massive gun emplacements above.

709

00:38:01,980 --> 00:38:08,980

The presence of the infamous SS here further underscores the importance and lethal power of this complex.

710

00:38:10,980 --> 00:38:16,980

We continue to explore the bunker until we suddenly get a call from the surface.

711

00:38:16,980 --> 00:38:17,980

Charlie!

712

00:38:17,980 --> 00:38:18,980

Where was it?

713

00:38:18,980 --> 00:38:19,980

Over there!

714

00:38:19,980 --> 00:38:20,980

Charlie!

715

00:38:20,980 --> 00:38:21,980

Is that Klovis?

716

00:38:21,980 --> 00:38:22,980

He's shouted.

717

00:38:22,980 --> 00:38:23,980

Klovis!

718

00:38:23,980 --> 00:38:24,980

Klovis!

719

00:38:24,980 --> 00:38:25,980

I found something!

720

00:38:34,980 --> 00:38:35,980

Think you found something else?

721

00:38:35,980 --> 00:38:36,980

Maybe. Let's have a look.

722

00:38:36,980 --> 00:38:42,980

While we've been investigating the bunker, Gary's team has discovered something else buried nearby.

723

00:38:42,980 --> 00:38:44,980

We hurry over to see what they've found.

724

00:38:46,980 --> 00:38:47,980

You find something!

725

00:38:47,980 --> 00:38:48,980

Is this structure?

726

00:38:49,980 --> 00:38:50,980

The bathroom?

727

00:38:50,980 --> 00:38:51,980

Yeah, no.

728

00:38:54,980 --> 00:38:55,980

It's concrete.

729

00:38:56,980 --> 00:38:57,980

Hey!

730

00:38:58,980 --> 00:38:59,980

Another building!

731

00:38:59,980 --> 00:39:00,980

Fantastic.

732

00:39:02,980 --> 00:39:06,980

With the help of Gary's team, we work to clear away the earth from this new building.

733

00:39:14,980 --> 00:39:15,980

Digging away the roof.

734

00:39:19,980 --> 00:39:20,980

Finding another to broke.

735

00:39:24,980 --> 00:39:28,980

Exposing a new door.

736

00:39:33,980 --> 00:39:37,980

And finally, revealing the shape of this second enormous structure.

737

00:39:40,980 --> 00:39:46,980

Together with the first bunker, there's no doubt that we've uncovered an entirely new section of the compound.

738

00:39:46,980 --> 00:39:48,980

Okay, first looks.

739

00:39:48,980 --> 00:39:49,980

Okay.

740

00:39:49,980 --> 00:39:50,980

Oh!

741

00:39:50,980 --> 00:39:51,980

Wow.

742

00:39:51,980 --> 00:39:52,980

Machine gun port.

743

00:39:52,980 --> 00:39:54,980

Yeah, but look, it's got the shield in place.

744

00:39:55,980 --> 00:39:56,980

It does have the shield in place.

745

00:39:56,980 --> 00:39:57,980

Look at that!

746

00:39:57,980 --> 00:39:58,980

We gotta clear some debris out of here.

747

00:39:58,980 --> 00:39:59,980

We should be able to get in.

748

00:39:59,980 --> 00:40:00,980

Yep. Okay.

749

00:40:00,980 --> 00:40:01,980

Yeah?

750

00:40:09,980 --> 00:40:10,980

We're going down.

751

00:40:12,980 --> 00:40:13,980

I'm in!

752

00:40:13,980 --> 00:40:15,980

Wow, look at this!

753

00:40:23,980 --> 00:40:24,980

Okay.

754

00:40:28,980 --> 00:40:32,980

So, okay, so we've got the machine gun port here, this guard of the entrance.

755

00:40:32,980 --> 00:40:35,980

We haven't found any of these with the shield in place at all and the rest of the site.

756

00:40:35,980 --> 00:40:36,980

Wow.

757

00:40:36,980 --> 00:40:38,980

So that's quite unusual to find that.

758

00:40:40,980 --> 00:40:43,980

And if you look here, you've got two antenna positions.

759

00:40:43,980 --> 00:40:44,980

These.

760

00:40:44,980 --> 00:40:46,980

So they would wind a retractable antenna.

761

00:40:46,980 --> 00:40:49,980

Still got some of the communication cable in place.

762

00:40:50,980 --> 00:40:51,980

Whoa.

763

00:40:51,980 --> 00:40:52,980

Wow.

764

00:40:52,980 --> 00:40:59,980

The retractable antennas would allow the Nazis to communicate with the outside from within a sealed, bomb-proof building.

765

00:41:00,980 --> 00:41:02,980

Okay, okay, let's see what we got here.

766

00:41:07,980 --> 00:41:08,980

Oh, man!

767

00:41:08,980 --> 00:41:09,980

What can you say?

768

00:41:09,980 --> 00:41:10,980

It's just terrifying.

769

00:41:10,980 --> 00:41:11,980

Look at this.

770

00:41:11,980 --> 00:41:13,980

First of all, what is growing in here?

771

00:41:15,980 --> 00:41:17,980

I have no idea.

772

00:41:17,980 --> 00:41:20,980

I mean, it looks full on alien toxic death.

773

00:41:22,980 --> 00:41:25,980

This structure appears at a glance to be even bigger than the first.

774

00:41:29,980 --> 00:41:37,980

The two bunkers certainly share a mold problem, as well as a lingering residual feeling of evil, nearly eight decades old.

775

00:41:37,980 --> 00:41:39,980

We've got a room to the left.

776

00:41:40,980 --> 00:41:41,980

Yep.

777

00:41:41,980 --> 00:41:44,980

The question now is, what was this building's purpose?

778

00:41:44,980 --> 00:41:47,980

We search for artifacts to give us an indication.

779

00:41:47,980 --> 00:41:49,980

What is this growing out of these pipes?

780

00:41:49,980 --> 00:41:50,980

I have no idea.

781

00:41:50,980 --> 00:41:52,980

It's like a blue crystal.

782

00:41:53,980 --> 00:41:55,980

Oh, I would not touch that if I were you, Gary.

783

00:42:01,980 --> 00:42:02,980

What is this?

784

00:42:02,980 --> 00:42:03,980

Aha.

785

00:42:03,980 --> 00:42:05,980

That is a German belt buckle.

786

00:42:05,980 --> 00:42:08,980

Oh, my word, it is.

787

00:42:08,980 --> 00:42:17,980

So we got T, Ott, Gott, Gott, Gott, Gott, Gott mit uns.

788

00:42:17,980 --> 00:42:19,980

Gott ist mit uns in German.

789

00:42:19,980 --> 00:42:20,980

Gott ist mit uns.

790

00:42:20,980 --> 00:42:22,980

Not quite.

791

00:42:22,980 --> 00:42:23,980

It wasn't this time.

792

00:42:23,980 --> 00:42:24,980

Yeah.

793

00:42:24,980 --> 00:42:26,980

Yeah, an aswastika under the eagle.

794

00:42:28,980 --> 00:42:30,980

That is just terrifying.

795

00:42:30,980 --> 00:42:32,980

It's one of those weird dual things, right?

796

00:42:32,980 --> 00:42:36,980

Like, on one hand, it's this big symbol, this big Nazi military symbol.

797

00:42:36,980 --> 00:42:38,980

Propaganda symbol, as well.

798

00:42:38,980 --> 00:42:39,980

Exactly, propaganda.

799

00:42:39,980 --> 00:42:41,980

On the other hand, it's very personal.

800

00:42:41,980 --> 00:42:43,980

It's like some guy's belt.

801

00:42:43,980 --> 00:42:45,980

You know, somebody got up every day and put this on.

802

00:42:45,980 --> 00:42:46,980

Yeah.

803

00:42:46,980 --> 00:42:47,980

Amazingly.

804

00:42:47,980 --> 00:42:49,980

And then he leaves it here, or it gets lost here.

805

00:42:49,980 --> 00:42:50,980

Yeah.

806

00:42:50,980 --> 00:42:51,980

All right, get that away from me, will you?

807

00:42:51,980 --> 00:42:52,980

All right.

808

00:42:52,980 --> 00:42:53,980

Let's keep looking.

809

00:42:56,980 --> 00:42:57,980

Watch your head.

810

00:42:57,980 --> 00:42:58,980

Yeah.

811

00:43:00,980 --> 00:43:01,980

Oh, wow.

812

00:43:01,980 --> 00:43:02,980

Crazy.

813

00:43:02,980 --> 00:43:03,980

Wow.

814

00:43:03,980 --> 00:43:04,980

This is crazy.

815

00:43:04,980 --> 00:43:06,980

This one's more flooded than the other one.

816

00:43:07,980 --> 00:43:11,980

And another one of these machine gun ports right here.

817

00:43:11,980 --> 00:43:12,980

Yeah.

818

00:43:13,980 --> 00:43:15,980

Oh, look at this.

819

00:43:15,980 --> 00:43:18,980

Oh, my word.

820

00:43:19,980 --> 00:43:20,980

Are you kidding me?

821

00:43:20,980 --> 00:43:21,980

Look at this.

822

00:43:21,980 --> 00:43:22,980

It's sheet music.

823

00:43:25,980 --> 00:43:29,980

And all of this was burned, and we have a piece of this sheet music is still here.

824

00:43:29,980 --> 00:43:30,980

That is insane.

825

00:43:30,980 --> 00:43:31,980

That's crazy.

826

00:43:31,980 --> 00:43:33,980

Can you imagine a guy sitting in here playing the piano?

827

00:43:36,980 --> 00:43:38,980

The guys had to entertain themselves, you know?

828

00:43:38,980 --> 00:43:41,980

Remember, they were in these places for four years.

829

00:43:41,980 --> 00:43:43,980

Four years before the Allies invaded.

830

00:43:43,980 --> 00:43:44,980

Yeah.

831

00:43:45,980 --> 00:43:51,980

The presence of so many personal items suggests to Gary that this was once a personnel bunker,

832

00:43:51,980 --> 00:43:53,980

housing up to 20 soldiers.

833

00:43:53,980 --> 00:43:57,980

This is where the Nazis who guarded Maisie once lived.

834

00:43:58,980 --> 00:44:02,980

What we'll do with all the items we found, we'll keep them, preserve them, put them on display,

835

00:44:02,980 --> 00:44:05,980

and then everybody in the future can see what we found.

836

00:44:05,980 --> 00:44:06,980

And have some context.

837

00:44:06,980 --> 00:44:07,980

Of what happened here.

838

00:44:07,980 --> 00:44:08,980

And yeah.

839

00:44:08,980 --> 00:44:09,980

All right.

840

00:44:09,980 --> 00:44:11,980

Let's start making our way back to the light, yeah?

841

00:44:11,980 --> 00:44:12,980

Okay.

