

1

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

Right now on Expedition Unknown,

2

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

my dark journey into buried Nazi secrets continues.

3

00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:10,000

You got a lot of landmines left in this country?

4

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

Um, plenty.

5

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

As I prepare to set sail through an unexplored and flooded maze of tunnels.

6

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

Guys, I got something here.

7

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

What the hell is that?

8

00:00:21,000 --> 00:00:26,000

Then a mysterious diary may hold the key to finding billions in plunder.

9

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

I'm sorry, did you say 100 to 300 tons of gold?

10

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

Finally, in the ruins of an abandoned city, wiped off the map by the Red Army,

11

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

we find an entrance to the buried chambers of the Third Reich.

12

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

Oh my word.

13

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

These were used with enigma machines.

14

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

And decrypt secrets from the final days of World War II.

15

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

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, it's writing on this.

16

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

Yeah, yeah, stop, stop, stop.

17

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

There is something glinting in here. Come here.

18

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

Back up, back up!

19

00:00:55,000 --> 00:01:00,000

My name is Josh Gates.

20

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

Hello!

21

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

Explorer.

22

00:01:02,000 --> 00:01:04,000

Adventurer.

23

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:05,000

Amazing.

24

00:01:05,000 --> 00:01:06,000

Wow!

25

00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:09,000

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

26

00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Oh, that was exciting.

27

00:01:11,000 --> 00:01:15,000

With a degree in archeology and a passion for the unexplained,

28

00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:17,000

I travel to the ends of the earth,

29

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000

investigating the greatest legends in history.

30

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:22,000

Day, let's push it.

31

00:01:22,000 --> 00:01:25,000

This is Expedition Unknown.

32

00:01:27,000 --> 00:01:30,000

September 1, 1939.

33

00:01:30,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Germany, under the control of Chancellor Adolf Hitler,

34

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,000

begins its military campaign to conquer Europe

35

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:40,000

by invading its neighbor to the east, Poland.

36

00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:46,000

The next five and a half years see Poland turned into a house of horrors.

37

00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:50,000

Amidst the incalculable human loss are other crimes.

38

00:01:53,000 --> 00:01:56,000

The theft and plunder of wealth and cultural treasures

39

00:01:56,000 --> 00:01:58,000

from across the continent,

40

00:01:58,000 --> 00:02:02,000

along with the scientific development of so-called Wunderwaffen,

41

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

weapons that were Hitler's last desperate chance

42

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,000

to turn the tide of the war in his favor.

43

00:02:09,000 --> 00:02:13,000

These secrets were hidden from Allied eyes in massive tunnel systems

44

00:02:13,000 --> 00:02:15,000

and subterranean structures

45

00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:18,000

that the Nazis drilled into the Polish countryside.

46

00:02:19,000 --> 00:02:22,000

My investigation began in the town of Luban,

47

00:02:22,000 --> 00:02:25,000

where a group of researchers uncovered a Nazi map

48

00:02:25,000 --> 00:02:27,000

that revealed a network of tunnels

49

00:02:27,000 --> 00:02:30,000

carved through the heart of an extinct volcano.

50

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:32,000

Are you kidding me?

51

00:02:33,000 --> 00:02:35,000

We ventured into the darkness.

52

00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:37,000

What is behind this wall?

53

00:02:37,000 --> 00:02:38,000

History.

54

00:02:38,000 --> 00:02:43,000

Where we discovered perfectly preserved World War II-era artifacts.

55

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:46,000

All of this looks like they were just in the middle of construction.

56

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:51,000

And explored a realm that no one has set foot in for almost 80 years.

57

00:02:51,000 --> 00:02:54,000

It's like they literally just were here and then just said,

58

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

okay, that's it, we're leaving.

59

00:02:59,000 --> 00:03:02,000

Then I traveled to the Royal Castle in Warsaw,

60

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

where I met with Robert Edsel of the Monuments Men Foundation.

61

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:09,000

When the Monuments Men arrived in Europe, the works of art are missing,

62

00:03:09,000 --> 00:03:12,000

and that of course led to the greatest treasure hunt in history.

63

00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:16,000

He revealed to me Nazi documents describing a location

64

00:03:16,000 --> 00:03:20,000

where underground chambers were used to hide stolen art.

65

00:03:20,000 --> 00:03:23,000

This is about five hours west of Warsaw on the German border.

66

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:26,000

You have to track down every lead, you have to talk to people.

67

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:29,000

To see if treasures could still be hidden there,

68

00:03:29,000 --> 00:03:34,000

I drove east and joined up with local investigators Pavel Piotkiewicz

69

00:03:34,000 --> 00:03:38,000

and Robert Kubiszewski at a series of battered gun emplacements.

70

00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:40,000

It's a German heavy machine gun position.

71

00:03:40,000 --> 00:03:44,000

The MRUs are a defensive network of Nazi tunnels

72

00:03:44,000 --> 00:03:46,000

along the edge of Germany and Poland

73

00:03:46,000 --> 00:03:49,000

that span more than 25 miles underground.

74

00:03:49,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Documents show that the Nazis hid four chambers of stolen art here,

75

00:03:54,000 --> 00:03:58,000

but when the Soviets arrived, they could only locate two.

76

00:03:58,000 --> 00:04:00,000

Okay, into the darkness.

77

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

We descend into the long abandoned maize.

78

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

I've never seen anything like this.

79

00:04:05,000 --> 00:04:08,000

Our target is a series of distant tunnels

80

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:10,000

that have been flooded since the war.

81

00:04:10,000 --> 00:04:14,000

But now, due to construction above, the water is draining.

82

00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:17,000

Imagine that both tunnels were completely flooded.

83

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

All the way to the roof. Up to the roof.

84

00:04:19,000 --> 00:04:21,000

This is the edge of known history.

85

00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:24,000

What lies ahead is a true unknown.

86

00:04:24,000 --> 00:04:26,000

So how are we exploring this?

87

00:04:26,000 --> 00:04:29,000

War Jump. My boat.

88

00:04:29,000 --> 00:04:31,000

The way?

89

00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:33,000

Okay.

90

00:04:33,000 --> 00:04:36,000

For sane people, this would be the end of the line,

91

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:40,000

but Pavel has been waiting years for this moment.

92

00:04:40,000 --> 00:04:42,000

Okay, good.

93

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:46,000

We inflate our raft and carefully climb aboard.

94

00:04:49,000 --> 00:04:51,000

Okay, I'm in.

95

00:04:53,000 --> 00:04:56,000

Okay, guys, here we go.

96

00:04:57,000 --> 00:04:59,000

We paddle into the void.

97

00:04:59,000 --> 00:05:03,000

Soon, a sense of trepidation sets in.

98

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

Okay, slow, slow, slow.

99

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

What you're seeing right now,

100

00:05:07,000 --> 00:05:10,000

no one has seen this in nearly 80 years.

101

00:05:10,000 --> 00:05:12,000

Everything here is a hazard.

102

00:05:12,000 --> 00:05:16,000

The walls are covered in rusted and razor sharp metal.

103

00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:19,000

If our raft so much as touches them, we're sunk.

104

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:21,000

We've got all this sharp stuff all over the place.

105

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:23,000

Yes, we've got a lot of sharp objects on both sides.

106

00:05:23,000 --> 00:05:27,000

The water beneath us is both frigid and toxic with chemical runoff

107

00:05:27,000 --> 00:05:30,000

that seems to glow with a yellow haze.

108

00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:34,000

Let's just say this is not a good place to take a bath.

109

00:05:34,000 --> 00:05:36,000

But with no visitors here in decades,

110

00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:40,000

the sediment is entirely settled on the bottom.

111

00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:44,000

First of all, the water is crystal clear.

112

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

It's just like Venice.

113

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

Yeah, sort of.

114

00:05:57,000 --> 00:05:59,000

Can I see that big light?

115

00:05:59,000 --> 00:06:01,000

Let's see what's going on underwater here.

116

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

Looks like a can of some kind.

117

00:06:10,000 --> 00:06:14,000

Looks like some wiring, a piece of wire.

118

00:06:15,000 --> 00:06:17,000

Pavel's ingenuity has gotten us this far,

119

00:06:17,000 --> 00:06:20,000

but it appears the water may yet win in the end.

120

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:30,000

I can't help but notice that we're getting closer to the ceiling.

121

00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:34,000

Yeah, because the tunnel must be sloping down, as you said.

122

00:06:34,000 --> 00:06:36,000

It's getting really tight here.

123

00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:39,000

We're going to run out of head room here.

124

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

What do you think is down there?

125

00:06:44,000 --> 00:06:46,000

You think there are additional rooms there?

126

00:06:46,000 --> 00:06:47,000

Nobody knows.

127

00:06:47,000 --> 00:06:48,000

Nobody knows what's there?

128

00:06:48,000 --> 00:06:49,000

Yeah.

