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

I think everybody's heard of the Knights Templar.

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

But how much of it is true? How powerful were they?

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

They are extraordinarily wealthy.

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

If you want a legend, if you want treasure.

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

Right.

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

That's enough to start the story.

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

Sure.

8

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

There were terrible rituals.

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

And where do we get this idea that they held the Holy Grail?

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

This wasn't a ragtag group of knights.

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

No, no, these guys were very highly organized, very well trained.

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

Okay, headed down.

13

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

Got something different here.

14

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

There is no doubt in my mind at all that there is something hidden here,

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

and I've got the evidence to prove it.

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

Okay, here we go, fire in the hole.

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

Oh, there's a void here. Come here, look, look, look.

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

Wait, is this a skull?

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

Oh, my word.

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00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:08,000

The Order of the Knights Templar.

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00:01:08,000 --> 00:01:11,000

Born out of the Crusades in the 12th century,

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

it was one of the most powerful and secretive organizations on Earth.

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00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Founded to protect pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land,

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00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:23,000

the Templars grew to become Europe's largest standing army since the Roman Empire,

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00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:26,000

accumulating unfathomable wealth.

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00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:33,000

But suddenly, in 1312, the Order was accused of heresy and disbanded.

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00:01:33,000 --> 00:01:38,000

Its members were arrested, and its leaders burned at the stake.

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00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,000

To this day, myths and conspiracy theories have shrouded the Templars' true history.

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00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:46,000

So, who were they really?

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00:01:46,000 --> 00:01:49,000

What happened to their legendary treasury?

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00:01:49,000 --> 00:01:56,000

And is there any basis for the rumor that they held the greatest relic in Christendom, the Holy Grail?

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00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:05,000

Archaeologists, religious zealots, Indiana Jones all have searched the world over for proof of the Templar treasure.

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

Other than Indy, all have come up empty.

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00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:10,000

But that may be about to change.

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00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:18,000

In a crumbling manor house in England, a newly discovered underground passage may lead to Templar riches.

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00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:24,000

And in Poland, an archaeologist is investigating a sealed tower in a Templar church

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00:02:24,000 --> 00:02:30,000

that may unlock the secrets of the Order's meteoric rise and dramatic fall.

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00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:37,000

So, choose wisely and join me on a hunt for the truth behind the Knights Templar.

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00:02:41,000 --> 00:02:43,000

My name is Josh Gates.

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00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:44,000

Hello!

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00:02:44,000 --> 00:02:45,000

Explorer.

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00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:47,000

Adventurer.

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00:02:47,000 --> 00:02:48,000

Amazing.

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

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

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00:02:52,000 --> 00:02:54,000

That was exciting.

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00:02:54,000 --> 00:02:58,000

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

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

I travel to the ends of the earth, investigating the greatest legends in history.

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

Okay, let's punch it.

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

This is Expedition Unknown.

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00:03:11,000 --> 00:03:17,000

My hunt for Templar truth and treasure starts in Jolly Old England.

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00:03:17,000 --> 00:03:22,000

As much as I'd like to see the sights here in London and eat my weight in fish and chips,

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00:03:22,000 --> 00:03:25,000

I'm on a quest to find the Holy Grail.

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

Okay, that might be a long shot, but I am here to investigate the mysterious group,

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00:03:30,000 --> 00:03:32,000

rumored to have once held it.

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00:03:32,000 --> 00:03:36,000

To do that, I'm passing through one of the oldest parts of the city.

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00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,000

This is Temple Bargate.

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00:03:38,000 --> 00:03:42,000

In the Middle Ages, it was the most important entrance to the city of London,

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00:03:42,000 --> 00:03:45,000

linking the Palace of Westminster to the Tower of London.

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00:03:45,000 --> 00:03:50,000

And just beyond it lies the former headquarters of the Knights Templar in England.

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00:03:51,000 --> 00:03:54,000

Down a narrow alley, tucked away from the modern world,

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

I find a circular church that looks a bit like a medieval castle.

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

I'm here to meet Dr. Jones.

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

No, not that one.

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

The Reverend Robin Griffith Jones.

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

He doesn't carry a bullwhip, but he did write the book on the Knights Templar, literally.

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00:04:11,000 --> 00:04:12,000

Reverend.

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00:04:12,000 --> 00:04:14,000

Josh, good morning. Hello. How very nice to see you. How are you?

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00:04:14,000 --> 00:04:15,000

Very nice to meet you.

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00:04:15,000 --> 00:04:16,000

Welcome to the Temple Church.

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00:04:16,000 --> 00:04:17,000

I mean, breathtaking.