842

00:44:12,980 --> 00:44:13,980

Okay.

843

00:44:13,980 --> 00:44:14,980

Here we go.

844

00:44:21,980 --> 00:44:25,980

We emerge from underground, and I remain shaken by what we found.

845

00:44:25,980 --> 00:44:31,980

Maisie's battery was crucial in the Allies' fight to break Germany's grip on Europe.

846

00:44:31,980 --> 00:44:35,980

Yet its story, like our bunker, seems to have been buried.

847

00:44:35,980 --> 00:44:38,980

While the assault on Pointe de Hoc remains the stuff of action movies,

848

00:44:38,980 --> 00:44:44,980

the fact is that Maisie's battery's hidden history is every bit as central to the D-Day legend.

849

00:44:44,980 --> 00:44:47,980

It's a reckoning that's long overdue.

850

00:44:54,980 --> 00:45:00,980

Gary is going to continue excavating the battery until every Nazi structure is exposed to the light of day.

851

00:45:01,980 --> 00:45:09,980

I leave him and drive across Normandy in muted awe at the bravery of the Allied soldiers who withstood the assault from Maisie

852

00:45:09,980 --> 00:45:13,980

and who rose from the beaches to put it out of commission.

853

00:45:21,980 --> 00:45:28,980

Some of the bravest men who fought on D-Day never even saw the beaches though, except perhaps from the air.

854

00:45:29,980 --> 00:45:37,980

It's another secret of the Allies' success, an operation that's finally coming to light at Normandy's Airborne Museum,

855

00:45:37,980 --> 00:45:42,980

where I board a legendary American troop transporter called the C-47.

856

00:45:47,980 --> 00:45:55,980

Many people assume that D-Day started on the beaches, but actually it began up here in the air with these guys.

857

00:45:59,980 --> 00:46:11,980

Just after midnight on June 6, 1944, the first wave of more than 10,000 aircraft started dropping more than 20,000 paratroopers behind enemy lines.

858

00:46:11,980 --> 00:46:15,980

In a top secret mission that wasn't just dangerous, it was deadly.

859

00:46:17,980 --> 00:46:20,980

Perhaps the most incredible thing about the operation?

860

00:46:20,980 --> 00:46:26,980

An entire fleet of unique aircraft that led the invasion never returned from Normandy.

861

00:46:26,980 --> 00:46:28,980

And it was all on purpose.

862

00:46:34,980 --> 00:46:35,980

Coming up.

863

00:46:36,980 --> 00:46:39,980

These gliders were dangerous to put it mildly, right?

864

00:46:41,980 --> 00:46:43,980

A glider crashed in this field?

865

00:46:45,980 --> 00:46:46,980

Josh!

866

00:46:46,980 --> 00:46:48,980

You got something!

867

00:46:49,980 --> 00:46:51,980

There's something big here!

868

00:46:52,980 --> 00:46:53,980

Look at it!

869

00:46:53,980 --> 00:46:54,980

And later.

870

00:46:55,980 --> 00:46:58,980

So out there, you're looking at the battle as it happened.

871

00:47:00,980 --> 00:47:02,980

The Germans heavily mined this area.

872

00:47:07,980 --> 00:47:10,980

Don't touch that! That's an unexploded bolt!

873

00:47:11,980 --> 00:47:12,980

Back up! Back up!

874

00:47:23,980 --> 00:47:30,980

I'm in Normandy's Airborne Museum, investigating the lingering mysteries of World War II's most decisive battle.

875

00:47:30,980 --> 00:47:40,980

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces began the brutal campaign to retake Europe from the Nazis with the invasion of Normandy.

876

00:47:40,980 --> 00:47:45,980

And in fact, the operation began before a single boot hit the beaches on D-Day.

877

00:47:45,980 --> 00:47:50,980

It actually started the night before, a thousand feet above the conflict.

878

00:47:51,980 --> 00:48:00,980

The Allied plan on D-Day was to drop paratroopers behind enemy lines so they could attack German positions from both land and sea.

879

00:48:02,980 --> 00:48:05,980

They flew in the dark of night through heavy fog.

880

00:48:05,980 --> 00:48:08,980

Most had never made a combat jump before.

881

00:48:08,980 --> 00:48:15,980

Months of cloak and dagger preparation led up to the assault, but the mission still hit a few snags.

882

00:48:20,980 --> 00:48:23,980

Many paratroopers were blown far off course.

883

00:48:23,980 --> 00:48:29,980

Some were shot by snipers before they ever landed, and some landed in places like this.

884

00:48:33,980 --> 00:48:40,980

It's a memorial to an American paratrooper who got caught on this church spire, Private John Steele.

885

00:48:41,980 --> 00:48:52,980

And inside the church, a stained glass window depicts his fellow heroes, who miraculously descended from the heavens to rescue France from the Nazis.

886

00:48:57,980 --> 00:49:02,980

For those who did make it to the ground, the situation was still grim.

887

00:49:02,980 --> 00:49:06,980

They were alone in the dark, often separated from their team.

888

00:49:06,980 --> 00:49:10,980

Their odds of survival were about one in four.

889

00:49:10,980 --> 00:49:13,980

These were the first men to face the Nazis.

890

00:49:13,980 --> 00:49:17,980

On a mission so top secret, it's been largely forgotten.

891

00:49:17,980 --> 00:49:20,980

But not all of them landed in parachutes.

892

00:49:20,980 --> 00:49:26,980

Now, 75 years later, this unbelievable story is finally being exposed.

893

00:49:30,980 --> 00:49:32,980

This is Pegasus Bridge.

894

00:49:32,980 --> 00:49:39,980

One of two bridges critical for the Allies to take on D-Day, so the troops could get off the beaches and push inland.

895

00:49:39,980 --> 00:49:45,980

But the Nazis understood the strategic importance of this place, and they had it heavily defended.

896

00:49:45,980 --> 00:49:49,980

They even wired the bridges with explosives as a last resort.

897

00:49:49,980 --> 00:49:54,980

So, how do you sneak up on an enemy armed to the teeth with their finger on a detonator?

898

00:49:54,980 --> 00:49:59,980

You do it with a secret weapon never before used in the history of war.

899

00:50:00,980 --> 00:50:03,980

Gliders

900

00:50:03,980 --> 00:50:08,980

Engineless aircraft made of little more than canvas and wood.

901

00:50:08,980 --> 00:50:18,980

In a stealth nighttime raid, C-47 transport planes towed thousands of American Waco gliders and British Horsa gliders into battle.

902

00:50:18,980 --> 00:50:26,980

Capable of carrying more than a dozen men and even tanks, jeeps and artillery, these were the first stealth aircraft.

903

00:50:30,980 --> 00:50:40,980

And to unearth their role in D-Day, I head to a nearby field, where I meet with former French paratrooper turned World War II historian Ludovic Dufay.

904

00:50:40,980 --> 00:50:43,980

Bonjour, à chanter. Beautiful weather.

905

00:50:43,980 --> 00:50:47,980

If you wait for Cliske, you'll never leave the house.

906

00:50:47,980 --> 00:50:53,980

Tell me a little bit about this glider assault. First of all, why gliders? Why not just use paratroopers?

907

00:50:53,980 --> 00:50:58,980

Gliders can get closer to enemy lines undetected. The key to this mission was surprise.

908

00:50:58,980 --> 00:51:02,980

Everything about it was shrouded in secrecy.

909

00:51:02,980 --> 00:51:10,980

It was an audacious mission codenamed Operation Deadstick, and it was crucial to ensuring that D-Day was successful.

910

00:51:10,980 --> 00:51:13,980

These gliders were dangerous to put it mildly, right?

911

00:51:13,980 --> 00:51:19,980

Yes, they were very flimsy. Remember, they were built as single-use planes.

912

00:51:19,980 --> 00:51:24,980

In fact, they were so fragile that pilots dubbed them flying coffins.

913

00:51:25,980 --> 00:51:30,980

And if they were spotted, the gliders were sitting ducks for the Germans.

914

00:51:30,980 --> 00:51:34,980

But the troops that made it into enemy territory turned the tide of war,

915

00:51:34,980 --> 00:51:40,980

securing critical positions like the Pegasus Bridge, where they cut the German supply line off,

916

00:51:40,980 --> 00:51:44,980

helping the Allies begin their march to victory.

917

00:51:47,980 --> 00:51:51,980

So let's talk about what you're finding out here. First of all, why here? Why in this field?

918

00:51:51,980 --> 00:51:56,980

The gliders had one objective, to get Allied troops behind enemy lines.

919

00:51:56,980 --> 00:52:01,980

They landed in this field right here and were left behind.

920

00:52:04,980 --> 00:52:06,980

But more crashed than landed.

921

00:52:06,980 --> 00:52:12,980

89% of the Horses of Gliders and 50% of the Wacoes were totaled.

922

00:52:12,980 --> 00:52:18,980

After Allied troops moved inland, the gliders and the weapons they transported were abandoned.

923

00:52:18,980 --> 00:52:20,980

Is this from this field?

924

00:52:20,980 --> 00:52:23,980

Yes, it is a British Enfield rifle.

925

00:52:23,980 --> 00:52:28,980

So this would have been carried by one of the British soldiers, presumably in one of these gliders?

926

00:52:28,980 --> 00:52:29,980

Yes.

927

00:52:29,980 --> 00:52:36,980

But Ludo's real objective is a far rarer World War II artifact, the gliders themselves.

928

00:52:36,980 --> 00:52:42,980

Today, only one example of a completely original British Horsa exists.

929

00:52:42,980 --> 00:52:45,980

I'm going back out to search the field. Would you like to help?

930

00:52:45,980 --> 00:52:48,980

Why not? Staying dry is overrated.

931

00:52:49,980 --> 00:52:53,980

Ludo has special permission to metal detect in this historic war zone.

932

00:52:53,980 --> 00:52:59,980

With each find, he helps preserve an endangered piece of history, lost on that fateful night.

933

00:52:59,980 --> 00:53:02,980

Obviously this is a farm. Does it matter that this soil has been tilled?

934

00:53:02,980 --> 00:53:07,980

That's a good thing. Sometimes a tilled field can bring things closer to the surface.

935

00:53:08,980 --> 00:53:10,980

The Wacoes are now in the field.

936

00:53:13,980 --> 00:53:16,980

It has, at least for the moment, stopped raining.

937

00:53:16,980 --> 00:53:19,980

And I am happy about that.

938

00:53:27,980 --> 00:53:28,980

Josh!

939

00:53:28,980 --> 00:53:30,980

You got something!

940

00:53:31,980 --> 00:53:37,980

Something small, whatever it is.

941

00:53:41,980 --> 00:53:42,980

What is this?

942

00:53:42,980 --> 00:53:44,980

It's a narrow-wingian bellbuckle.