129

00:06:51,000 --> 00:06:53,000

The mystery is still in front of us.

130

00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:55,000

Right in front of us.

131

00:06:55,000 --> 00:06:57,000

Sometimes you have to back off.

132

00:06:57,000 --> 00:07:00,000

It's one of the hardest lessons to learn when exploring,

133

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

but sometimes you do have to back off.

134

00:07:05,000 --> 00:07:06,000

It's a heartbreaker.

135

00:07:07,000 --> 00:07:12,000

We carefully reverse course to begin moving back to shallower water.

136

00:07:15,000 --> 00:07:18,000

And then the game abruptly changes.

137

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

Oh, hey guys, I got something here.

138

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:23,000

Do you see it?

139

00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:25,000

Is that a picture frame?

140

00:07:25,000 --> 00:07:27,000

It certainly looks very old.

141

00:07:27,000 --> 00:07:29,000

It's covered in silt.

142

00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:33,000

If it is a picture frame, it would be quite amazing, discovery.

143

00:07:33,000 --> 00:07:35,000

Should we try to hook it?

144

00:07:35,000 --> 00:07:36,000

Yeah.

145

00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:38,000

Okay, here, let me get that pole.

146

00:07:38,000 --> 00:07:42,000

Whatever this is appears to have been remarkably well preserved

147

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

in the cold water.

148

00:07:43,000 --> 00:07:46,000

I'm hesitant to touch it and bring it to the surface

149

00:07:46,000 --> 00:07:48,000

as carefully as possible.

150

00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:49,000

It's wood.

151

00:07:49,000 --> 00:07:50,000

Wood?

152

00:07:50,000 --> 00:07:51,000

It's wood for sure.

153

00:07:51,000 --> 00:07:53,000

It's a picture frame?

154

00:07:53,000 --> 00:07:54,000

It's a picture frame.

155

00:07:57,000 --> 00:07:59,000

Ah, look at this.

156

00:08:00,000 --> 00:08:02,000

Are you kidding me?

157

00:08:02,000 --> 00:08:03,000

It's shock.

158

00:08:03,000 --> 00:08:04,000

Yes.

159

00:08:04,000 --> 00:08:05,000

Yes.

160

00:08:05,000 --> 00:08:06,000

Are you damn right?

161

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

I'm in shock too.

162

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

It's period.

163

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

I mean, this looks like it's been down here for 80 years.

164

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

And what would this be doing?

165

00:08:13,000 --> 00:08:14,000

It's just a shock.

166

00:08:14,000 --> 00:08:15,000

It's just a shock.

167

00:08:15,000 --> 00:08:17,000

It's just been down here for 80 years.

168

00:08:17,000 --> 00:08:21,000

And what would this be doing if not holding a piece of art?

169

00:08:21,000 --> 00:08:24,000

The possibilities here boggle the imagination.

170

00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:27,000

If this is World War II period or older,

171

00:08:27,000 --> 00:08:30,000

it could be connected to a piece of stolen art.

172

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:31,000

Any markings at all?

173

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

No.

174

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

No.

175

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:36,000

I think this has been down here for a long time, don't you?

176

00:08:36,000 --> 00:08:37,000

Since the war probably.

177

00:08:37,000 --> 00:08:39,000

Might be possibility then.

178

00:08:39,000 --> 00:08:41,000

When the rations were taking the things away,

179

00:08:41,000 --> 00:08:44,000

they just took the canvas and left the frame here.

180

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:45,000

Exactly.

181

00:08:45,000 --> 00:08:46,000

Yeah.

182

00:08:46,000 --> 00:08:47,000

The glass could certainly be tested.

183

00:08:47,000 --> 00:08:49,000

The wood can be analyzed.

184

00:08:49,000 --> 00:08:51,000

I think we should certainly try to haul this back to the surface,

185

00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:52,000

don't you?

186

00:08:52,000 --> 00:08:55,000

And the specialist should have a look at it, definitely.

187

00:08:55,000 --> 00:08:58,000

If it's original, we've got the third or the fourth chamber.

188

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

Yes.

189

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

Yes.

190

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

There may be more here, for sure.

191

00:09:02,000 --> 00:09:04,000

Hopefully the water gets even lower in the near future.

192

00:09:04,000 --> 00:09:05,000

Forget that.

193

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:06,000

Let's swim.

194

00:09:06,000 --> 00:09:07,000

Can we swim?

195

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:08,000

Yes.

196

00:09:08,000 --> 00:09:10,000

Could be a Rembrandt down there.

197

00:09:10,000 --> 00:09:11,000

Yes.

198

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

That's right.

199

00:09:12,000 --> 00:09:13,000

Amazing.

200

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:14,000

Amazing.

201

00:09:14,000 --> 00:09:15,000

Amazing.

202

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

Yes.

203

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

With our delicate prize in hand,

204

00:09:19,000 --> 00:09:22,000

we carefully make the long trek back to the surface.

205

00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:25,000

The discovery of the picture frame has Pavel and Robert

206

00:09:25,000 --> 00:09:29,000

now planning a further excavation of the MRU tunnels.

207

00:09:29,000 --> 00:09:31,000

The frame will be taken to Warsaw,

208

00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:36,000

so art historians can estimate its age and possible contents.

209

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:39,000

And chemical composition testing could tell us even more

210

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

of the frame's story.

211

00:09:41,000 --> 00:09:45,000

While we wait for results, other researchers here in Poland

212

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:48,000

are chasing even more explosive secrets,

213

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:51,000

including one that could rewrite history books

214

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:53,000

and bank books everywhere.

215

00:09:57,000 --> 00:10:03,000

To learn more, I drive 170 miles east to a land of misty forests

216

00:10:03,000 --> 00:10:05,000

and forbidden castles.

217

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

And I am headed to such a place.

218

00:10:06,000 --> 00:10:08,000

It's known as Izbiko Palace,

219

00:10:08,000 --> 00:10:12,000

a grand estate where a recently resurfaced document

220

00:10:12,000 --> 00:10:16,000

may be a game changer in the hunt for Nazi looted treasure.

221

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Oh, wow.

222

00:10:28,000 --> 00:10:30,000

Unbelievable.

223

00:10:34,000 --> 00:10:36,000

The custodians of this mysterious document

224

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:39,000

wait for me inside the imposing palace.

225

00:10:39,000 --> 00:10:42,000

This is Roman Fermanak and Bart Zalaitis

226

00:10:42,000 --> 00:10:44,000

of the Silesian Bridge Foundation,

227

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:47,000

a group dedicated to strengthening the relationship

228

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:49,000

between Germany and Poland.

229

00:10:49,000 --> 00:10:51,000

Can we talk about how amazing this building is?

230

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

Absolutely.

231

00:10:52,000 --> 00:10:54,000

It's a late 17th century palace

232

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:57,000

that has been restored to this beautiful condition you see here and now.

233

00:10:57,000 --> 00:10:58,000

It's awesome.

234

00:10:58,000 --> 00:11:00,000

It's nice to have you here.

235

00:11:00,000 --> 00:11:03,000

And I understand you have something very special in this palace,

236

00:11:03,000 --> 00:11:04,000

a document of some kind?

237

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:05,000

That's correct.

238

00:11:05,000 --> 00:11:06,000

It's a war diary.

239

00:11:06,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Okay.

240

00:11:07,000 --> 00:11:09,000

It has been written at the end of the World War II

241

00:11:09,000 --> 00:11:14,000

that points 11 locations where Nazi gold has been hidden,

242

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:17,000

and we're talking about anywhere between 100 to 300 tons of gold.

243

00:11:17,000 --> 00:11:20,000

I'm sorry, did you say 100 to 300 tons of gold?

244

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:21,000

That's correct.

245

00:11:21,000 --> 00:11:22,000

Okay.

246

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:26,000

I thought a rafting trip through a flooded Nazi tunnel

247

00:11:26,000 --> 00:11:28,000

would be the wildest story I'd face this week,

248

00:11:28,000 --> 00:11:31,000

but a war journal that may point to the fact

249

00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:33,000

that 300 tons of plundered gold

250

00:11:33,000 --> 00:11:36,000

raises the bar to a new level.

251

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:39,000

Any chance it tells you right where it's buried?

252

00:11:39,000 --> 00:11:41,000

In a way, yes.

253

00:11:41,000 --> 00:11:42,000

Can I see this document?

254

00:11:42,000 --> 00:11:43,000

Please.

255

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:44,000

Lead on.

256

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:56,000

Oh, wow.

257

00:11:56,000 --> 00:11:58,000

Unbelievable.

258

00:11:58,000 --> 00:11:59,000

Wow.

259

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

Unbelievable.

260

00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:07,000

Wow.

261

00:12:07,000 --> 00:12:08,000

This is amazing.

262

00:12:08,000 --> 00:12:10,000

This moldering journal from World War II

263

00:12:10,000 --> 00:12:14,000

may contain the location of hundreds of tons of stolen gold.