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00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,000

Isn't it just under the morning like this? Isn't it gorgeous? Absolutely wonderful.

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00:04:21,000 --> 00:04:22,000

It's incredible.

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

I want to make sure I get your title correct. It's a very specific title.

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

I hope you get it right too.

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00:04:31,000 --> 00:04:35,000

You are the Reverend and valiant master of that temple.

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00:04:35,000 --> 00:04:37,000

Does that come with a sword and a shield?

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00:04:37,000 --> 00:04:39,000

Well, he did. 800 years ago he did.

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00:04:39,000 --> 00:04:42,000

It's now just has a clerical collar. You know, same difference.

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00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:43,000

Same difference, exactly.

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00:04:43,000 --> 00:04:47,000

So I think everybody's heard of the Knights Templar, right?

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00:04:47,000 --> 00:04:48,000

True.

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00:04:48,000 --> 00:04:53,000

But I think people know them from Indiana Jones and the Da Vinci Code and conspiracy stories.

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

I think if you really pressed somebody and said, who were they,

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00:04:56,000 --> 00:04:59,000

that they wouldn't really know. What's the real story?

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

Well, it starts in the 1099 when the Christians take Jerusalem for the first time in hundreds of years.

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

The center of the Christian world had been under Muslim control.

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

That is, until the first crusade recaptured the Holy City.

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00:05:13,000 --> 00:05:19,000

It becomes a pilgrimage destination, but the journey from Europe is long, perilous and expensive.

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00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:22,000

Ambush attacks and robberies are common.

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00:05:22,000 --> 00:05:25,000

And from this problem, a solution is born.

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00:05:25,000 --> 00:05:30,000

In 1119, thereabouts a group of nine French soldiers, knights,

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00:05:30,000 --> 00:05:36,000

go to the King of Jerusalem and say, we would like to form an order of monks,

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00:05:36,000 --> 00:05:41,000

and we will also be warriors. We will protect pilgrims.

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00:05:41,000 --> 00:05:43,000

So this is a kind of funny marriage, right?

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00:05:43,000 --> 00:05:45,000

It's a very funny marriage indeed.

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00:05:45,000 --> 00:05:49,000

And to be really honest, the first few years nobody knew what to make of them.

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00:05:49,000 --> 00:05:53,000

I mean, it's really wrong. Monks pray, soldiers kill.

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00:05:53,000 --> 00:05:58,000

But this medieval collective did both jobs very well, especially the killing part.

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00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:01,000

Their fighting skills became legendary.

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

And to make yet another George Lucas reference, the original outline for Star Wars

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

called the pious, lightsaber-wielding warrior's Jedi Templar,

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

which was of course later changed to Jedi Knights.

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00:06:14,000 --> 00:06:21,000

At their height, the Templars build how many fortresses, how many churches around Europe in the Holy Land?

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00:06:21,000 --> 00:06:24,000

There are hundreds of commanderies.

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00:06:24,000 --> 00:06:28,000

Within England itself, there were 14 or 15 round churches like this,

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00:06:28,000 --> 00:06:30,000

only four actually survived.

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00:06:30,000 --> 00:06:31,000

Just in England?

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

Just in England.

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00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:36,000

What started as an order of just nine men grew into a large-scale,

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00:06:36,000 --> 00:06:40,000

global organization that lasted almost two centuries.

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00:06:40,000 --> 00:06:45,000

Round churches like this were modeled after the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem,

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00:06:45,000 --> 00:06:50,000

clever branding that connected the Templars to the final resting place of Jesus.

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00:06:50,000 --> 00:06:54,000

And it paid off. Protecting pilgrims became big business.

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00:06:54,000 --> 00:06:59,000

Because of course, you rarely keep your pilgrims safe if you keep the kingdom safe.

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

Yes.

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

This means they have to build an extraordinary system of endowments, land, treasure, and cash.

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00:07:08,000 --> 00:07:14,000

Wealthy pilgrims regularly deposited funds with the Templars at the beginning of their journey to the Holy Land,

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00:07:14,000 --> 00:07:16,000

in exchange for a promissory note.

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00:07:16,000 --> 00:07:20,000

And then collected cash as needed at outposts along the way,

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00:07:20,000 --> 00:07:23,000

the feudal equivalent of travellers checks.

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00:07:23,000 --> 00:07:29,000

This makes them far more than just protectors of pilgrims in the Holy Land.

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00:07:29,000 --> 00:07:36,000

They become essential to Europe's diplomatic, unpolitical, and financial life.

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00:07:36,000 --> 00:07:39,000

The Templars became a transnational corporation,

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00:07:39,000 --> 00:07:45,000

and tax-free donations from kingdoms and wealthy patrons made them richer than most nations.