943

00:53:44,980 --> 00:53:46,980

Is it a buckle?

944

00:53:46,980 --> 00:53:49,980

I found others like it in the area.

945

00:53:49,980 --> 00:53:52,980

Buckle from the Merovingians.

946

00:53:52,980 --> 00:53:56,980

Hey, Alexa, what is a Merovingian?

947

00:53:56,980 --> 00:54:01,980

FYI, it turns out the Merovingians were a dynasty of kings from early medieval France.

948

00:54:01,980 --> 00:54:02,980

Thank you, Alexa.

949

00:54:02,980 --> 00:54:04,980

You're telling me this is from the Middle Ages?

950

00:54:04,980 --> 00:54:05,980

Yes.

951

00:54:05,980 --> 00:54:10,980

This is incredible. Now we just got to go forward like 1500 years.

952

00:54:10,980 --> 00:54:11,980

Exactly.

953

00:54:11,980 --> 00:54:14,980

Okay, let's go. Incredible find. Here you go.

954

00:54:16,980 --> 00:54:24,980

We continue to metal detect, but the more we uncover, the more I realize that they've been making French history for a very long time.

955

00:54:24,980 --> 00:54:26,980

It looks like a copper coin.

956

00:54:26,980 --> 00:54:27,980

What year do you think this is from?

957

00:54:27,980 --> 00:54:30,980

It's very old, maybe 16th century.

958

00:54:30,980 --> 00:54:35,980

Alright, it's not Merovingian, but we just got to go another 300 years forward.

959

00:54:35,980 --> 00:54:37,980

We're getting closer. We're getting closer.

960

00:54:41,980 --> 00:54:46,980

We carry on, spending hours meticulously combing every square inch of the field.

961

00:54:51,980 --> 00:54:53,980

Hey, hit here.

962

00:54:53,980 --> 00:54:54,980

No.

963

00:54:54,980 --> 00:54:55,980

No.

964

00:54:55,980 --> 00:54:56,980

No, no.

965

00:54:56,980 --> 00:55:03,980

You get these small hits all over the place here, probably a million little bits of nails and metal in these fields.

966

00:55:03,980 --> 00:55:09,980

The gliders that crashed here are the key to a top secret mission that's been all but forgotten.

967

00:55:09,980 --> 00:55:14,980

But after 75 years of decay, is there anything left to be found?

968

00:55:20,980 --> 00:55:21,980

Josh, come here.

969

00:55:21,980 --> 00:55:23,980

You got something else?

970

00:55:26,980 --> 00:55:27,980

Right here.

971

00:55:27,980 --> 00:55:28,980

Big.

972

00:55:29,980 --> 00:55:30,980

Yeah.

973

00:55:30,980 --> 00:55:31,980

Oh yeah.

974

00:55:36,980 --> 00:55:37,980

Look how that is.

975

00:55:37,980 --> 00:55:39,980

Feels like a big target.

976

00:55:44,980 --> 00:55:45,980

It's metal.

977

00:55:47,980 --> 00:55:48,980

Ah, writing.

978

00:55:49,980 --> 00:55:50,980

It's stamped.

979

00:55:50,980 --> 00:55:52,980

It's from a glider.

980

00:56:02,980 --> 00:56:06,980

I'm in Normandy, France with ex-paratrooper Ludo de Fay,

981

00:56:06,980 --> 00:56:10,980

digging for one of the lost secrets of D-Day, gliders.

982

00:56:10,980 --> 00:56:13,980

In the hours before the amphibious invasion,

983

00:56:13,980 --> 00:56:17,980

hundreds of Allied gliders crash landed here on a clandestine mission

984

00:56:17,980 --> 00:56:22,980

to capture Pegasus Bridge and cut off German reinforcements.

985

00:56:22,980 --> 00:56:26,980

The men who flew in these planes are the forgotten heroes of D-Day,

986

00:56:26,980 --> 00:56:30,980

and we just dug up the glider equivalent of a dog tag.

987

00:56:32,980 --> 00:56:33,980

It's metal.

988

00:56:36,980 --> 00:56:37,980

Ah, writing.

989

00:56:38,980 --> 00:56:39,980

It's stamped.

990

00:56:39,980 --> 00:56:40,980

It's from a glider.

991

00:56:40,980 --> 00:56:42,980

Ah, Horsa.

992

00:56:43,980 --> 00:56:46,980

This is a tag from the type of glider that took Pegasus Bridge.

993

00:56:46,980 --> 00:56:47,980

Can you read anything on it?

994

00:56:47,980 --> 00:56:48,980

1640.

995

00:56:48,980 --> 00:56:49,980

That's the serial number.

996

00:56:49,980 --> 00:56:51,980

That's the serial number of the glider.

997

00:56:51,980 --> 00:56:53,980

The Horsa is extremely rare.

998

00:56:54,980 --> 00:56:55,980

Wow.

999

00:56:57,980 --> 00:56:58,980

Unbelievable.

1000

00:56:58,980 --> 00:57:00,980

This tag tells a story.

1001

00:57:01,980 --> 00:57:04,980

This will help us understand more about this operation.

1002

00:57:06,980 --> 00:57:11,980

This ID tag came from the Holy Grail of World War II gliders, the British Horsa,

1003

00:57:11,980 --> 00:57:15,980

with an 88-foot wingspan capable of carrying 25 men.

1004

00:57:15,980 --> 00:57:20,980

It was the biggest glider in the war, and today it is the most rare.

1005

00:57:20,980 --> 00:57:25,980

The only original example is housed at the Museum of Flying in Hampshire, England.

1006

00:57:27,980 --> 00:57:31,980

We're still getting hits on the metal detector, which can only mean one thing.

1007

00:57:31,980 --> 00:57:33,980

We need to keep digging.

1008

00:57:35,980 --> 00:57:37,980

There's something big here.

1009

00:57:38,980 --> 00:57:40,980

It's a painted piece of fabric.

1010

00:57:41,980 --> 00:57:42,980

This could be from a glider.

1011

00:57:42,980 --> 00:57:44,980

Let's see how far this goes.

1012

00:57:46,980 --> 00:57:48,980

I hit something.

1013

00:57:48,980 --> 00:57:50,980

Is it a box?

1014

00:57:53,980 --> 00:57:54,980

Is that wood?

1015

00:57:54,980 --> 00:57:56,980

Yes, it is.

1016

00:58:07,980 --> 00:58:08,980

Careful, careful, careful.

1017

00:58:09,980 --> 00:58:10,980

Got it?

1018

00:58:10,980 --> 00:58:11,980

Yeah.

1019

00:58:12,980 --> 00:58:15,980

I think this is from a glider.

1020

00:58:20,980 --> 00:58:21,980

Is it part of the wing?

1021

00:58:21,980 --> 00:58:22,980

Yes.

1022

00:58:22,980 --> 00:58:24,980

Are you kidding me?

1023

00:58:26,980 --> 00:58:29,980

That is undoubtedly the edge of a wing.

1024

00:58:29,980 --> 00:58:31,980

It's a flap that goes up and down.

1025

00:58:32,980 --> 00:58:35,980

It's made of this incredibly thin, almost paper thin wood.

1026

00:58:35,980 --> 00:58:40,980

When you see this up close, you see how fragile these gliders really were.

1027

00:58:40,980 --> 00:58:43,980

I would not want to fly in something made of this.

1028

00:58:43,980 --> 00:58:49,980

And I'm thankful they flew it, but you would not want to get into an aircraft made only of this.

1029

00:58:49,980 --> 00:58:54,980

That's why so few of them survived, and their story has almost been lost.

1030

00:58:54,980 --> 00:58:56,980

A secret piece of history right there.

1031

00:58:56,980 --> 00:58:59,980

Nice work. Incredible.

1032

00:59:00,980 --> 00:59:06,980

Ludo will continue to comb the field, but for now, the ID tag and wing flap are major finds.

1033

00:59:06,980 --> 00:59:11,980

Historians may be able to connect the serial number to the men who flew this plane,

1034

00:59:11,980 --> 00:59:15,980

revealing more lost details of this top secret mission.

1035

00:59:24,980 --> 00:59:31,980

Meanwhile, my own investigation of D-Day's secrets is turning to the story of one of the invasion's most harrowing mysteries

1036

00:59:31,980 --> 00:59:34,980

in the nearby city of Kong.

1037

00:59:37,980 --> 00:59:41,980

Today, Kong is a postcard come to life.

1038

00:59:41,980 --> 00:59:45,980

It wasn't so picturesque though back in 1944.

1039

00:59:48,980 --> 00:59:52,980

The morning of June 6th. This was the battleground.

1040

00:59:52,980 --> 00:59:54,980

Pierce fighting around Kong.

1041

00:59:56,980 --> 01:00:00,980

On D-Day, the Allies were determined to drive the Germans out of Kong

1042

01:00:00,980 --> 01:00:02,980

to cut off their supply lines.

1043

01:00:02,980 --> 01:00:06,980

They expected it would take a day. It took a month.

1044

01:00:06,980 --> 01:00:11,980

And that was only achieved with a desperate and controversial decision.

1045

01:00:11,980 --> 01:00:14,980

The city had to be bombed.

1046

01:00:14,980 --> 01:00:16,980

By the Allies.

1047

01:00:16,980 --> 01:00:23,980

On July 7th, 1944, the British Royal Air Force dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on Kong.

1048

01:00:23,980 --> 01:00:28,980

The British Royal Air Force was able to take the airfield and take the airfield.

1049

01:00:28,980 --> 01:00:33,980

The result? Sheer devastation that still echoes into the present day.

1050

01:00:44,980 --> 01:00:49,980

The bombing was one of the most relentless in the history of war.

1051

01:00:49,980 --> 01:00:52,980

Most of the city was flattened.

1052

01:00:52,980 --> 01:00:56,980

Yet, incredibly, in a town of 60,000 people,

1053

01:00:56,980 --> 01:00:58,980

only about a thousand died.

1054

01:00:58,980 --> 01:01:01,980

The question is, how is that possible?

1055

01:01:04,980 --> 01:01:09,980

To unlock that mystery, I'm headed to a nondescript warehouse on the edge of town

1056

01:01:09,980 --> 01:01:13,980

called the National Institute for Preventive Archaeology,

1057

01:01:13,980 --> 01:01:17,980

where the history of that era is being preserved by scientists Benoit Lebes

1058

01:01:17,980 --> 01:01:19,980

and Cyril Marseigny.

1059

01:01:19,980 --> 01:01:20,980

Bonjour, I'm Josh.

1060

01:01:20,980 --> 01:01:21,980

Hey, hi, Josh. I'm Benoit.

1061

01:01:21,980 --> 01:01:22,980

Benoit.

1062

01:01:22,980 --> 01:01:23,980

Yeah.