264

00:12:14,000 --> 00:12:17,000

So this whole thing is the diary down here?

265

00:12:17,000 --> 00:12:18,000

That's correct.

266

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:19,000

Yeah.

267

00:12:19,000 --> 00:12:20,000

Okay.

268

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:21,000

I have a million questions.

269

00:12:21,000 --> 00:12:22,000

To start with, who wrote this?

270

00:12:22,000 --> 00:12:27,000

So it has been written by a highly ranked officer of Waffen SS

271

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:30,000

under pseudonym Mihailis.

272

00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:32,000

The Schutzstaffel, or SS,

273

00:12:32,000 --> 00:12:35,000

were the paramilitary wing of the Nazi party

274

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:37,000

led by Heinrich Himmler,

275

00:12:37,000 --> 00:12:40,000

one of the chief architects of the Holocaust.

276

00:12:40,000 --> 00:12:43,000

The SS was part combat brigade, part state police,

277

00:12:43,000 --> 00:12:46,000

a cadre of true Nazi believers

278

00:12:46,000 --> 00:12:49,000

who enforced the genocidal policies of Hitler and Himmler

279

00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:51,000

with religious fervor.

280

00:12:51,000 --> 00:12:55,000

If this diary was written by a high-ranking SS officer,

281

00:12:55,000 --> 00:12:58,000

he may well have had intimate knowledge of Nazi secrets

282

00:12:58,000 --> 00:13:01,000

and the fate of plundered treasures.

283

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,000

He describes a completion of a mission

284

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

where they hide Nazi gold, artifacts, archival stuff.

285

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

Any doubts about the authenticity of the diary?

286

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

We're 100% certain it's authentic.

287

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

According to Roman,

288

00:13:17,000 --> 00:13:21,000

the journal's age has been confirmed as authentic by a German lab.

289

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:24,000

However, many notable documents from the era,

290

00:13:24,000 --> 00:13:27,000

like the announcement of Hitler's diaries in the early 1980s,

291

00:13:27,000 --> 00:13:30,000

have proven to be elaborate forgeries.

292

00:13:30,000 --> 00:13:32,000

As to the contents of the diary,

293

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:35,000

which was donated to the Sal Asian Bridge Foundation

294

00:13:35,000 --> 00:13:37,000

by a German cultural society,

295

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:39,000

the jury is out.

296

00:13:39,000 --> 00:13:42,000

The only way to be sure is to keep investigating.

297

00:13:42,000 --> 00:13:44,000

So this high-ranking Nazi officer,

298

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,000

is he writing this diary as a personal diary?

299

00:13:47,000 --> 00:13:49,000

So this is an official document

300

00:13:49,000 --> 00:13:52,000

of establishing a new nation.

301

00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:54,000

Fourth Reich.

302

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:55,000

Correct.

303

00:13:55,000 --> 00:13:58,000

So the Nazis know that the walls are closing in on them,

304

00:13:58,000 --> 00:14:00,000

and this is kind of an emergency measure to say,

305

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

we're going to hide all this stuff

306

00:14:02,000 --> 00:14:04,000

so that we can come back for it later.

307

00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:05,000

Absolutely.

308

00:14:05,000 --> 00:14:09,000

Bart offers me a translation of a particularly revealing entry.

309

00:14:09,000 --> 00:14:12,000

So the author says,

310

00:14:12,000 --> 00:14:16,000

we are grateful that Providence appointed us to safeguard

311

00:14:16,000 --> 00:14:19,000

the part of Germany's cultural and national heritage.

312

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:20,000

Correct.

313

00:14:21,000 --> 00:14:22,000

According to Roman,

314

00:14:22,000 --> 00:14:25,000

the diary mentions 11 different places

315

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

where the Nazis were, quote,

316

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

safeguarding works of art,

317

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:31,000

plundered from across the continent,

318

00:14:31,000 --> 00:14:33,000

looted religious and occult objects,

319

00:14:33,000 --> 00:14:35,000

and in this area,

320

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

a huge stockpile of stolen gold.

321

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:38,000

Okay.

322

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:39,000

Where?

323

00:14:39,000 --> 00:14:41,000

So for that,

324

00:14:41,000 --> 00:14:42,000

we have to look in a diary.

325

00:14:42,000 --> 00:14:44,000

We can actually look inside of it.

326

00:14:44,000 --> 00:14:45,000

Yeah.

327

00:14:51,000 --> 00:14:54,000

To read firsthand from this dark tome,

328

00:14:54,000 --> 00:14:56,000

Roman and Bart bring the diary

329

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:58,000

to the palace's ornate ballroom.

330

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

Oh, my word.

331

00:15:05,000 --> 00:15:06,000

Look at that.

332

00:15:06,000 --> 00:15:07,000

It is all handwritten.

333

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:09,000

And all in pencil.

334

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

So it's very fragile.

335

00:15:11,000 --> 00:15:12,000

Yeah.

336

00:15:12,000 --> 00:15:13,000

So what do we see on this page?

337

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

This is a English translation.

338

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

Okay.

339

00:15:16,000 --> 00:15:17,000

So it says,

340

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:20,000

transports to the estates of Von Stein

341

00:15:20,000 --> 00:15:21,000

and Seidlitz.

342

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:23,000

So who was Seidlitz?

343

00:15:23,000 --> 00:15:26,000

Seidlitz was a 19th century German general

344

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:28,000

who built a palace estate nearby.

345

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:30,000

And the village was named after him.

346

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:31,000

And today,

347

00:15:31,000 --> 00:15:33,000

that village is called Minkowski

348

00:15:33,000 --> 00:15:35,000

and it's 40 kilometers north from here.

349

00:15:35,000 --> 00:15:38,000

And then it also says the estate of Von Stein.

350

00:15:38,000 --> 00:15:39,000

So who's that?

351

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:40,000

Correct.

352

00:15:40,000 --> 00:15:43,000

He was the last inhabitant of the palace.

353

00:15:43,000 --> 00:15:45,000

He was also an SS officer.

354

00:15:45,000 --> 00:15:47,000

Seidlitz or Minkowski today.

355

00:15:47,000 --> 00:15:49,000

Are there many palaces there?

356

00:15:49,000 --> 00:15:50,000

Just one.

357

00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:52,000

Von Stein, though,

358

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:54,000

wasn't living at Minkowski by himself.

359

00:15:54,000 --> 00:15:55,000

According to Roman,

360

00:15:55,000 --> 00:15:57,000

the SS used the palace

361

00:15:57,000 --> 00:15:59,000

as a kind of brothel away from home.

362

00:15:59,000 --> 00:16:01,000

Von Stein, it appears,

363

00:16:01,000 --> 00:16:03,000

got himself a girlfriend.

364

00:16:03,000 --> 00:16:05,000

Because we have a letter from Von Stein,

365

00:16:05,000 --> 00:16:07,000

the last inhabitant of the palace,

366

00:16:07,000 --> 00:16:09,000

to Inga, his mistress.

367

00:16:10,000 --> 00:16:13,000

Long after Von Stein had been erased from history,

368

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

his mistress remained at Minkowski Palace.

369

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

And for over 40 years,

370

00:16:18,000 --> 00:16:21,000

she held on to a remarkable piece of evidence.

371

00:16:21,000 --> 00:16:23,000

And the letter is right here.

372

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:26,000

So this is the letter and a translation.

373

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:28,000

This is from Von Stein.

374

00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:30,000

So he writes,

375

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

my dear Inga,

376

00:16:31,000 --> 00:16:34,000

some transports were successful.

377

00:16:34,000 --> 00:16:38,000

The remaining 48 heavy Reichsbank chests,

378

00:16:38,000 --> 00:16:42,000

meaning chests of gold from the Reichsbank?

379

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:44,000

Very likely, yes.

380

00:16:44,000 --> 00:16:45,000

48 chests.

381

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:46,000

Correct.

382

00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,000

As the war turned increasingly against the Nazis,

383

00:16:49,000 --> 00:16:52,000

the Reichsbank hid the country's gold reserves

384

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:54,000

in a salt mine inside Germany

385

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:56,000

to keep it safe from the Allies.

386

00:16:56,000 --> 00:16:59,000

Roman and Bart don't believe that was all of it,

387

00:16:59,000 --> 00:17:00,000

not nearly.

388

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

Only you know where they're located.

389

00:17:02,000 --> 00:17:05,000

May God help you and help me fulfill my assignment.

390

00:17:05,000 --> 00:17:07,000

Von Stein,

391

00:17:07,000 --> 00:17:09,000

February 1945.

392

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:13,000

You've got an authentic World War II diary

393

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:15,000

written by a high-ranking SS officer.

394

00:17:15,000 --> 00:17:18,000

You've got a real location,

395

00:17:18,000 --> 00:17:20,000

and you've got a corroborative letter.

396

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:22,000

Well, what else can one want?