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00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:48,000

Today, on the Order of Billions.

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00:07:48,000 --> 00:07:52,000

Among their holdings, at least according to legend, were the treasures of Solomon's temple,

127

00:07:52,000 --> 00:07:56,000

including the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail.

128

00:07:56,000 --> 00:08:00,000

So for a while, things are going great for the Templars.

129

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

More than.

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00:08:01,000 --> 00:08:02,000

More than, right?

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

And the nerve center of all of it for them is Jerusalem.

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

Yes, yes.

133

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

And then what happens there?

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00:08:08,000 --> 00:08:16,000

Well, the real crisis point is 1291, when the last foothold of the Christian presence in the Holy Land is over.

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00:08:18,000 --> 00:08:24,000

The Holy Land falls back into Muslim hands, and the Templars find themselves without a mission.

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00:08:24,000 --> 00:08:29,000

Yet they remain very wealthy and very powerful, and this rubs many the wrong way.

137

00:08:29,000 --> 00:08:33,000

Who ultimately is the one who's going to twist the knife in them?

138

00:08:33,000 --> 00:08:35,000

Philip the Fire King of France.

139

00:08:35,000 --> 00:08:40,000

Deeply in debt to the Templars and unnerved by their military might and religious authority,

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00:08:40,000 --> 00:08:44,000

King Philip goes on the attack the Old Fashion Way, by starting rumors.

141

00:08:44,000 --> 00:08:50,000

Rumors that the secret initiation ceremonies of the Templar were steeped in heresy.

142

00:08:50,000 --> 00:08:57,000

In 1307, there were these charges that at the initiation ceremonies, there were terrible rituals.

143

00:08:57,000 --> 00:09:01,000

Denying Christ, urinating on the cross.

144

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

I mean, you know, the list goes on. Most of this is clearly malarkey.

145

00:09:05,000 --> 00:09:08,000

But there was no way of disproving the charges.

146

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

Right.

147

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

Tortured into false confessions, many Templars were burned at the stake.

148

00:09:13,000 --> 00:09:16,000

The order was disbanded and exiled.

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00:09:16,000 --> 00:09:20,000

In one fell swoop, the Knights Templar were no more.

150

00:09:20,000 --> 00:09:22,000

But what happened to all of their wealth?

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00:09:22,000 --> 00:09:30,000

All of this business about Templar treasure and all of the hordes of things they had and relics from the Holy Land.

152

00:09:30,000 --> 00:09:34,000

I mean, where do we get this idea that these things are still out there?

153

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

They were genuinely wealthy.

154

00:09:36,000 --> 00:09:42,000

There is one story that on the night before the arrest, 12 Knights Templar were seen leaving Paris with some treasure

155

00:09:42,000 --> 00:09:44,000

and they got onto 18 chimps and...

156

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:45,000

Vanished.

157

00:09:45,000 --> 00:09:46,000

Completely vanished.

158

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:47,000

Dot, dot, dot.

159

00:09:47,000 --> 00:09:49,000

Absolutely, dot, dot, dot.

160

00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:56,000

This unfinished story that a group of Templar Knights escaped by sea with treasure has fueled centuries of theories.

161

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:01,000

I thank Dr. Jones and take to the English countryside to connect the dots.

162

00:10:01,000 --> 00:10:06,000

My trusty steed for this journey is a very British triumph scrambler.

163

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

And just like the Templars, this steel horse can go wherever it wants, which makes me one very happy pilgrim.

164

00:10:15,000 --> 00:10:23,000

Researchers tracing the fleet of escaping Templar ships that left France have focused on England as a probable destination.

165

00:10:23,000 --> 00:10:25,000

But where exactly?

166

00:10:25,000 --> 00:10:33,000

Well, to find out, I'm motoring two hours north of London to a historic town where a hunt for Templar treasure is under way.

167

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

Welcome to Burton Upon Trent.

168

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:52,000

This was once the beer-brewing capital of the world, thanks to the monks at nearby Burton Abbey, who started brewing in the 11th century.

169

00:10:52,000 --> 00:11:00,000

The abbey is long gone, but the monks controlled another property in the area, one with direct ties to the Knights Templar.

170

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

This is Sinai Park House, once a grand manor.

171

00:11:04,000 --> 00:11:07,000

Today, it's undergoing major restoration.

172

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

I'm here to meet with the properties caretaker Kate Murphy and lawyer and historian David Adkins.

173

00:11:13,000 --> 00:11:14,000

Hi, Josh.

174

00:11:14,000 --> 00:11:15,000

Kate?

175

00:11:15,000 --> 00:11:16,000

Yeah, absolutely.