1063

01:01:23,980 --> 01:01:25,980

Nice to meet you both. Thanks for having me.

1064

01:01:25,980 --> 01:01:27,980

This is like from Indiana Jones.

1065

01:01:27,980 --> 01:01:28,980

Yes, exactly.

1066

01:01:28,980 --> 01:01:30,980

This is like the warehouse from Raiders.

1067

01:01:33,980 --> 01:01:34,980

What is this place?

1068

01:01:34,980 --> 01:01:38,980

This place is the deeper where we store what we find in Normandy.

1069

01:01:38,980 --> 01:01:41,980

And have you recovered a lot of World War II artifacts?

1070

01:01:41,980 --> 01:01:42,980

Oui, on le troupe.

1071

01:01:42,980 --> 01:01:44,980

We find many things.

1072

01:01:44,980 --> 01:01:45,980

Lots.

1073

01:01:45,980 --> 01:01:48,980

So this town was heavily bombed?

1074

01:01:48,980 --> 01:01:53,980

Yes. Probably one of the most destroyed during the Second World War in Normandy.

1075

01:01:53,980 --> 01:01:57,980

And so do you find a lot of archaeological materials from that invasion?

1076

01:01:57,980 --> 01:01:59,980

Yes. Yes. I can show you.

1077

01:01:59,980 --> 01:02:00,980

Yeah, please.

1078

01:02:03,980 --> 01:02:04,980

Wow.

1079

01:02:04,980 --> 01:02:08,980

So here you have a small example of what you can find all around Kone.

1080

01:02:08,980 --> 01:02:09,980

A small example?

1081

01:02:09,980 --> 01:02:10,980

Yes, it's a small example.

1082

01:02:10,980 --> 01:02:11,980

Is that ammunition?

1083

01:02:11,980 --> 01:02:12,980

Yes.

1084

01:02:12,980 --> 01:02:14,980

It's British ammunition.

1085

01:02:14,980 --> 01:02:16,980

Not live still?

1086

01:02:16,980 --> 01:02:17,980

No, no.

1087

01:02:17,980 --> 01:02:18,980

You're sure?

1088

01:02:18,980 --> 01:02:19,980

Yeah, we are sure.

1089

01:02:19,980 --> 01:02:24,980

And look at this. If you look at the primer on the back, this really is just like a massive bullet.

1090

01:02:24,980 --> 01:02:25,980

Yeah.

1091

01:02:25,980 --> 01:02:26,980

And this?

1092

01:02:26,980 --> 01:02:28,980

This is a German machine gun.

1093

01:02:28,980 --> 01:02:29,980

Terrifying.

1094

01:02:29,980 --> 01:02:31,980

This one was a German plane.

1095

01:02:31,980 --> 01:02:32,980

From a plane?

1096

01:02:32,980 --> 01:02:34,980

It's an electric, all machine gun.

1097

01:02:34,980 --> 01:02:36,980

Wow. And it's incredibly heavy too for an aircraft.

1098

01:02:36,980 --> 01:02:37,980

Yes.

1099

01:02:37,980 --> 01:02:39,980

Josh, come this way.

1100

01:02:43,980 --> 01:02:44,980

Wow. Machine gun.

1101

01:02:44,980 --> 01:02:47,980

Yes, it's a British stand-sub machine gun.

1102

01:02:47,980 --> 01:02:52,980

This was like one of the bread and butter weapons for the British, right?

1103

01:02:52,980 --> 01:02:53,980

Absolutely, yeah.

1104

01:02:53,980 --> 01:02:55,980

And this is the magazine?

1105

01:02:55,980 --> 01:02:56,980

Yes.

1106

01:02:56,980 --> 01:02:57,980

So this would have gone in here?

1107

01:02:57,980 --> 01:02:58,980

Yes, like this.

1108

01:02:58,980 --> 01:02:59,980

Wow.

1109

01:02:59,980 --> 01:03:06,980

Sifting through the residue of Kone's past, it's not surprising there's plenty from the battles of World War II,

1110

01:03:06,980 --> 01:03:09,980

but there are some unexpected finds in here too.

1111

01:03:09,980 --> 01:03:11,980

I would like to show you this.

1112

01:03:11,980 --> 01:03:13,980

These are brass knuckles?

1113

01:03:13,980 --> 01:03:14,980

Yeah, it's a Canadian one.

1114

01:03:14,980 --> 01:03:15,980

Canadian?

1115

01:03:15,980 --> 01:03:16,980

Yeah.

1116

01:03:16,980 --> 01:03:17,980

Wow.

1117

01:03:17,980 --> 01:03:19,980

Then there are brass knuckles.

1118

01:03:20,980 --> 01:03:22,980

Knucks, we call them knucks.

1119

01:03:22,980 --> 01:03:23,980

Canadian.

1120

01:03:23,980 --> 01:03:25,980

I mean, I had to forget it.

1121

01:03:25,980 --> 01:03:29,980

And we also found a lot of really interesting personal things.

1122

01:03:29,980 --> 01:03:30,980

Personal items.

1123

01:03:30,980 --> 01:03:31,980

Okay, like what?

1124

01:03:31,980 --> 01:03:33,980

From those.

1125

01:03:33,980 --> 01:03:35,980

This is a dog tag.

1126

01:03:35,980 --> 01:03:36,980

Yes.

1127

01:03:36,980 --> 01:03:38,980

Canadian ID tag.

1128

01:03:38,980 --> 01:03:40,980

And we have his initials, HF.

1129

01:03:40,980 --> 01:03:43,980

Yes, and his army serial number.

1130

01:03:43,980 --> 01:03:44,980

Wow.

1131

01:03:44,980 --> 01:03:45,980

On the back.

1132

01:03:45,980 --> 01:03:47,980

From Rose.

1133

01:03:47,980 --> 01:03:49,980

A gift from his girlfriend.

1134

01:03:49,980 --> 01:03:50,980

Wow.

1135

01:03:50,980 --> 01:03:53,980

Just seeing that makes it so real.

1136

01:03:53,980 --> 01:03:54,980

Yeah.

1137

01:03:54,980 --> 01:03:59,980

Like the machine gun, you see these weapons, they're kind of faceless, you know, they're just weapons of war,

1138

01:03:59,980 --> 01:04:05,980

but boy, when you see that, it's more than just an item, it's a whole story.

1139

01:04:06,980 --> 01:04:11,980

These amazing relics litter the fields of Normandy, showing the extent of the battle here.

1140

01:04:11,980 --> 01:04:17,980

A bloody toll that could have been exacted on the civilians of Khaan, but miraculously, wasn't.

1141

01:04:19,980 --> 01:04:26,980

Seeing all of these artifacts, the thing that's kind of confusing is how it is that so few civilians died here.

1142

01:04:26,980 --> 01:04:28,980

It's like a thousand people, right?

1143

01:04:28,980 --> 01:04:29,980

Yeah.

1144

01:04:29,980 --> 01:04:33,980

Still a huge number, obviously, but in a town of 60,000, it's actually not as many as you'd think.

1145

01:04:33,980 --> 01:04:34,980

Yeah.

1146

01:04:34,980 --> 01:04:36,980

Why did so few citizens perish?

1147

01:04:36,980 --> 01:04:37,980

There is a secret in Khaan.

1148

01:04:37,980 --> 01:04:39,980

There's a secret in Khaan.

1149

01:04:39,980 --> 01:04:40,980

What's the secret?

1150

01:04:40,980 --> 01:04:41,980

I'll show you.

1151

01:04:41,980 --> 01:04:46,980

Cyril and Benoit lead me outside the warehouse to their parking lot.

1152

01:04:46,980 --> 01:04:48,980

So the secret is a shipping container.

1153

01:04:48,980 --> 01:04:49,980

Oh no, not at all.

1154

01:04:49,980 --> 01:04:52,980

The secret is inside the shipping container.

1155

01:04:56,980 --> 01:05:00,980

Oh, oh my God, look at this.

1156

01:05:02,980 --> 01:05:03,980

Oh.

1157

01:05:03,980 --> 01:05:04,980

Yeah, that's the big hole.

1158

01:05:04,980 --> 01:05:07,980

I mean, it just looks like a bottomless pit.

1159

01:05:07,980 --> 01:05:08,980

Is it a well?

1160

01:05:08,980 --> 01:05:09,980

Yes.

1161

01:05:09,980 --> 01:05:10,980

Oh, wow.

1162

01:05:10,980 --> 01:05:11,980

Wow.

1163

01:05:12,980 --> 01:05:14,980

So the secret's down there.

1164

01:05:14,980 --> 01:05:15,980

Yes.

1165

01:05:15,980 --> 01:05:16,980

Does that mean we're going down there?

1166

01:05:16,980 --> 01:05:17,980

Yes, of course.

1167

01:05:17,980 --> 01:05:19,980

Oh, well.

1168

01:05:19,980 --> 01:05:20,980

Oh, well.

1169

01:05:22,980 --> 01:05:29,980

Despite a ladder that drops down into the nothingness, we rig harnesses to a safety line in case of any accidental gravity.

1170

01:05:29,980 --> 01:05:30,980

Okay.

1171

01:05:30,980 --> 01:05:32,980

So who's going first?

1172

01:05:33,980 --> 01:05:35,980

Why do I even bother to ask?

1173

01:05:35,980 --> 01:05:36,980

Okay, here we go.

1174

01:05:39,980 --> 01:05:41,980

Okay, into the darkness, here we go.

1175

01:05:43,980 --> 01:05:49,980

The shaft is crumbling, and if I fall, I'm landing onto a hard pile of God knows what.

1176

01:05:49,980 --> 01:05:53,980

All of which means I'm holding onto this ladder like it's my only friend.

1177

01:05:55,980 --> 01:05:56,980

Oh boy.

1178

01:06:05,980 --> 01:06:07,980

Okay, into the darkness, here we go.

1179

01:06:09,980 --> 01:06:17,980

I'm near the French city of Caen, the center of a massive Allied bombing campaign during the D-Day struggle to defeat the Nazis.

1180

01:06:17,980 --> 01:06:26,980

While over 70% of the city was completely flattened, only 1,000 of the city's 60,000 civilian residents were killed.

1181

01:06:26,980 --> 01:06:31,980

And the secret of how they survived is at the bottom of this deep, dark hole.

1182

01:06:32,980 --> 01:06:38,980

As you go down, it is all hand-dumped. You can actually see the tool marks in the walls.

1183

01:06:39,980 --> 01:06:41,980

And really deep.

1184

01:06:44,980 --> 01:06:47,980

Oh my God, look at this!

1185

01:06:49,980 --> 01:06:52,980

The well opens up into a vast cavern.

1186

01:06:52,980 --> 01:06:57,980

Benoit and Cyril touch down and prepare to show me the underground secrets of Caen.