397

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:24,000

Proof that it's all true.

398

00:17:24,000 --> 00:17:26,000

That's exactly what we're going to find.

399

00:17:30,000 --> 00:17:31,000

We pile into the car

400

00:17:31,000 --> 00:17:33,000

and take the short ride to Minkowski.

401

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:38,000

Take a ride right here.

402

00:17:38,000 --> 00:17:39,000

Okay.

403

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:42,000

And this is the place.

404

00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Oh, hell yeah, it is.

405

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:46,000

Whoa.

406

00:17:46,000 --> 00:17:48,000

In contrast to his beat go,

407

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:52,000

Minkowski Palace appears to be dangerously unrestored.

408

00:17:53,000 --> 00:17:55,000

Yeah, that's a palace.

409

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

It's like a ghost.

410

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:03,000

Absolutely.

411

00:18:03,000 --> 00:18:05,000

I mean, it's really atmospheric.

412

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:06,000

It's beautiful, though.

413

00:18:07,000 --> 00:18:10,000

Today, Minkowski's empty halls and littered floors

414

00:18:10,000 --> 00:18:13,000

give this place the feeling of a haunted house,

415

00:18:13,000 --> 00:18:16,000

as if any place in Poland needed the help.

416

00:18:16,000 --> 00:18:17,000

So we're in the right place.

417

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:19,000

The diary puts us here.

418

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:21,000

But this also looks like a huge estate.

419

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:24,000

We're talking about 48 chests of material.

420

00:18:24,000 --> 00:18:26,000

Where do you think it's deposited?

421

00:18:27,000 --> 00:18:31,000

The diary suggests it was buried under or near the orangery.

422

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

And an orangery? What's an orangery?

423

00:18:34,000 --> 00:18:36,000

It's a fancy greenhouse.

424

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Tropical plants, fountains, benches, walkways.

425

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:43,000

It's a very fancy place to hang out.

426

00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:45,000

And tell me this place has an orangery.

427

00:18:45,000 --> 00:18:47,000

It's not standing anymore.

428

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:48,000

However, we found it.

429

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:49,000

You did find it?

430

00:18:49,000 --> 00:18:50,000

Yes.

431

00:18:50,000 --> 00:18:52,000

It's a plush under the orangery.

432

00:18:53,000 --> 00:18:55,000

We walk around to the back of the palace

433

00:18:55,000 --> 00:18:59,000

to find an active excavation site with heavy drilling equipment.

434

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

Oh, is this the foundation?

435

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:02,000

Yes.

436

00:19:02,000 --> 00:19:03,000

So the orangery was right here?

437

00:19:03,000 --> 00:19:04,000

Exactly, yeah.

438

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:05,000

Wow.

439

00:19:05,000 --> 00:19:06,000

And all of this was buried?

440

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:07,000

You dug all this up?

441

00:19:07,000 --> 00:19:08,000

That's correct.

442

00:19:08,000 --> 00:19:10,000

And there's probably a lot more to be found underneath.

443

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:11,000

This is insane.

444

00:19:11,000 --> 00:19:12,000

Wow.

445

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

Roman and Bart's group managed to locate and expose

446

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:17,000

the footprint of the orangery.

447

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

So that mission is accomplished.

448

00:19:19,000 --> 00:19:22,000

It leaves one important step to go.

449

00:19:22,000 --> 00:19:23,000

Hey, hey, I'm Josh.

450

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:24,000

Mariusz.

451

00:19:24,000 --> 00:19:25,000

Nice to meet you.

452

00:19:25,000 --> 00:19:26,000

What's going on here?

453

00:19:26,000 --> 00:19:27,000

Are we drilling?

454

00:19:27,000 --> 00:19:28,000

Yeah.

455

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:29,000

Yeah?

456

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:30,000

Mariusz is our drilling expert.

457

00:19:30,000 --> 00:19:33,000

So how does this work, Mariusz?

458

00:19:33,000 --> 00:19:36,000

We've already drilled a hole here down 25 feet

459

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:39,000

and lowered in a metal sleeve to keep it from collapsing.

460

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Now we need to drop the cylinder in.

461

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:44,000

It'll fill up with material from the bottom,

462

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:47,000

and then we can bring it back up to see what we've got.

463

00:19:47,000 --> 00:19:50,000

OK, so what are you hoping ends up inside this cylinder?

464

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:52,000

We are definitely going to find something,

465

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:54,000

just a matter of time.

466

00:19:54,000 --> 00:19:56,000

It could be a wooden crate.

467

00:19:56,000 --> 00:19:58,000

It could be a jewelry.

468

00:19:58,000 --> 00:19:59,000

It could be a ring.

469

00:19:59,000 --> 00:20:02,000

Just some sign that you've made it into this deposit layer.

470

00:20:02,000 --> 00:20:03,000

Absolutely.

471

00:20:03,000 --> 00:20:06,000

So how deep down do you need to drill, do you think?

472

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:07,000

Take a look at the diary.

473

00:20:07,000 --> 00:20:11,000

So this is another translation page from the diary.

474

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:15,000

It says, 48 chests from the Reichsbank in good condition

475

00:20:15,000 --> 00:20:18,000

were hidden very well covered with earth

476

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

and greened with still living plants.

477

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

So what does very well covered mean?

478

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:24,000

How far down do you think it is?

479

00:20:24,000 --> 00:20:25,000

We don't know the exact depth.

480

00:20:25,000 --> 00:20:27,000

We'll have to do a search for it.

481

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:29,000

So that's why you're drilling such a big cross section?

482

00:20:29,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Yes, exactly.

483

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:32,000

OK, so...

484

00:20:32,000 --> 00:20:33,000

Let's go.

485

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:35,000

Go Dodgers. Here we go.

486

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:39,000

We may be digging 30 feet or more into the ground,

487

00:20:39,000 --> 00:20:42,000

so we're using a technique usually employed in mining,

488

00:20:42,000 --> 00:20:45,000

which in a way is exactly what we're doing.

489

00:20:45,000 --> 00:20:48,000

The cylinder needs to be carefully lowered into place

490

00:20:48,000 --> 00:20:50,000

so we can extract a sample.

491

00:20:50,000 --> 00:20:59,000

Then we simply reel it back in.

492

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

It's coming up.

493

00:21:02,000 --> 00:21:06,000

The cylinder comes back to us and we empty it onto our platform

494

00:21:06,000 --> 00:21:09,000

to see if there are any diamonds in this rough.

495

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

Here we go.

496

00:21:13,000 --> 00:21:14,000

It's coming up.

497

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:17,000

Here we go.

498

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:18,000

Go.

499

00:21:20,000 --> 00:21:22,000

Historic Minkowski Palace,

500

00:21:22,000 --> 00:21:25,000

occupied by the Nazis during World War II,

501

00:21:25,000 --> 00:21:28,000

is said to be hiding 300 tons of stolen gold.

502

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:31,000

And I'm hoping some of it is in this cylinder.

503

00:21:35,000 --> 00:21:38,000

Bart, be careful. I don't want to get those pants dirty.

504

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:42,000

OK.

505

00:21:42,000 --> 00:21:45,000

So it's kind of really fine grit soil.

506

00:21:45,000 --> 00:21:47,000

I mean, it's almost sand down there.

507

00:21:47,000 --> 00:21:49,000

About how far down are we now?

508

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:50,000

About 27 feet.

509

00:21:50,000 --> 00:21:51,000

OK.

510

00:21:53,000 --> 00:21:55,000

There wasn't anything at 27 feet,

511

00:21:55,000 --> 00:21:59,000

so we lower the sleeve past 30 and drop in another cylinder.

512

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:02,000

This one able to collect a bigger sample.

513

00:22:07,000 --> 00:22:08,000

Here we go.

514

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:09,000

This is the one.

515

00:22:09,000 --> 00:22:11,000

This is it. I can feel it.

516

00:22:11,000 --> 00:22:12,000

Guys, back up.

517

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:14,000

Some gold bars are going to be coming out of here.

518

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:16,000

OK.

519

00:22:28,000 --> 00:22:29,000

OK.

520

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:31,000

Come on down.

521

00:22:31,000 --> 00:22:33,000

Look, look, look.

522

00:22:33,000 --> 00:22:34,000

You got something?

523

00:22:34,000 --> 00:22:35,000

Oh, yeah, yeah, look.

524

00:22:35,000 --> 00:22:36,000

Stop, stop, stop.

525

00:22:36,000 --> 00:22:37,000

There is something glinting in here.

526

00:22:37,000 --> 00:22:38,000

Come here.

527

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:39,000

Wait, is that?

528

00:22:39,000 --> 00:22:40,000

Wait a minute.

529

00:22:40,000 --> 00:22:41,000

Is this?

530

00:22:42,000 --> 00:22:43,000

Roman.

531

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:44,000

Yes, OK.

532

00:22:44,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Get the f*** out of here.