176

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

Nice to meet you.

177

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

David?

178

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

Nice to meet you.

179

00:11:19,000 --> 00:11:20,000

Pleasure to meet you.

180

00:11:20,000 --> 00:11:22,000

I'm the elephant in the room here.

181

00:11:24,000 --> 00:11:27,000

I can't help but notice it needs a little work.

182

00:11:27,000 --> 00:11:30,000

Just a little bit of a do-or-up, as they would say.

183

00:11:30,000 --> 00:11:32,000

So, David, you're the historian here.

184

00:11:32,000 --> 00:11:34,000

Take me through some history.

185

00:11:34,000 --> 00:11:36,000

How old is this property?

186

00:11:36,000 --> 00:11:38,000

What's the timeline of this place?

187

00:11:38,000 --> 00:11:43,000

The first house to be built here was a manor house, going around 1066, just after the Norman conquest.

188

00:11:43,000 --> 00:11:49,000

And the only other property that's comparable is Burton Abbey, another stone building, about two miles in that direction.

189

00:11:49,000 --> 00:11:52,000

Right. There was a big, powerful abbey here, yes?

190

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:53,000

Massively powerful.

191

00:11:53,000 --> 00:11:55,000

It was the most powerful abbey in central England.

192

00:11:55,000 --> 00:11:59,000

The temple of connection with Burton and Sinai starts after 1307.

193

00:11:59,000 --> 00:12:04,000

The French king was determined to get rid of the Templars to break the temple of power.

194

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

So they were driven from Paris, and they loaded all the treasure that had come from Jerusalem onto a ship at the port of La Rochelle,

195

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

and they depart from that port and sail away into the night.

196

00:12:15,000 --> 00:12:16,000

The treasure is never seen again.

197

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:20,000

So how do we get these Templars from France to Burton?

198

00:12:20,000 --> 00:12:24,000

They sailed to England because it was the nearest country they could go to away from France.

199

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:27,000

And also the monks of Burton Abbey were notoriously corrupt.

200

00:12:27,000 --> 00:12:32,000

You could buy the monks of Burton Abbey if you had money and needed a favor.

201

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

The monks of Burton Abbey would be the people you would turn to.

202

00:12:35,000 --> 00:12:36,000

How do we put them here?

203

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:45,000

When the Templars leave Paris in 1307, soon after that date, the monks of Burton Abbey take control of Sinai House.

204

00:12:45,000 --> 00:12:52,000

There's long been a rumor for centuries of a tunnel linking Sinai House to Burton Abbey down there in the Trent Valley.

205

00:12:52,000 --> 00:12:54,000

Has anybody investigated that?

206

00:12:54,000 --> 00:13:04,000

Yes. In the 1880s, a group of local professional people, doctors and lawyers, and they get together and investigate what's under Sinai House.

207

00:13:04,000 --> 00:13:05,000

And do they find anything?

208

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:14,000

Yes. They went into the cellar, they broke through a tiny archway, and they went underground for a quarter of a mile.

209

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

David believes that the tunnel was used by the Templars as a hiding place for the treasure they smuggled out of France.

210

00:13:21,000 --> 00:13:26,000

So as a historian, could those stories be true? Do you think there's really something hidden here?

211

00:13:26,000 --> 00:13:32,000

Absolutely. There is no doubt in my mind at all that there is something hidden here, and I've got the evidence to prove it.

212

00:13:32,000 --> 00:13:34,000

So what is that evidence?

213

00:13:34,000 --> 00:13:37,000

We have a press article here.

214

00:13:37,000 --> 00:13:46,000

It says that explorers succeeded in finding the underground passage entrance, and after proceeding about a quarter of a mile were overcome by fumes.

215

00:13:46,000 --> 00:13:48,000

And then what? They turned back in this tunnel?

216

00:13:48,000 --> 00:13:51,000

They turned back, and it was never investigated again.

217

00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:56,000

Is there anything to corroborate this? Like is there any physical evidence in the house that this

actually happened?

218

00:13:56,000 --> 00:14:00,000

Yes, absolutely. There are things in Sinai House that you absolutely must come and see.

219

00:14:00,000 --> 00:14:01,000

Please.

220

00:14:01,000 --> 00:14:03,000

Follow me.

221

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

Whoa. This is, I mean, I feel like I've just stepped into a time machine.

222

00:14:15,000 --> 00:14:19,000

Well, we are in the 13-14-hundreds here, so I guess you have.

223

00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:21,000

Okay, well, we're going down.

224

00:14:26,000 --> 00:14:29,000

Whoa. Look at this place.