1187

01:06:57,980 --> 01:07:02,980

Secrets that have been preserved here untouched since 1944.

1188

01:07:02,980 --> 01:07:05,980

As my eyes adjust to it, it goes on forever. It keeps going back this way.

1189

01:07:05,980 --> 01:07:08,980

Yes, this way and also this way, everywhere.

1190

01:07:08,980 --> 01:07:10,980

This is not just a well.

1191

01:07:10,980 --> 01:07:13,980

It's a quarry. It's an ancient stone quarry.

1192

01:07:13,980 --> 01:07:14,980

This is the secret.

1193

01:07:14,980 --> 01:07:15,980

Yes, absolutely.

1194

01:07:17,980 --> 01:07:23,980

In 44, Caen was occupied by the Germans and was the target of a lethal Allied assault.

1195

01:07:23,980 --> 01:07:30,980

While fire and fury rained down from above, the citizens caught in the crossfire found salvation here.

1196

01:07:31,980 --> 01:07:34,980

Protected by 45 feet of solid stone.

1197

01:07:34,980 --> 01:07:40,980

The quarry their ancestors helped create now served as an impregnable bomb shelter.

1198

01:07:40,980 --> 01:07:42,980

So what were they quarrying here? Some kind of stone?

1199

01:07:42,980 --> 01:07:45,980

Yes, white stone called Pierre de Caen.

1200

01:07:45,980 --> 01:07:46,980

Pierre de Caen.

1201

01:07:46,980 --> 01:07:47,980

This stuff?

1202

01:07:47,980 --> 01:07:52,980

Yes, this white stone is really famous because Westminster Abbey was built.

1203

01:07:52,980 --> 01:07:54,980

It was built from this table.

1204

01:07:54,980 --> 01:07:55,980

Wow.

1205

01:07:55,980 --> 01:07:57,980

And yet I see electricity.

1206

01:07:57,980 --> 01:08:03,980

Yes, before the Second World War, this quarry was used as a brewery.

1207

01:08:03,980 --> 01:08:04,980

Does that mean there's beer down here?

1208

01:08:04,980 --> 01:08:06,980

Only empty bottles.

1209

01:08:07,980 --> 01:08:08,980

Tragedy.

1210

01:08:08,980 --> 01:08:09,980

Okay, let's keep moving.

1211

01:08:18,980 --> 01:08:20,980

Look at the size of this place.

1212

01:08:21,980 --> 01:08:23,980

How big is this quarry?

1213

01:08:24,980 --> 01:08:26,980

Approximately 10 acres.

1214

01:08:26,980 --> 01:08:27,980

10 acres?

1215

01:08:27,980 --> 01:08:28,980

Yes.

1216

01:08:29,980 --> 01:08:31,980

So, Josh, look at that.

1217

01:08:31,980 --> 01:08:33,980

Oh, wow.

1218

01:08:34,980 --> 01:08:36,980

Look at all this stuff.

1219

01:08:37,980 --> 01:08:38,980

So people were hiding right here.

1220

01:08:38,980 --> 01:08:43,980

A whole family was living right here.

1221

01:08:43,980 --> 01:08:46,980

Look at this, the remains of a doll.

1222

01:08:46,980 --> 01:08:48,980

And what is that with the writing?

1223

01:08:48,980 --> 01:08:53,980

So here we have the remains of a cup of beef broth.

1224

01:08:53,980 --> 01:08:54,980

Wow.

1225

01:08:54,980 --> 01:08:55,980

And animal bones?

1226

01:08:55,980 --> 01:08:57,980

It's probably the remains of a meal.

1227

01:08:57,980 --> 01:08:59,980

Which would have been cooked here?

1228

01:08:59,980 --> 01:09:00,980

Yes.

1229

01:09:00,980 --> 01:09:02,980

This is not a museum exhibit.

1230

01:09:02,980 --> 01:09:06,980

All of these artifacts are just as the refugees left them on D-Day.

1231

01:09:06,980 --> 01:09:12,980

After the war, the entrance to the quarry was closed off and this clandestine cavern forgotten.

1232

01:09:12,980 --> 01:09:16,980

Rediscovered in the 21st century and off limits to the general public.

1233

01:09:16,980 --> 01:09:19,980

Now it's preserved as an eerie time capsule.

1234

01:09:19,980 --> 01:09:24,980

It feels as if the family sheltering here could return at any moment.

1235

01:09:24,980 --> 01:09:29,980

So they had this whole infrastructure under the town already, this huge quarry.

1236

01:09:29,980 --> 01:09:30,980

Yes.

1237

01:09:30,980 --> 01:09:32,980

And they turned it into a bomb shelter.

1238

01:09:32,980 --> 01:09:33,980

Yeah.

1239

01:09:33,980 --> 01:09:35,980

So all these quarries under Kona.

1240

01:09:35,980 --> 01:09:36,980

Yes.

1241

01:09:36,980 --> 01:09:37,980

How many people were hiding?

1242

01:09:37,980 --> 01:09:39,980

About 20,000 people.

1243

01:09:39,980 --> 01:09:41,980

20,000 people?

1244

01:09:41,980 --> 01:09:42,980

Yes.

1245

01:09:42,980 --> 01:09:43,980

That's staggering.

1246

01:09:47,980 --> 01:09:54,980

Benoit tells me that the refugees hid here, not knowing when the bombing above would stop or which side would be victorious.

1247

01:09:54,980 --> 01:10:01,980

They endured in near complete darkness for six weeks until they were liberated by the allies.

1248

01:10:05,980 --> 01:10:09,980

So far his team has catalogued more than 8,000 artifacts.

1249

01:10:09,980 --> 01:10:16,980

A treasure trove of archaeological information painting a striking portrait of life underground.

1250

01:10:16,980 --> 01:10:20,980

You can clearly see the limits of the living area.

1251

01:10:20,980 --> 01:10:21,980

Right.

1252

01:10:21,980 --> 01:10:22,980

This is the plan of the house right there.

1253

01:10:22,980 --> 01:10:23,980

Yes.

1254

01:10:23,980 --> 01:10:25,980

Or a family in third, five people or less.

1255

01:10:25,980 --> 01:10:26,980

Five people living in here?

1256

01:10:26,980 --> 01:10:27,980

Yes.

1257

01:10:27,980 --> 01:10:28,980

So this would have been the sleeping area?

1258

01:10:28,980 --> 01:10:29,980

Yes.

1259

01:10:29,980 --> 01:10:31,980

The sleeping area, the cooking area.

1260

01:10:31,980 --> 01:10:36,980

And if you look on the wall, on this small hole, you can see a pair of glasses.

1261

01:10:36,980 --> 01:10:38,980

Wow, that's really haunting.

1262

01:10:38,980 --> 01:10:39,980

Yes.

1263

01:10:39,980 --> 01:10:44,980

A little shelf they carved out there and you can just imagine somebody storing their glasses there.

1264

01:10:44,980 --> 01:10:54,980

In a way, this quarry is the ultimate war memorial, revealing the intimate details of the lives of ordinary people who huddled down here to survive.

1265

01:11:00,980 --> 01:11:03,980

So another residence here, another family living area.

1266

01:11:03,980 --> 01:11:05,980

Here, Josh, you can see records.

1267

01:11:05,980 --> 01:11:07,980

These are all records?

1268

01:11:07,980 --> 01:11:08,980

Yeah.

1269

01:11:08,980 --> 01:11:09,980

And this is part of the turntable?

1270

01:11:09,980 --> 01:11:10,980

Yes.

1271

01:11:10,980 --> 01:11:12,980

And this is the speaker?

1272

01:11:12,980 --> 01:11:15,980

This is the speaker, the big thing that would come off of the phonograph.

1273

01:11:15,980 --> 01:11:16,980

Yeah.

1274

01:11:16,980 --> 01:11:17,980

Wow.

1275

01:11:17,980 --> 01:11:19,980

Have you been able to identify any of the records?

1276

01:11:19,980 --> 01:11:20,980

Yes, only one.

1277

01:11:20,980 --> 01:11:21,980

Taylor Swift.

1278

01:11:21,980 --> 01:11:25,980

The name was La Verve Joyuse.

1279

01:11:25,980 --> 01:11:27,980

La Verve Joyuse.

1280

01:11:27,980 --> 01:11:30,980

Yes, it was a famous French song.

1281

01:11:30,980 --> 01:11:31,980

Okay.

1282

01:11:31,980 --> 01:11:37,980

The music, a ghostly echo from the darkest of days, is strangely comforting.

1283

01:11:37,980 --> 01:11:42,980

Here, in this ancient maze of tunnels, life endured.

1284

01:11:45,980 --> 01:11:46,980

Wow.

1285

01:11:46,980 --> 01:11:51,980

So all these people are living down here in this darkness, but eventually, Conn is liberated.

1286

01:11:51,980 --> 01:11:52,980

Yeah.

1287

01:11:52,980 --> 01:11:56,980

So in July 19, the British and the British came to the island of La Verve.

1288

01:11:56,980 --> 01:12:03,980

And while the bombing of Conn helped liberate it from the Nazis, it came at a terrible cost.

1289

01:12:03,980 --> 01:12:11,980

36,000 residents were left homeless, and the city took until 1962 to fully rebuild.

1290

01:12:11,980 --> 01:12:13,980

The city was also liberated.

1291

01:12:13,980 --> 01:12:15,980

The city was also liberated.

1292

01:12:15,980 --> 01:12:16,980

Yeah.

1293

01:12:16,980 --> 01:12:22,980

So in July 19, the British and the Canadian soldiers came here, and were very shocked to see people living here.

1294

01:12:22,980 --> 01:12:23,980

Yeah.

1295

01:12:23,980 --> 01:12:25,980

That must have been an amazing day.

1296

01:12:25,980 --> 01:12:26,980

Yeah.

1297

01:12:26,980 --> 01:12:27,980

It's incredible.

1298

01:12:27,980 --> 01:12:29,980

Thank you so much for showing me this.

1299

01:12:29,980 --> 01:12:31,980

Keep up the amazing work down here.

1300

01:12:31,980 --> 01:12:32,980

Yeah.

1301

01:12:32,980 --> 01:12:33,980

That's incredible.

1302

01:12:33,980 --> 01:12:34,980

Thank you so much.

1303

01:12:34,980 --> 01:12:45,980

Benoit's team plans to build a virtual reality model of the quarry to preserve the site while making it accessible to millions around the globe.

1304

01:12:45,980 --> 01:12:50,980

They're ensuring that Conn's sacrifice will never be forgotten.

1305

01:12:51,980 --> 01:13:00,980

However, there are other crucial secrets of D-Day in danger of vanishing before they can ever be revealed.