533

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:49,000

You've all heard of fool's gold.

534

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:51,000

Well, in this case, I am that fool.

535

00:22:51,000 --> 00:22:52,000

Yay.

536

00:22:53,000 --> 00:22:55,000

Who put that in the drill?

537

00:22:55,000 --> 00:22:56,000

You guys are jerks.

538

00:22:56,000 --> 00:22:57,000

You know that?

539

00:22:57,000 --> 00:22:58,000

You guys are jerks.

540

00:22:58,000 --> 00:22:59,000

Horrible.

541

00:22:59,000 --> 00:23:01,000

It's the most exciting moment of my life.

542

00:23:04,000 --> 00:23:07,000

All right, for real this time, guys, here we go.

543

00:23:08,000 --> 00:23:10,000

Putting Roman's hilarious joke behind us,

544

00:23:10,000 --> 00:23:13,000

we lower the sleeve to a depth of 40 feet

545

00:23:13,000 --> 00:23:15,000

and drop it in one more time.

546

00:23:30,000 --> 00:23:32,000

Kind of a different layer we're getting into here,

547

00:23:32,000 --> 00:23:33,000

some stones.

548

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:35,000

While we seem to be in a new layer,

549

00:23:35,000 --> 00:23:37,000

our well is still coming up dry.

550

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:40,000

So while Roman and the drill team continue the dig,

551

00:23:40,000 --> 00:23:43,000

Bart leads me into the woods behind Minkowski.

552

00:23:43,000 --> 00:23:45,000

Since the diary mentions the orangery

553

00:23:45,000 --> 00:23:48,000

and the palace's expansive grounds,

554

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:50,000

we're metal detecting to find anything

555

00:23:50,000 --> 00:23:52,000

that could confirm the diary's story.

556

00:23:58,000 --> 00:23:59,000

Got something here.

557

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:08,000

We put shovel to dirt to see what the detector has found.

558

00:24:09,000 --> 00:24:11,000

So we get an old nail tied to something.

559

00:24:11,000 --> 00:24:14,000

You got a lot of landmines left in this country?

560

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:15,000

Um, plenty.

561

00:24:15,000 --> 00:24:17,000

Can we leave this nail right here?

562

00:24:20,000 --> 00:24:21,000

You can pull it.

563

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

I'll be out of here.

564

00:24:22,000 --> 00:24:26,000

Safely out of the blast radius that exists only in my head,

565

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:29,000

we start to pick up on a worn path through the woods.

566

00:24:29,000 --> 00:24:32,000

So we have this long trail coming through the woods here.

567

00:24:32,000 --> 00:24:33,000

And what was this down here, a creek?

568

00:24:33,000 --> 00:24:35,000

There was a creek running creek about a couple of months ago.

569

00:24:35,000 --> 00:24:36,000

It's dry now.

570

00:24:36,000 --> 00:24:39,000

And we suspect there was a bridge at some point over the creek.

571

00:24:39,000 --> 00:24:40,000

OK, got it.

572

00:24:40,000 --> 00:24:42,000

Well, let's have a look around here on both sides

573

00:24:42,000 --> 00:24:43,000

to see if we get anything.

574

00:24:57,000 --> 00:24:59,000

It's a really feras hit.

575

00:24:59,000 --> 00:25:01,000

Feels like it could be iron or something.

576

00:25:02,000 --> 00:25:06,000

Pull tab.

577

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:08,000

I'm the best in the business part.

578

00:25:08,000 --> 00:25:09,000

I'm not sure if you heard.

579

00:25:09,000 --> 00:25:13,000

But my pull tab was covering something much more interesting.

580

00:25:13,000 --> 00:25:14,000

Looks like brick.

581

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:15,000

That's a good sign.

582

00:25:15,000 --> 00:25:17,000

Some piece of construction here.

583

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:20,000

As I dig, we're joined by archaeologist Pavel Razzaud,

584

00:25:20,000 --> 00:25:23,000

who's here to help assess anything we find.

585

00:25:23,000 --> 00:25:24,000

Oh, look, down here.

586

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

See that?

587

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

Oh.

588

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

We carefully expose the bricks to get a full sense of the structure.

589

00:25:30,000 --> 00:25:33,000

This is the white.

590

00:25:33,000 --> 00:25:34,000

It's pretty remarkable.

591

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:37,000

There's just a piece of construction sitting right here.

592

00:25:37,000 --> 00:25:39,000

We've got this old road coming through here.

593

00:25:39,000 --> 00:25:42,000

What do you think, part of a wall or a gatehouse, maybe?

594

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:43,000

Yes.

595

00:25:43,000 --> 00:25:44,000

It can be a wall.

596

00:25:44,000 --> 00:25:46,000

Finding it is miraculous.

597

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:47,000

You did a fantastic job.

598

00:25:47,000 --> 00:25:48,000

Yeah.

599

00:25:48,000 --> 00:25:49,000

Well, a new piece of history.

600

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:50,000

I like that.

601

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:51,000

All right.

602

00:25:51,000 --> 00:25:52,000

Let's keep looking.

603

00:25:55,000 --> 00:25:57,000

We continue scanning the property.

604

00:25:57,000 --> 00:26:00,000

But as the day latens, neither we nor the drill team

605

00:26:00,000 --> 00:26:03,000

has found anything described in the diary.

606

00:26:03,000 --> 00:26:05,000

Bart and I take stock.

607

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:09,000

This property has just such an incredible past.

608

00:26:09,000 --> 00:26:13,000

In terms of the treasure, you feel confident it's here?

609

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

Yeah, very confident.

610

00:26:14,000 --> 00:26:16,000

So when Roman starts screaming from that tent,

611

00:26:16,000 --> 00:26:17,000

you're going to call me, right?

612

00:26:17,000 --> 00:26:18,000

Sure.

613

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:19,000

Yeah.

614

00:26:19,000 --> 00:26:20,000

On a speed dial.

615

00:26:20,000 --> 00:26:21,000

On a speed dial.

616

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:22,000

I like that.

617

00:26:22,000 --> 00:26:23,000

All right, ma'am.

618

00:26:23,000 --> 00:26:24,000

Thanks so much.

619

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

This was awesome.

620

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

Thank you for being a part of it.

621

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:31,000

The story of the SS officer's diary, which seemed fantastic to begin with,

622

00:26:31,000 --> 00:26:33,000

feels like a long shot.

623

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

But hey, you never know.

624

00:26:35,000 --> 00:26:39,000

And by excavating Minkowski, Bart and Roman may find something more nourishing

625

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:45,000

than stolen gold, a renewed history for this crumbling palace.

626

00:26:45,000 --> 00:26:48,000

As for me, it's time to get back on the road.

627

00:26:48,000 --> 00:26:52,000

Just north of here is another site where new discoveries are changing

628

00:26:52,000 --> 00:26:55,000

what we know about the final days of World War II.

629

00:26:55,000 --> 00:26:59,000

My next stop is along the Oder River, which is the modern day border

630

00:26:59,000 --> 00:27:01,000

between Poland and Germany.

631

00:27:01,000 --> 00:27:02,000

There's a fortress there.

632

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:06,000

This was a really critical location during World War II,

633

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:09,000

as the Red Army was advancing on Berlin.

634

00:27:09,000 --> 00:27:13,000

Today, investigators there are sifting through the ruins,

635

00:27:13,000 --> 00:27:17,000

trying to find secrets that are literally frozen in time.

636

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:23,000

At the ruined relic of Kastrin Fortress,

637

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

I rushed to meet the director of the excavation, Jarek Strazniak.

638

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

Nice to meet you.

639

00:27:29,000 --> 00:27:32,000

Beautiful place. This is a fortress.

640

00:27:32,000 --> 00:27:36,000

Yes, this was a fortress built during the Middle Ages.

641

00:27:36,000 --> 00:27:38,000

Why did they build a fortress here?

642

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:42,000

It was strategically placed next to the Oder and Wurther rivers.

643

00:27:42,000 --> 00:27:46,000

It's so strategic that the Third Reich used it to defend Berlin.

644

00:27:47,000 --> 00:27:52,000

As the war becomes increasingly unwinnable, Hitler is in denial.

645

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:54,000

He can't imagine losing.

646

00:27:54,000 --> 00:27:58,000

The Fuhrer even orders a Nazi general to be locked in an insane asylum

647

00:27:58,000 --> 00:28:01,000

for warning him of the advancing Soviet army.

648

00:28:02,000 --> 00:28:06,000

Hitler orders scattered forces to rally at Kastrin Fortress,

649

00:28:06,000 --> 00:28:11,000

a 17th century complex less than 50 miles from the outskirts of Germany's capital.

650

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:14,000

This was Berlin's last defense.

651

00:28:16,000 --> 00:28:20,000

So before the end of World War II, this fortress is protecting a city of what size?

652

00:28:20,000 --> 00:28:22,000

25,000 people.