1306

01:13:00,980 --> 01:13:11,980

I drive from Conn to the tiny fishing village of Aramanche to meet underwater photographer Martin Davies.

1307

01:13:11,980 --> 01:13:19,980

Davies is part of an effort to preserve the vast battlefield that now lies beneath the waves of the English Channel before it's lost to time.

1308

01:13:19,980 --> 01:13:23,980

But first, he has something to show me right here on the beach.

1309

01:13:23,980 --> 01:13:24,980

Hey, are you Martin?

1310

01:13:24,980 --> 01:13:25,980

Yeah, I'm Martin.

1311

01:13:25,980 --> 01:13:26,980

Hey, I'm Josh.

1312

01:13:26,980 --> 01:13:27,980

Hi, Josh.

1313

01:13:27,980 --> 01:13:28,980

How you doing?

1314

01:13:28,980 --> 01:13:29,980

Nice to meet you.

1315

01:13:29,980 --> 01:13:30,980

Yeah.

1316

01:13:30,980 --> 01:13:31,980

Well, let's start with the elephant in the room.

1317

01:13:31,980 --> 01:13:32,980

What is this thing?

1318

01:13:32,980 --> 01:13:35,980

This is part of a secret project that the Allies put together, a code named Mulberry.

1319

01:13:35,980 --> 01:13:36,980

So what was Mulberry?

1320

01:13:36,980 --> 01:13:41,980

Well, Mulberry was the creation of two giant artificial harbors.

1321

01:13:41,980 --> 01:13:44,980

Everything I'm seeing here, that's all artificial.

1322

01:13:44,980 --> 01:13:46,980

Yep, they're artificial concrete caissons.

1323

01:13:46,980 --> 01:13:51,980

A big reason the Allies chose to attack Normandy was the element of surprise.

1324

01:13:51,980 --> 01:13:54,980

The Germans simply didn't think an invasion here was possible.

1325

01:13:54,980 --> 01:14:02,980

Even if we took the beaches, there wasn't a proper harbor to bring in the waves of troops and supplies needed to move inland.

1326

01:14:02,980 --> 01:14:05,980

So the Allies came up with an ingenious solution.

1327

01:14:05,980 --> 01:14:07,980

They would build one.

1328

01:14:08,980 --> 01:14:15,980

These massive concrete structures, each weighing upwards of 6,000 tons, were prefabricated in England,

1329

01:14:15,980 --> 01:14:21,980

towed across the channel, and then assembled into nearly two square miles of aquatic highways.

1330

01:14:21,980 --> 01:14:27,980

And voila, a harbor capable of moving men and equipment into France.

1331

01:14:27,980 --> 01:14:32,980

It's an unbelievable engineering feat beyond comprehension, really, what they came up with.

1332

01:14:33,980 --> 01:14:35,980

Even more mind-blowing?

1333

01:14:35,980 --> 01:14:41,980

The Allies didn't just build one giant artificial harbor, they built a second one at Omaha Beach,

1334

01:14:41,980 --> 01:14:45,980

effectively transforming this entire coastline into a giant port.

1335

01:14:45,980 --> 01:14:52,980

850,000 Allied soldiers passed through the new harbor on their way to liberate the continent.

1336

01:14:52,980 --> 01:14:56,980

And for a bit of context, how many vessels arrived on D-Day?

1337

01:14:56,980 --> 01:14:59,980

Just under 7,000 vessels came from the UK.

1338

01:15:00,980 --> 01:15:03,980

And obviously a number of those actually got wrecked here.

1339

01:15:03,980 --> 01:15:06,980

Yeah, the Germans heavily mined this area.

1340

01:15:06,980 --> 01:15:08,980

And so what's your primary mission out there?

1341

01:15:08,980 --> 01:15:13,980

Study the wrecks, a lot of the wrecks that have been unknown, a lot of the wrecks have been forgotten.

1342

01:15:13,980 --> 01:15:18,980

It's important that we identify the ships with the people that went down.

1343

01:15:18,980 --> 01:15:20,980

Right, because that really is their grave.

1344

01:15:20,980 --> 01:15:21,980

It is.

1345

01:15:21,980 --> 01:15:27,980

Hundreds of Allied ships sank on and after D-Day, and thousands of lives were lost.

1346

01:15:28,980 --> 01:15:33,980

But with war raging, the information we have about the final resting place of the wrecks

1347

01:15:33,980 --> 01:15:36,980

and their victims is sadly incomplete.

1348

01:15:36,980 --> 01:15:40,980

Martin is working to fill in those blank pages in history.

1349

01:15:40,980 --> 01:15:43,980

As you've been diving out here and studying these wrecks, what's been surprising to you?

1350

01:15:43,980 --> 01:15:47,980

I think the most surprising thing is how inaccurate some of the information is.

1351

01:15:47,980 --> 01:15:48,980

Inaccurate how?

1352

01:15:48,980 --> 01:15:53,980

Everything from their position to the way in which they sank, to how many people died on them.

1353

01:15:53,980 --> 01:15:54,980

Right.

1354

01:15:54,980 --> 01:15:57,980

So out there, you're looking at the battle as it happened.

1355

01:15:57,980 --> 01:15:58,980

It's frozen in time.

1356

01:15:58,980 --> 01:16:00,980

It's completely frozen in time.

1357

01:16:00,980 --> 01:16:02,980

Well, can you give me a peek at how it all works?

1358

01:16:02,980 --> 01:16:03,980

I certainly can.

1359

01:16:03,980 --> 01:16:04,980

I would love that.

1360

01:16:08,980 --> 01:16:11,980

To catalog the ships that were lost in the fight to free France,

1361

01:16:11,980 --> 01:16:15,980

Martin and I head to a dock in nearby Port-en-Basson,

1362

01:16:15,980 --> 01:16:18,980

where another pressing investigation peaks my interest.

1363

01:16:18,980 --> 01:16:20,980

Quick question, do we have time for croissants?

1364

01:16:20,980 --> 01:16:21,980

We certainly do not.

1365

01:16:22,980 --> 01:16:23,980

Okay. Cheese?

1366

01:16:23,980 --> 01:16:24,980

No.

1367

01:16:24,980 --> 01:16:25,980

Espresso?

1368

01:16:25,980 --> 01:16:26,980

No.

1369

01:16:26,980 --> 01:16:27,980

Cigarette? Something French?

1370

01:16:27,980 --> 01:16:28,980

No. We've got to go diving.

1371

01:16:28,980 --> 01:16:29,980

Okay.

1372

01:16:31,980 --> 01:16:36,980

I don't want to cramp up, so expedition Patisserie will have to wait until after we dive.

1373

01:16:36,980 --> 01:16:37,980

Hello.

1374

01:16:37,980 --> 01:16:38,980

This is the team.

1375

01:16:38,980 --> 01:16:39,980

This is Josh.

1376

01:16:39,980 --> 01:16:40,980

This is Pete.

1377

01:16:40,980 --> 01:16:41,980

Pete.

1378

01:16:41,980 --> 01:16:42,980

Mark.

1379

01:16:42,980 --> 01:16:43,980

Nice to meet you.

1380

01:16:43,980 --> 01:16:44,980

Allison.

1381

01:16:44,980 --> 01:16:45,980

Allison.

1382

01:16:45,980 --> 01:16:46,980

And another Allison.

1383

01:16:46,980 --> 01:16:47,980

Two Allison's.

1384

01:16:47,980 --> 01:16:50,980

And two Rex from the war, and they're ready to find more.

1385

01:16:50,980 --> 01:16:55,980

Now that we've assembled our investigation team, all we need is a boat and maybe a ladder

1386

01:16:55,980 --> 01:16:56,980

to reach it.

1387

01:16:56,980 --> 01:16:57,980

Oh, hi down there.

1388

01:16:57,980 --> 01:16:58,980

Hello.

1389

01:16:58,980 --> 01:16:59,980

I'm Josh.

1390

01:16:59,980 --> 01:17:00,980

My name's Tom.

1391

01:17:00,980 --> 01:17:01,980

Nice to meet you, Tom.

1392

01:17:01,980 --> 01:17:03,980

Do I just jump down there or what?

1393

01:17:03,980 --> 01:17:06,980

If you're going to jump, make sure you hit the tube before you go in.

1394

01:17:06,980 --> 01:17:07,980

Okay.

1395

01:17:07,980 --> 01:17:08,980

So what's the plan?

1396

01:17:08,980 --> 01:17:09,980

The plan is we go dive it.

1397

01:17:09,980 --> 01:17:10,980

Okay.

1398

01:17:10,980 --> 01:17:11,980

Should we get kitted up?

1399

01:17:11,980 --> 01:17:12,980

Let's do it.

1400

01:17:12,980 --> 01:17:13,980

Let's do it.

1401

01:17:13,980 --> 01:17:14,980

Come on.

1402

01:17:15,980 --> 01:17:21,980

We board the boat and set a course to the heart of the English Channel, a ship graveyard

1403

01:17:21,980 --> 01:17:27,980

where the secrets of D-Day are waiting to be discovered.

1404

01:17:27,980 --> 01:17:29,980

And route, Martin briefs me on the mission.

1405

01:17:29,980 --> 01:17:32,980

How do you begin to tackle what's out here?

1406

01:17:32,980 --> 01:17:35,980

The only way to do it is by sonar survey.

1407

01:17:35,980 --> 01:17:40,980

Martin is part of a multinational effort to scan and document the Remains of D-Day.

1408

01:17:40,980 --> 01:17:45,980

The first part of the process was the meticulous scanning to create a detailed sonar map of

1409

01:17:45,980 --> 01:17:47,980

the waters off the coast.

1410

01:17:47,980 --> 01:17:50,980

So here are the invasion beaches here and this brown area.

1411

01:17:50,980 --> 01:17:52,980

This is actually where all the survey work was done.

1412

01:17:52,980 --> 01:17:54,980

And all of these symbols I see on here?

1413

01:17:54,980 --> 01:17:55,980

Yeah, these are all Rex.

1414

01:17:55,980 --> 01:17:58,980

How many Rex total do we have in these waters?

1415

01:17:58,980 --> 01:18:00,980

Well, the guys picked up about 600 targets.

1416

01:18:00,980 --> 01:18:02,980

600 targets.

1417

01:18:02,980 --> 01:18:03,980

600 targets.

1418

01:18:03,980 --> 01:18:04,980

Wow.

1419

01:18:04,980 --> 01:18:05,980

That's a lifetime's work.

1420

01:18:05,980 --> 01:18:08,980

Presumably these are all known ships that were part of the invasion?

1421

01:18:08,980 --> 01:18:10,980

Not all of them are known ships.

1422

01:18:10,980 --> 01:18:15,980

We tend to look at a lot more of the ones that are not so well known and have been forgotten stories.

1423

01:18:15,980 --> 01:18:17,980

So what are we going to be doing today?

1424

01:18:17,980 --> 01:18:18,980

What's the mission?

1425

01:18:18,980 --> 01:18:20,980

The mission is to do some photogrammetry if we can.

1426

01:18:20,980 --> 01:18:23,980

Photogrammetry is where you stitch photos together, correct?

1427

01:18:23,980 --> 01:18:26,980

Yeah, we've now got the ability to create a three-dimensional model.

1428

01:18:26,980 --> 01:18:29,980

Because the ocean is actually swallowing this stuff up.

1429

01:18:29,980 --> 01:18:32,980

Future generations can see what was there.

1430

01:18:32,980 --> 01:18:34,980

This is sort of the last chance to preserve what's down there.

1431

01:18:34,980 --> 01:18:36,980

It is definitely the last chance.

1432

01:18:36,980 --> 01:18:37,980

What record are we going to start with?

1433

01:18:37,980 --> 01:18:39,980

Well, we're going to start with this one.

1434

01:18:39,980 --> 01:18:41,980

LST 523.

1435

01:18:41,980 --> 01:18:45,980

LST stands for landing ship tank.

1436

01:18:45,980 --> 01:18:51,980

More than a thousand of these vessels were built to ferry troops and vehicles into battle on the beaches of Normandy.

1437

01:18:51,980 --> 01:18:54,980

But number 523 never made it.

1438

01:18:54,980 --> 01:18:58,980

She struck a German mine and was lost with 42 men aboard.

1439

01:18:58,980 --> 01:19:02,980

To reach the site, Tom kicks the boat into top gear.

1440

01:19:02,980 --> 01:19:04,980

So, okay, so why are we hauling ass here?

1441

01:19:04,980 --> 01:19:07,980

We're hauling ass because we've got to make what we call slack water.

1442

01:19:07,980 --> 01:19:12,980

That's the time when they're tied to the steadiest moment in the English Channel.

1443

01:19:12,980 --> 01:19:16,980

We've got a ton of water that comes in and comes out twice a day.

1444

01:19:16,980 --> 01:19:19,980

So you only get two shots a day in this water?

1445

01:19:19,980 --> 01:19:21,980

You only get two shots a day.

1446

01:19:21,980 --> 01:19:24,980

And if you get caught in this water after the slack tide ends?

1447

01:19:24,980 --> 01:19:26,980

You're on your way to Denmark.

1448

01:19:26,980 --> 01:19:27,980

Okay, got it.

1449

01:19:27,980 --> 01:19:33,980

With no time to lose and dangerous conditions at hand, we get in position and Martin and I gear up

1450

01:19:33,980 --> 01:19:38,980

to document the site where these brave soldiers made their ultimate sacrifice

1451

01:19:38,980 --> 01:19:43,980

and to discover what secrets of D-Day lie deep below the surface.

1452

01:19:57,980 --> 01:20:02,980

I'm exploring the secrets of D-Day just off the coast of Normandy, France.

1453

01:20:02,980 --> 01:20:08,980

Underwater photographer Martin Davies and his team are using a process called photogrammetry.

1454

01:20:08,980 --> 01:20:13,980

They're building 3D digital models of the hundreds of historic ships that sank here

1455

01:20:13,980 --> 01:20:16,980

before time and tide destroy them forever.

1456

01:20:28,980 --> 01:20:30,980

Okay, let's head down.

1457

01:20:30,980 --> 01:20:32,980

Follow me, Josh.

1458

01:20:33,980 --> 01:20:37,980

The powerful currents are far from the only danger lurking in the channel.

1459

01:20:37,980 --> 01:20:41,980

This time of year, the water temperature is dangerously low.

1460

01:20:41,980 --> 01:20:46,980

I guess when Martin said the wrecks down there are frozen in time, he meant it literally.

1461

01:20:46,980 --> 01:20:48,980

Man, it is freezing down here.

1462

01:20:48,980 --> 01:20:51,980

Yes, it is. And remember, we have to move quickly.

1463

01:20:51,980 --> 01:20:56,980

We only have 45 minutes before the tide shifts and we get caught in that strong current.

1464

01:21:00,980 --> 01:21:02,980

Wow, there she is.

1465

01:21:02,980 --> 01:21:04,980

Long time, isn't it?

1466

01:21:04,980 --> 01:21:08,980

It certainly is. A ghost ship.

1467

01:21:08,980 --> 01:21:14,980

We swim amidst the wreckage of the sunken vessel, part of the tragic legacy of D-Day.

1468

01:21:16,980 --> 01:21:22,980

According to recently declassified military documents, our photogrammetry target, LST-523,

1469

01:21:22,980 --> 01:21:25,980

hit a mine and broke in two.

1470

01:21:25,980 --> 01:21:31,980

The official action report states that the stern stopped dead in the water and began to settle.

1471

01:21:31,980 --> 01:21:36,980

The bow continued to make headway for approximately 600 yards.

1472

01:21:36,980 --> 01:21:40,980

She sank so quickly that 42 men went down with the ship.

1473

01:21:40,980 --> 01:21:47,980

The site where LST-523 rests is now a war grave and must be treated with reverence.

1474

01:21:47,980 --> 01:21:52,980

It is just enormous. How big is this ship?

1475

01:21:52,980 --> 01:22:00,980

More than 300 feet long, Josh. These landing ships could carry 150 men and nearly 2,000 tons of equipment.

1476

01:22:00,980 --> 01:22:02,980

Unreal.

1477

01:22:04,980 --> 01:22:08,980

Landing ships like 523 were the unsung heroes of D-Day.

1478

01:22:08,980 --> 01:22:12,980

Just over 1,000 LSTs like this were produced.

1479

01:22:12,980 --> 01:22:16,980

Without them, the amphibious assault on Normandy would not have been possible.

1480

01:22:16,980 --> 01:22:21,980

Now, thanks to photogrammetry, we can digitally preserve this important wreck.

1481

01:22:21,980 --> 01:22:25,980

Okay, let's start photographing the bow. Follow me.

1482

01:22:25,980 --> 01:22:27,980

Copy that. I'm right behind you.

1483

01:22:37,980 --> 01:22:43,980

We work our way down the length of the vessel, capturing detailed digital photos as we go.

1484

01:22:43,980 --> 01:22:47,980

It looks like a trend, Mark. Isn't that a gang?

1485

01:22:47,980 --> 01:22:51,980

If it is indeed part of our cargo for the invasion.

1486

01:22:51,980 --> 01:22:55,980

They're all over the plate. There must be a dozen of them.

1487

01:22:56,980 --> 01:23:00,980

Martin photographs the tanks from every angle.

1488

01:23:03,980 --> 01:23:07,980

Okay, I've got good coverage of the tanks. Let's find where she broke apart.

1489

01:23:07,980 --> 01:23:11,980

We swim on and soon reach the stern of the ship.

1490

01:23:11,980 --> 01:23:14,980

That rudder is enormous.

1491

01:23:15,980 --> 01:23:20,980

Something's not right, Josh. The report said LST 523 broke in two.

1492

01:23:20,980 --> 01:23:23,980

But this ship is in what piece?

1493

01:23:23,980 --> 01:23:25,980

How is that possible?

1494

01:23:25,980 --> 01:23:29,980

I'm not sure, but this doesn't match the description.

1495

01:23:29,980 --> 01:23:33,980

Copy. Our dive time is about up.

1496

01:23:33,980 --> 01:23:38,980

Let's get topside and release it a marker buoy for the surface team to retrieve us.

1497

01:23:45,980 --> 01:23:48,980

Incredible. Wow.

1498

01:23:50,980 --> 01:23:54,980

Plenty of tanks down there, Josh. I mean tank treads everywhere.

1499

01:23:54,980 --> 01:23:57,980

I couldn't find where it was snapped in half.

1500

01:23:57,980 --> 01:23:59,980

I don't think it is.

1501

01:23:59,980 --> 01:24:01,980

It's not, right? It's a continuous slide.

1502

01:24:01,980 --> 01:24:06,980

We went from bow to stern and back. I didn't see it snapped anywhere.

1503

01:24:06,980 --> 01:24:09,980

Is it possible that's not LST 523?

1504

01:24:09,980 --> 01:24:11,980

No, it's no 523.

1505

01:24:11,980 --> 01:24:17,980

So that means that their accepted wreck that's supposed to be there could be a different ship

entirely.

1506

01:24:17,980 --> 01:24:18,980

I think it is.

1507

01:24:18,980 --> 01:24:21,980

Wow. Okay, so we've got a mischievous ship in our hands.

1508

01:24:21,980 --> 01:24:23,980

We certainly have.

1509

01:24:23,980 --> 01:24:27,980

And it's a mystery that photogrammetry may be able to solve.

1510

01:24:27,980 --> 01:24:31,980

Once the images we shot are processed and assembled into a 3D model,

1511

01:24:31,980 --> 01:24:37,980

marine forensic scientists can look for clues that may reveal the ship's true identity.

1512

01:24:37,980 --> 01:24:42,980

In the meantime, we're forced to wait eight hours for the tide cycle to complete.

1513

01:24:42,980 --> 01:24:46,980

Once our second one-hour window with slack water approaches,

1514

01:24:46,980 --> 01:24:49,980

we speed back out for our second mission.

1515

01:24:49,980 --> 01:24:50,980

All right, Martin, what's next?

1516

01:24:50,980 --> 01:24:55,980

Okay, so next we're going to go out to a wreck that some people believe is the USS Partridge.

1517

01:24:55,980 --> 01:24:56,980

What was the Partridge?

1518

01:24:56,980 --> 01:25:01,980

Partridge was a minesweeper that was converted to tug duties.

1519

01:25:01,980 --> 01:25:05,980

We got some sonar imagery of her here, or the remains of her.

1520

01:25:05,980 --> 01:25:06,980

She was torpedoed.

1521

01:25:06,980 --> 01:25:07,980

Wow.

1522

01:25:07,980 --> 01:25:08,980

So it was a huge explosion.

1523

01:25:08,980 --> 01:25:10,980

35 people died on it.

1524

01:25:10,980 --> 01:25:11,980

Wow.

1525

01:25:11,980 --> 01:25:13,980

About 30 odd people were wounded.

1526

01:25:13,980 --> 01:25:14,980

And what's the objective down there?

1527

01:25:14,980 --> 01:25:17,980

So the objective today is to go and do some more photogrammetry.

1528

01:25:17,980 --> 01:25:21,980

We're particularly interested in some of the guns if we can find them.

1529

01:25:21,980 --> 01:25:23,980

We want to go down there and measure them, you know,

1530

01:25:23,980 --> 01:25:26,980

so we can get an overall length and so we can get the bore diameter,

1531

01:25:26,980 --> 01:25:27,980

which is really important.