653

00:28:22,000 --> 00:28:24,000

Wow. Can we see the city?

654

00:28:24,000 --> 00:28:26,000

Yes, I'll show you.

655

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

We walk and walk.

656

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:37,000

And soon I realize we're passing through a grid of empty streets.

657

00:28:37,000 --> 00:28:39,000

Jarek, I don't see a city.

658

00:28:39,000 --> 00:28:41,000

Everything is gone.

659

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:42,000

Everything.

660

00:28:42,000 --> 00:28:43,000

All of it.

661

00:28:43,000 --> 00:28:44,000

Did the Soviets flatten it?

662

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:47,000

Yes, Soviets destroyed the whole city here.

663

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:49,000

They literally destroyed everything.

664

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:51,000

I've never seen this before.

665

00:28:51,000 --> 00:28:53,000

The place is completely flattened.

666

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

This was once a thriving city.

667

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

Today, its only residents are empty avenues.

668

00:29:00,000 --> 00:29:04,000

Basements without houses, even a church without walls.

669

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:07,000

There was once a soaring castle here.

670

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:10,000

Today, it is simply a set of stairs.

671

00:29:12,000 --> 00:29:15,000

The town has been called the Polish Pompeii

672

00:29:15,000 --> 00:29:19,000

because preserved in its ashes is a potential bonanza of artifacts

673

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:22,000

from the very final days of the war.

674

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

Every home, shop, and office here was repurposed by the Nazis for the defense of Berlin.

675

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

And now, Jarek has gotten exclusive access to excavate in the ruins.

676

00:29:35,000 --> 00:29:39,000

This is the first time anyone has excavated this part of the town.

677

00:29:39,000 --> 00:29:42,000

And we, you and I, are here to see it.

678

00:29:43,000 --> 00:29:49,000

Also on site is Paweł Piakowicz, fresh from working on the MRU tunnels nearby.

679

00:29:49,000 --> 00:29:52,000

He's here to support his friend Jarek in his own excavations.

680

00:29:52,000 --> 00:29:54,000

Good to see you again.

681

00:29:54,000 --> 00:29:55,000

How are you?

682

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

Good, I'm feeling good.

683

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

Good.

684

00:29:57,000 --> 00:29:59,000

So, what are we working on here?

685

00:29:59,000 --> 00:30:03,000

There was once a building here, but this was the cellar entrance.

686

00:30:03,000 --> 00:30:05,000

Where's the entrance? What do you have?

687

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:06,000

Here.

688

00:30:06,000 --> 00:30:09,000

Oh, my word.

689

00:30:09,000 --> 00:30:12,000

So, what's down here?

690

00:30:12,000 --> 00:30:15,000

We found a few interesting things.

691

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

Interesting how?

692

00:30:16,000 --> 00:30:19,000

Items that seemed military issued.

693

00:30:19,000 --> 00:30:21,000

This was a command area?

694

00:30:21,000 --> 00:30:24,000

We think it was a place for high command officers.

695

00:30:25,000 --> 00:30:27,000

Can I see the things that you found?

696

00:30:27,000 --> 00:30:28,000

Yes.

697

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

Oh, they're still inside?

698

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

Yes.

699

00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:32,000

Oh.

700

00:30:32,000 --> 00:30:33,000

Meet first?

701

00:30:33,000 --> 00:30:34,000

Yes.

702

00:30:34,000 --> 00:30:35,000

Come on.

703

00:30:35,000 --> 00:30:37,000

There we go.

704

00:30:37,000 --> 00:30:38,000

Come on.

705

00:30:38,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Let's do it.

706

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:41,000

Oh, boy.

707

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

There's a lot of spider webs, which is good.

708

00:30:48,000 --> 00:30:50,000

Yes, feed first.

709

00:30:50,000 --> 00:30:52,000

Very good.

710

00:30:52,000 --> 00:30:54,000

I'm going to go to the next one.

711

00:30:54,000 --> 00:30:56,000

I'm going to go to the next one.

712

00:30:56,000 --> 00:30:58,000

I'm going to go to the next one.

713

00:30:58,000 --> 00:30:59,000

Excuse me.

714

00:30:59,000 --> 00:31:00,000

Excuse me.

715

00:31:00,000 --> 00:31:02,000

Very good.

716

00:31:02,000 --> 00:31:04,000

OK, I'm in.

717

00:31:04,000 --> 00:31:06,000

Where does this go?

718

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:07,000

No spider.

719

00:31:07,000 --> 00:31:09,000

There's a big spider right there.

720

00:31:09,000 --> 00:31:10,000

Holy.

721

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:12,000

There's a whole chamber down here.

722

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:17,000

OK, I'm in.

723

00:31:17,000 --> 00:31:19,000

I don't know what I'm in, but I'm in.

724

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

Beneath the flattened Polish city of Kostron,

725

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:24,000

I'm searching through long-sealed cellars

726

00:31:24,000 --> 00:31:28,000

that may contain relics from the final days of World War II.

727

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

Oh, my word.

728

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

Look at this.

729

00:31:32,000 --> 00:31:34,000

Oh, it goes way down.

730

00:31:34,000 --> 00:31:36,000

There's a whole chamber down here.

731

00:31:36,000 --> 00:31:37,000

Oh.

732

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:39,000

Look at this place.

733

00:31:39,000 --> 00:31:40,000

Hi, Joe.

734

00:31:40,000 --> 00:31:42,000

Hi.

735

00:31:42,000 --> 00:31:43,000

So it's huge.

736

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:45,000

How old are these chambers?

737

00:31:45,000 --> 00:31:47,000

This is very old.

738

00:31:47,000 --> 00:31:49,000

This is a medieval cellar.

739

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:51,000

It would have been used to store food,

740

00:31:51,000 --> 00:31:52,000

but when we opened it up,

741

00:31:52,000 --> 00:31:55,000

there were items to suggest the military was using it.

742

00:31:55,000 --> 00:31:58,000

And there's one more thing in here I really want to show you.

743

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

Yeah, what's here?

744

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:06,000

Is this electrical?

745

00:32:06,000 --> 00:32:08,000

There was no power in Kostrin,

746

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:11,000

so the Germans would connect their important buildings to generators.

747

00:32:11,000 --> 00:32:14,000

We also found things like this with batteries.

748

00:32:14,000 --> 00:32:16,000

Oh.

749

00:32:18,000 --> 00:32:21,000

We see volts here in a warning not to throw it

750

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:23,000

and to keep it away from water.

751

00:32:23,000 --> 00:32:25,000

And these are the battery cells here.

752

00:32:25,000 --> 00:32:26,000

Wow.

753

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:28,000

Would this have powered lights,

754

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

or is this like an emergency backup, you think?

755

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

We think it powered a radio.

756

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

Are there more rooms like this that were used by the Nazis?

757

00:32:35,000 --> 00:32:37,000

There are many, but they've been buried as well.

758

00:32:37,000 --> 00:32:40,000

We need to access them from back outside.

759

00:32:40,000 --> 00:32:41,000

Back up top?

760

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:42,000

Sure, yeah, show me.

761

00:32:42,000 --> 00:32:46,000

The ruins of this fortress have only begun to speak.

762

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:50,000

We climbed to the surface and had a few feet away to a sealed chamber

763

00:32:50,000 --> 00:32:52,000

that Jerich wants to investigate next.

764

00:32:52,000 --> 00:32:54,000

This is not the same chamber.

765

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:55,000

This is another chamber?

766

00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:57,000

This is near the chamber we were in,

767

00:32:57,000 --> 00:32:59,000

but we haven't been able to open it yet.

768

00:32:59,000 --> 00:33:01,000

Everything is collapsed.

769

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:03,000

It has been collapsed since 1945.

770

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:06,000

This looks blocked though, so how do we get in here?

771

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:08,000

You're going to have to dig.

772

00:33:08,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Dig with what?

773

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:10,000

A coparka.

774

00:33:10,000 --> 00:33:12,000

What's a coparka?

775

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:17,000

This is a coparka.

776

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:21,000

Since the Soviets burned this entire town down to rubble,

777

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

shovels aren't going to cut it.

778

00:33:23,000 --> 00:33:26,000

This excavator should be our ticket into the new chamber.

779

00:33:26,000 --> 00:33:28,000

Coparka.

780

00:33:28,000 --> 00:33:32,000

And it doesn't take long to open a door into the past.

781

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, hey!

782

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:36,000

Whoa, whoa, woo-wee!

783

00:33:36,000 --> 00:33:37,000

Ha-ha!

784

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:39,000

Look at that!

785

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:41,000

That's a chamber.

786

00:33:41,000 --> 00:33:46,000

This excavator is pulling up dirt that's filled this cellar for decades,

787

00:33:46,000 --> 00:33:50,000

and that dirt may be as valuable as anything inside.

788

00:34:01,000 --> 00:34:03,000

I thought it was a washer, but it looks stamped.

789

00:34:03,000 --> 00:34:04,000

You see this?

790

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

Oh, yeah.

791

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

10G. It's a weight.

792

00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:08,000

As our hole in the ground gets bigger,

793

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:12,000

Jerick can't wait to start exploring the newly exposed chamber.

794

00:34:12,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Moment.

795

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:15,000

Got something?

796

00:34:16,000 --> 00:34:17,000

What do you see?

797

00:34:17,000 --> 00:34:18,000

A stone.

798

00:34:19,000 --> 00:34:20,000

Ornate.

799

00:34:20,000 --> 00:34:23,000

This looks like the remains of a tile stove.

800

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:26,000

This is how they would heat these places back in the day.

801

00:34:29,000 --> 00:34:31,000

This is a fired artillery shell.

802

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

You can see this end of it's all deformed.

803

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

Holy s***.

804

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:41,000

As the hours pass, our one small excavation expands into a massive series of cellars.

805

00:34:41,000 --> 00:34:43,000

Oh, what is this?

806

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:45,000

For switches?

807

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:46,000

Yeah.

808

00:34:46,000 --> 00:34:47,000

This is from a radio, yeah?

809

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:49,000

Yes, a radio station.

810

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Radio station.

811

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:55,000

The radio part is a good sign that we are in a hub for the Fortress' Nazi command.

812

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:57,000

But that's not all we find.

813

00:34:57,000 --> 00:34:59,000

It's a military deslam.

814

00:34:59,000 --> 00:35:00,000

Part of a lamp.

815

00:35:00,000 --> 00:35:01,000

This is great. I love this.

816

00:35:01,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Yes.

817

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:03,000

I love lamp.

818

00:35:03,000 --> 00:35:04,000

An increment.

819

00:35:04,000 --> 00:35:05,000

No.

820

00:35:05,000 --> 00:35:06,000

Great find.

821

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:11,000

Soon though, the excavator punches through to a whole new level of excitement.

822

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

Got an opening.

823

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:18,000

It's really strange.

824

00:35:18,000 --> 00:35:23,000

It's like, it's framed off like it's a door, but then behind it, it just kind of narrows out.

825

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:26,000

We're at the top of the arch, so I think we need to go down more, yeah?

826

00:35:26,000 --> 00:35:27,000

Uh-huh.

827

00:35:27,000 --> 00:35:32,000

The Kaparka keeps digging for victory while we keep a safe distance away.

828

00:35:38,000 --> 00:35:40,000

Not too safe though.

829

00:35:40,000 --> 00:35:42,000

Back up! Back up!

830

00:35:44,000 --> 00:35:45,000

Good eye!

831

00:35:46,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Alright.

832

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:48,000

You okay?

833

00:35:48,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Okay.

834

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:50,000

Okay.

835

00:35:50,000 --> 00:35:52,000

We're weighed down in the hole now.

836

00:35:52,000 --> 00:35:55,000

I break out a metal detector to see what it can see.

837

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:08,000

Nail?

838

00:36:10,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Oh, hey! Hey, come here! Come here!

839

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:13,000

Look at this! Come here! Come here!

840

00:36:13,000 --> 00:36:14,000

Bubble!

841

00:36:14,000 --> 00:36:16,000

Look! Look! Look here!

842

00:36:16,000 --> 00:36:17,000

Oh, it's us!

843

00:36:18,000 --> 00:36:19,000

Container?

844

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:20,000

Yeah.

845

00:36:20,000 --> 00:36:21,000

How?

846

00:36:21,000 --> 00:36:22,000

How?

847

00:36:22,000 --> 00:36:23,000

Helmet?

848

00:36:23,000 --> 00:36:24,000

Yeah.

849

00:36:24,000 --> 00:36:25,000

That's a helmet?

850

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:26,000

Okay.

851

00:36:29,000 --> 00:36:30,000

Oh!

852

00:36:30,000 --> 00:36:31,000

Wow!

853

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:34,000

Unbelievable!

854

00:36:34,000 --> 00:36:41,000

The picturesque town of Poznan is home to a unique Polish treat.

855

00:36:41,000 --> 00:36:43,000

K■oszorogale Szwecje Marczynskie?

856

00:36:43,000 --> 00:36:44,000

Thank you.

857

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:46,000

All right, here's the deal.

858

00:36:46,000 --> 00:36:49,000

This is a Saint Martin's croissant.

859

00:36:49,000 --> 00:36:52,000

This is a government regulated pastry.

860

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:54,000

First of all, it can only be made here in Poznan.

861

00:36:54,000 --> 00:36:57,000

It is protected under law by the European Union.

862

00:36:57,000 --> 00:37:00,000

The recipe must be done to exact specifications.

863

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

It has to contain white poppy seeds, orange peel, crushed dates or figs, nuts, sugar icing.

864

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:13,000

It has 81 layers, not 80 layers, 81 layers, and I have never had one until this moment.

865

00:37:13,000 --> 00:37:14,000

Here we go.

866

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:16,000

Oh!

867

00:37:18,000 --> 00:37:19,000

It's bright!

868

00:37:19,000 --> 00:37:20,000

Yep!

869

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

How absolutely chilling is that?

870

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

German helmet.

871

00:37:38,000 --> 00:37:39,000

Yeah.

872

00:37:39,000 --> 00:37:44,000

In a destroyed fortress in Poland, I've just found a relic of the Nazi occupation here

873

00:37:44,000 --> 00:37:47,000

that was abandoned in the final days of World War II.

874

00:37:47,000 --> 00:37:48,000

Oh!

875

00:37:49,000 --> 00:37:53,000

This just connects you to this place in such a primal way.

876

00:37:53,000 --> 00:37:56,000

You know, it's like a person wore this.

877

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

A Nazi soldier wore this helmet.

878

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:04,000

It's kind of haunting.

879

00:38:04,000 --> 00:38:09,000

With the Red Army coming through here, I can't imagine many Germans survived this place.

880

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:12,000

You're holding history in your hands.

881

00:38:12,000 --> 00:38:13,000

It's powerful.

882

00:38:13,000 --> 00:38:15,000

Powerful stuff.

883

00:38:15,000 --> 00:38:18,000

Okay, here, let's keep that safe.

884

00:38:18,000 --> 00:38:20,000

We'll keep looking, see what else is here.

885

00:38:20,000 --> 00:38:22,000

Pavel, this is crazy.

886

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:37,000

Holy hell, look at this.

887

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:39,000

This goes way back.

888

00:38:39,000 --> 00:38:45,000

Okay, so obviously this roof is no guarantees here, guys, so be really, really cautious.

889

00:38:45,000 --> 00:38:48,000

We've got an outcove here on the left.

890

00:38:54,000 --> 00:38:55,000

Oh my God.

891

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:57,000

We've got more chambers down here.

892

00:38:57,000 --> 00:38:58,000

Look at this.

893

00:38:59,000 --> 00:39:04,000

Oh my God, we've got bottles, coffee cups, lamps, cooking pots.

894

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:08,000

You could just imagine a soldier right here.

895

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:12,000

You can see the roof is burned.

896

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:15,000

Yes, yeah, you can see burn marks in the ceiling.

897

00:39:15,000 --> 00:39:18,000

Oh, look at this bottle.

898

00:39:22,000 --> 00:39:26,000

It sounds like it's a kind of nerve tonic for stress.

899

00:39:26,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Fun fact, Brahm Nervisit was a barbiturate syrup prescribed to Hitler himself by his personal physician to counteract his rampant amphetamine use.

900

00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:37,000

Is this still sealed?

901

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

No, no, drink.

902

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

I'm not going to drink.

903

00:39:40,000 --> 00:39:42,000

How crazy do you think I am?

904

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:45,000

So far, so amazing.

905

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:49,000

Oh, wow, yes.

906

00:39:49,000 --> 00:39:51,000

What would run off of this high voltage?

907

00:39:51,000 --> 00:39:56,000

We can't know for sure, but this would have produced a lot of energy.

908

00:39:56,000 --> 00:40:01,000

Not all rooms had power supplies, so this room must have been very important.

909

00:40:01,000 --> 00:40:03,000

But wait, there's more.

910

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:05,000

Wow, look, gas mask.

911

00:40:06,000 --> 00:40:08,000

Oh my God.

912

00:40:08,000 --> 00:40:12,000

We've got a gas mask here, and here's the face piece right here.

913

00:40:12,000 --> 00:40:14,000

This is a blue gas mask.

914

00:40:14,000 --> 00:40:16,000

It indicates a non-magnetic mask.

915

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:20,000

These were issued to people near radio frequencies as to not interfere.

916

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:21,000

For radio?

917

00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:22,000

Yeah.

918

00:40:22,000 --> 00:40:25,000

So we've got high voltage, we've got this, maybe radio station.

919

00:40:25,000 --> 00:40:29,000

Yes, it looks like this is the fortress' radio room.