1532

01:25:27,980 --> 01:25:29,980

Okay, well, so the Partridge.

1533

01:25:29,980 --> 01:25:30,980

Let's do it.

1534

01:25:30,980 --> 01:25:35,980

By taking measurements, Martin can verify that the ship here believed to be the Partridge

1535

01:25:35,980 --> 01:25:37,980

is in fact the right vessel.

1536

01:25:37,980 --> 01:25:42,980

Captain Tom Templeton repositions us over the wreck and we dive back in.

1537

01:25:46,980 --> 01:25:50,980

The tide is coming in soon, so speed is of the essence.

1538

01:25:50,980 --> 01:25:51,980

Are you ready, Josh?

1539

01:25:51,980 --> 01:25:53,980

Ready, let's go.

1540

01:25:53,980 --> 01:25:56,980

We're dropping down to about 100 feet.

1541

01:25:57,980 --> 01:25:59,980

Copy that, dropping down.

1542

01:25:59,980 --> 01:26:01,980

Disability is rough.

1543

01:26:03,980 --> 01:26:05,980

There it is.

1544

01:26:06,980 --> 01:26:08,980

Wow, look at the debris scatter.

1545

01:26:08,980 --> 01:26:10,980

This really was one of them.

1546

01:26:12,980 --> 01:26:15,980

The torpedo hit the boiler at the ammunition magazine.

1547

01:26:15,980 --> 01:26:17,980

There was a massive explosion.

1548

01:26:20,980 --> 01:26:22,980

Bit of million teeth in.

1549

01:26:23,980 --> 01:26:26,980

One thing that may have survived is the artillery charge.

1550

01:26:26,980 --> 01:26:27,980

Copy.

1551

01:26:27,980 --> 01:26:34,980

If we can find and verify those guns, we'll have confirmation that this is in fact the Partridge.

1552

01:26:34,980 --> 01:26:36,980

I think I can be one.

1553

01:26:37,980 --> 01:26:39,980

That should be it.

1554

01:26:41,980 --> 01:26:43,980

Let's take some measurements.

1555

01:26:47,980 --> 01:26:50,980

Bore diameter is about four and a half inches.

1556

01:26:53,980 --> 01:26:55,980

Great, I'm going to take some photographs.

1557

01:26:55,980 --> 01:26:57,980

See if you can find the other gun.

1558

01:26:58,980 --> 01:26:59,980

Okay, copy.

1559

01:27:03,980 --> 01:27:07,980

Hey Martin, you may want to check this out. I'm not sure what this is.

1560

01:27:19,980 --> 01:27:21,980

Don't touch that.

1561

01:27:21,980 --> 01:27:23,980

That's an unexploded bomb.

1562

01:27:24,980 --> 01:27:26,980

It could still be live.

1563

01:27:26,980 --> 01:27:27,980

Get away from it.

1564

01:27:27,980 --> 01:27:29,980

Holy s\*\*\*, backup!

1565

01:27:29,980 --> 01:27:31,980

Backup, backup!

1566

01:27:31,980 --> 01:27:34,980

The End

1567

01:27:51,980 --> 01:27:54,980

In my travels I've driven a lot of cool cars.

1568

01:27:54,980 --> 01:27:59,980

But I've never been behind the wheel, or should I say, stick, of something like this.

1569

01:28:01,980 --> 01:28:04,980

It's made in FB 43210.

1570

01:28:05,980 --> 01:28:10,980

And for some reason the people here in the Normandy Victory Museum think that I know how to drive.

1571

01:28:12,980 --> 01:28:20,980

It weighs 15 tons, gets about a mile to the gallon, and is so unbearably hot that soldiers would drive them in the buff.

1572

01:28:21,980 --> 01:28:25,980

I on the other hand keep my pants on. You're just going to have to trust me on that.

1573

01:28:26,980 --> 01:28:29,980

I'm alive! Okay, thanks for watching.

1574

01:28:32,980 --> 01:28:35,980

The End

1575

01:28:40,980 --> 01:28:47,980

I'm in Normandy, France, diving the depths of the English Channel to document a wreck that may be the USS Partridge.

1576

01:28:48,980 --> 01:28:54,980

It's an exceedingly rare and emotional glimpse into the physical relics that D-Day left behind.

1577

01:28:54,980 --> 01:28:58,980

And, as I learn, some of those relics are deadly.

1578

01:28:59,980 --> 01:29:06,980

Don't touch that! That's an unexploded bulb! It could still be live! Get away from it!

1579

01:29:06,980 --> 01:29:09,980

Holy f\*\*\*! Backup! Backup! Backup!

1580

01:29:11,980 --> 01:29:14,980

That is a parachute bite!

1581

01:29:14,980 --> 01:29:17,980

Kevin, backup! We need to be very careful around this thing!

1582

01:29:21,980 --> 01:29:24,980

We need to document this and then report it.

1583

01:29:25,980 --> 01:29:32,980

Though a very functional instrument of death, the mine is also a crucial piece of living history.

1584

01:29:32,980 --> 01:29:37,980

The French authorities will need all the information they can get to safely dispose of it.

1585

01:29:37,980 --> 01:29:43,980

So Martin and I inch closer to the mine and gingerly begin the process of photogrammetry.

1586

01:29:48,980 --> 01:29:52,980

I am literally holding my breath as we examine the device.

1587

01:29:52,980 --> 01:29:56,980

Josh, you see this? This is the fuse at the detonator.

1588

01:29:56,980 --> 01:30:02,980

Corroded, but the mine is in one piece. Anything could set this off, Martin.

1589

01:30:05,980 --> 01:30:12,980

Nazi aircraft dropped parachute mines on land and sea. Many were rigged with magnetic detonators.

1590

01:30:12,980 --> 01:30:17,980

I never imagined I would encounter a Nazi threat still lurking in these waters.

1591

01:30:23,980 --> 01:30:29,980

Holy s\*\*\*! Did you see that? That's a German parachute mine, that is.

1592

01:30:29,980 --> 01:30:32,980

That's full of 15-odd pounds worth of explosives.

1593

01:30:32,980 --> 01:30:36,980

That's insane and it's just sitting on this wreckage and nobody knows it's there.

1594

01:30:36,980 --> 01:30:39,980

Nobody knows it's there. We're the first to see that.

1595

01:30:39,980 --> 01:30:43,980

I mean, even though that's been sitting down there for three-quarters of a century, that could still explode, right?

1596

01:30:43,980 --> 01:30:46,980

It did go off. We still treat the most live.

1597

01:30:46,980 --> 01:30:47,980

Okay, so now what?

1598

01:30:47,980 --> 01:30:49,980

We have to report that object.

1599

01:30:49,980 --> 01:30:53,980

So let's get the hell out of the water and call it in. Come on.

1600

01:30:53,980 --> 01:30:57,980

Martin's team wastes no time in alerting the authorities.

1601

01:30:57,980 --> 01:31:04,980

I'd like to report that we have found a mine-like object on the wreck of the USS Partridge.

1602

01:31:04,980 --> 01:31:09,980

We believe this is a German parachute mine. Over.

1603

01:31:09,980 --> 01:31:13,980

Record the coordinates. Bring them to us immediately.

1604

01:31:14,980 --> 01:31:21,980

With the explosive called in, we head to shore and the relative safety of the world after D-Day.

1605

01:31:22,980 --> 01:31:28,980

As I look back on my journey across Normandy, this has been an expedition like no other.

1606

01:31:29,980 --> 01:31:34,980

It turns out we were able to make a major correction to the historical record.

1607

01:31:34,980 --> 01:31:41,980

The alleged wreck of LST 523 has been misidentified for 75 years.

1608

01:31:42,980 --> 01:31:47,980

In the weeks that followed, Martin's 3D model offered a detailed look at the wreck

1609

01:31:47,980 --> 01:31:56,980

and, once compared with declassified action reports, revealed that the vessel we saw was actually LST 496.

1610

01:31:56,980 --> 01:32:03,980

She went down on June 11, 1944, carrying 31 tanks and 32 other vehicles.

1611

01:32:04,980 --> 01:32:09,980

22 lives were lost. Their final resting place is now identified.

1612

01:32:12,980 --> 01:32:21,980

At Maisie Battery, structures not seen in 75 years are now seeing the light,

1613

01:32:21,980 --> 01:32:28,980

adding to the portrait of the invasion and revealing the full scope of Hitler's Atlantic Wall.

1614

01:32:29,980 --> 01:32:38,980

Inland, I learned how the citizens of Kahn withstood the fury of war and lived to taste freedom once again.

1615

01:32:42,980 --> 01:32:49,980

And in seemingly empty fields, the fragile remains of Allied gliders are rising once again,

1616

01:32:49,980 --> 01:32:53,980

a secret weapon used to silently slip behind enemy lines.

1617

01:32:55,980 --> 01:33:03,980

And here, in the dark waters of the English Channel, we came face to face with D-Day as I never imagined.

1618

01:33:03,980 --> 01:33:07,980

With the discovery of a long dormant weapon in waiting,

1619

01:33:08,980 --> 01:33:13,980

Martin's photogrammetry scans reveal the parachute mine in all its terrifying detail.

1620

01:33:14,980 --> 01:33:20,980

The French Navy is dispatching a bomb squad to detonate the device once and for all.

1621

01:33:22,980 --> 01:33:29,980

Before I depart Normandy, I need to make one last stop at one of the most hallowed grounds on Earth.

1622

01:33:29,980 --> 01:33:31,980

This is the American Cemetery.

1623

01:33:32,980 --> 01:33:37,980

Established on June 8, 1944, D-Day plus two.

1624

01:33:38,980 --> 01:33:42,980

Over 9,000 American soldiers were laid to rest here,

1625

01:33:42,980 --> 01:33:47,980

men who fell on Omaha and Utah beaches, as well as those who followed.

1626

01:33:53,980 --> 01:33:58,980

Many of these boys had never strayed more than a few miles from their hometowns

1627

01:33:58,980 --> 01:34:03,980

when they were suddenly dropped into an epic conflict a half a world away.

1628

01:34:03,980 --> 01:34:09,980

And yet, their collective sacrifice fundamentally altered the course of history.

1629

01:34:09,980 --> 01:34:14,980

They saved Europe from tyranny and rescued the world from a dark future.

1630

01:34:14,980 --> 01:34:17,980

Would any of us be standing here if they hadn't?

1631

01:34:21,980 --> 01:34:27,980

There's a time capsule buried here in their honor to be opened on the 100th anniversary of the invasion.

1632

01:34:27,980 --> 01:34:32,980

And who knows, maybe by then the remaining mysteries of Normandy will be answered.

1633

01:34:32,980 --> 01:34:41,980

But until then, the work goes on to explore, to discover, and to understand the secrets of D-Day.