920

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:33,000

This would have been one of the most crucial places in the whole city to the Nazis.

921

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:39,000

And it isn't until we explore the back of the chamber that we learn exactly how crucial.

922

00:40:39,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Wow, look over here, Josh.

923

00:40:42,000 --> 00:40:43,000

Oh, this?

924

00:40:43,000 --> 00:40:44,000

Is it paper?

925

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:46,000

All of this is burned, look at this.

926

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:51,000

So we've got writing along the top here, different columns and rows that are labeled.

927

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:53,000

What is this exactly?

928

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:56,000

These look like they've been through decryption.

929

00:40:57,000 --> 00:41:02,000

I'm not 100% sure, but I think these are from an enigma.

930

00:41:03,000 --> 00:41:04,000

Enigma?

931

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:05,000

Yeah.

932

00:41:05,000 --> 00:41:08,000

These were used with enigma machines.

933

00:41:08,000 --> 00:41:10,000

They look to me like they are.

934

00:41:11,000 --> 00:41:12,000

Okay.

935

00:41:12,000 --> 00:41:13,000

Wow.

936

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:18,000

These papers, many now burned and black, appear to be products of enigma.

937

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:25,000

A complex encryption device used by all branches of the German military to send top secret communications.

938

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:31,000

From the outside, it resembled a humble typewriter, but looks are deceiving.

939

00:41:31,000 --> 00:41:37,000

Enigma could scramble a message into hundreds of millions of possible permutations.

940

00:41:37,000 --> 00:41:47,000

The consequences were catastrophic, allowing German forces across land, sea and air to communicate their movements without fear of compromise.

941

00:41:47,000 --> 00:41:58,000

It was only when British mathematician Alan Turing and the team at Bletchley Park, England cracked the enigma code that the tide of the war turned to the side of the Allies.

942

00:41:58,000 --> 00:42:05,000

To find out what these communiques were telling the Nazis, I rush back to the surface to find our translator, Oliver.

943

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:06,000

What does it say, Oliver?

944

00:42:06,000 --> 00:42:07,000

Okay, okay.

945

00:42:07,000 --> 00:42:08,000

This writing on this, what does it say?

946

00:42:08,000 --> 00:42:15,000

Also, receiving some devices at a location.

947

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:17,000

So they're receiving some sort of devices here.

948

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:19,000

Basically, receive some sort of device.

949

00:42:19,000 --> 00:42:22,000

There's definitely something here, but it's difficult to make out.

950

00:42:22,000 --> 00:42:27,000

We go to a section of the dig shielded from the wind to try to get a closer look.

951

00:42:27,000 --> 00:42:28,000

Here you go, this page.

952

00:42:28,000 --> 00:42:31,000

The pages are frighteningly brittle.

953

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:35,000

The only way to separate them is with the razor sharp edge of a knife.

954

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:52,000

Meeting, okay, age from 14 something on the fourth of 14th of January was coming here.

955

00:42:52,000 --> 00:43:01,000

It was one of the most important camps in the war, while the second war was under construction.

956

00:43:01,000 --> 00:43:07,000

It was at the same time about prisoners that have been kept here.

957

00:43:07,000 --> 00:43:14,000

I'm reading this on the fly, but it refers to the war-crowded camp Stahlag.

958

00:43:14,000 --> 00:43:15,000

Altrewiez.

959

00:43:15,000 --> 00:43:16,000

A prison camp.

960

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:19,000

Prison camp at Küstrin, which is close to here.

961

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:20,000

And OKH is...

962

00:43:20,000 --> 00:43:21,000

Oberkommando.

963

00:43:21,000 --> 00:43:22,000

Oberkommando.

964

00:43:22,000 --> 00:43:29,000

So something to do with the high-ranking commander and this field post, which involves a prison camp near here.

965

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:30,000

Yes.

966

00:43:30,000 --> 00:43:34,000

We'll photograph all the pages we can see, and I think we'll leave the rest aside.

967

00:43:34,000 --> 00:43:37,000

Somebody may be able to carefully separate the pages later.

968

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:38,000

I don't want to mess them up.

969

00:43:38,000 --> 00:43:45,000

The paperwork, likely a transfer order for prisoners, would have been encrypted, which means Enigma was nearby.

970

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:55,000

More importantly, it confirms this very spot is where orders from Berlin would be received, decoded, and then relayed to commanders above.

971

00:43:55,000 --> 00:44:01,000

We've made a huge discovery, and Jarek has only scratched the surface, literally.

972

00:44:01,000 --> 00:44:06,000

While he continues to dig even deeper, I have a surprise engagement.

973

00:44:06,000 --> 00:44:14,000

I've been summoned to return to the National Museum in Warsaw, and it's a big enough deal that I'm actually putting on a tie.

974

00:44:16,000 --> 00:44:20,000

Inside, I rejoin historian Robert Edsel.

975

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:21,000

Robert.

976

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:22,000

Hey, how you doing?

977

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:23,000

Great to see you again.

978

00:44:23,000 --> 00:44:24,000

You too.

979

00:44:24,000 --> 00:44:25,000

You look great.

980

00:44:25,000 --> 00:44:26,000

Hell, you too.

981

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:27,000

Everything OK?

982

00:44:27,000 --> 00:44:28,000

Everything's great.

983

00:44:28,000 --> 00:44:29,000

Come on up.

984

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:30,000

This is going to be quite an event.

985

00:44:30,000 --> 00:44:31,000

That's just amazing.

986

00:44:31,000 --> 00:44:38,000

I learned that here in Warsaw, art historians have confirmed that the frame we recovered from the MRU tunnels is likely French and from the 19th century.

987

00:44:38,000 --> 00:44:43,000

Its ornate design wasn't carved, but molded from something called composition.

988

00:44:43,000 --> 00:44:47,000

Calcium carbonate mixed with linseed oil and glue.

989

00:44:47,000 --> 00:44:55,000

The glass in the frame indicates that it might have housed a work on paper, a drawing as opposed to an oil painting.

990

00:44:55,000 --> 00:44:59,000

And speaking of drawings, it turns out Robert has an astounding surprise.

991

00:44:59,000 --> 00:45:09,000

The Monuments Men Foundation is repatriating two important works of art that their team recently recovered, and they're about to be given a heroic welcome home.

992

00:45:09,000 --> 00:45:13,000

My friend Josh Gates from the United States, we're really pleased that you're here.

993

00:45:13,000 --> 00:45:22,000

This is an important day for Poland, and it is also an important day for the Monuments Men Foundation for the preservation of art.

994

00:45:22,000 --> 00:45:35,000

Our discovery and return of these two drawings by Adolf Kaczarski to the National Museum in Warsaw, and they define the remarkable work of the Monuments Men and Women of World War II.

995

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:44,000

To the victors do not belong the spoils of war. They should be returned to the rightful owners.

996

00:45:44,000 --> 00:45:51,000

19th century artist Adolf Kaczarski was known for his portrayal of architecture and landscapes.

997

00:45:51,000 --> 00:45:59,000

The museum in Warsaw houses three of his oil paintings and over a dozen of his drawings, including these, which were looted by the Nazis.

998

00:45:59,000 --> 00:46:11,000

They then transferred these objects and hid them in Fishhorn Castle in Austria, residence of SS General Fiegl, brother-in-law to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

999

00:46:11,000 --> 00:46:19,000

In August of 1945, Monuments Men Lieutenant Fred Hart reached the castle, but some of the looted objects had gone missing.

1000

00:46:19,000 --> 00:46:27,000

Among them, these two pieces. One in ink and one in graphite, which show the villages of Lipno and Zagorov.

1001

00:46:27,000 --> 00:46:36,000

Irreplaceable depictions of a time that no longer exists. They were located by Robert and his team in private hands in America.

1002

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:56,000

Today, 77 years after being looted, these two drawings are now home. Art connects us to the past. Art lifts our souls. Art enriches the human spirit.

1003

00:46:58,000 --> 00:47:11,000

During this visit to Poland, I've spent long days and nights digging through the earth to find artifacts, art, and answers about the Nazi occupation here.

1004

00:47:11,000 --> 00:47:17,000

What we've uncovered adds to the ongoing story and remembrance of World War II.

1005

00:47:17,000 --> 00:47:24,000

But even though a destroyed Poland can be rebuilt, the millions of dead remain, deeply felt in their absence.

1006

00:47:24,000 --> 00:47:33,000

As important works of art are repatriated, some frames remain empty, with countless masterpieces still missing or in disputed hands.

1007

00:47:33,000 --> 00:47:43,000

And even though the original Nazis have died or aged into senescence, a bold new generation has risen to embrace their toxic view of the world.

1008

00:47:43,000 --> 00:47:59,000

And so it is essential to continue the fight, to try and restore balance in an unbalanced world, and to never stop unearthing and learning from the past, so that we never walk these dark roads again in the future.