225

00:14:29,000 --> 00:14:33,000

Oh man, look at this brickwork. This is crazy.

226

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

Oh my word, there's something there.

227

00:14:38,000 --> 00:14:45,000

I'm investigating an historic manor house in England in search of a secret tunnel which could lead to Knight's Templar treasure.

228

00:14:45,000 --> 00:14:53,000

Welcome to Sinai's Medieval Cellars, and this is the thing that we wanted to show you, because clearly there's something going on with this wall.

229

00:14:53,000 --> 00:14:58,000

It looks like, you can see this seam here, it looks like something's been bricked up.

230

00:14:58,000 --> 00:14:59,000

Yeah.

231

00:14:59,000 --> 00:15:01,000

And what is this?

232

00:15:01,000 --> 00:15:06,000

It looks like, you can see this seam here, it looks like something's been bricked up.

233

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

Yeah.

234

00:15:07,000 --> 00:15:16,000

And what is so intriguing about it is that it just fits like lock and key with this newspaper story and this account of some sort of tunnel here.

235

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

Yeah.

236

00:15:17,000 --> 00:15:21,000

Can we look behind this wall? Can we try to get back there?

237

00:15:21,000 --> 00:15:25,000

As long as we don't have the building falling down, then yeah, absolutely.

238

00:15:25,000 --> 00:15:27,000

We do want to avoid the building falling off.

239

00:15:28,000 --> 00:15:37,000

Against a wall yet undeterred, Kate and David have arranged for Mason Dave Shepherd to carefully drill into the brick and hopefully get a look at what's behind it.

240

00:15:37,000 --> 00:15:39,000

Okay, so what's the plan here?

241

00:15:39,000 --> 00:15:44,000

Right, first off, what we're going to do is we're going to drill a hole straight the way through to try and get a camera in.

242

00:15:44,000 --> 00:15:46,000

State camera, yeah, okay, great.

243

00:15:46,000 --> 00:15:51,000

Once we drill through, past the resistance, we'll know, get a basic idea of how thick the wall is.

244

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

Okay, should we drill?

245

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:53,000

Yep, let's do it.

246

00:15:53,000 --> 00:15:54,000

Come on.

247

00:15:55,000 --> 00:16:02,000

It's time to drill baby drill. Dave starts with a small masonry bit so he doesn't crack the whole wall.

248

00:16:02,000 --> 00:16:04,000

Okay, here we go, fire in the hole.

249

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

We drill cautiously into the centuries old mortar.

250

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

Until finally...

251

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

Oh, we're through.

252

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

It went through about where?

253

00:16:22,000 --> 00:16:23,000

About there.

254

00:16:23,000 --> 00:16:25,000

So two or three layers of bricks?

255

00:16:25,000 --> 00:16:26,000

Yeah.

256

00:16:26,000 --> 00:16:27,000

But then no resistance?

257

00:16:27,000 --> 00:16:28,000

Not at all, no.

258

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

Okay, so there's something back there.

259

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

We widen the hole just enough to get a look inside.

260

00:16:36,000 --> 00:16:39,000

Snake cam, going in.

261

00:16:41,000 --> 00:16:43,000

Okay, going through the brick here.

262

00:16:45,000 --> 00:16:47,000

It looks like a loose rock beyond the brick.

263

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:49,000

Let's pass that.

264

00:16:51,000 --> 00:16:52,000

Oh, oh, there's a void here.

265

00:16:52,000 --> 00:16:53,000

Come here, look, look, look.

266

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

That's all hollow space there.

267

00:16:57,000 --> 00:16:58,000

There was something back here.

268

00:16:58,000 --> 00:17:01,000

It looks like whatever it is, it's collapsed in.

269

00:17:01,000 --> 00:17:06,000

So possibly it was a tunnel or something that's collapsed in on itself.

270

00:17:06,000 --> 00:17:09,000

I mean, this could have been a tunnel, for sure.

271

00:17:09,000 --> 00:17:11,000

But if it was, it's totally collapsed.

272

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

There is no way through this debris.

273

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

I do see a chalice sitting on a table.

274

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

Is that significant?

275

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

Probably not.

276

00:17:19,000 --> 00:17:21,000

Yeah, no, we'll just ignore that.

277

00:17:22,000 --> 00:17:25,000

But I don't think there's a way through from this side

278

00:17:25,000 --> 00:17:27,000

without ripping this entire thing apart,

279

00:17:27,000 --> 00:17:30,000

which, you know, is going to bring a lot of house down on top of us, I think.

280

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

Yeah, that's probably not a good idea.

281

00:17:33,000 --> 00:17:36,000

Yeah, so we can try to attack it from the surface

282

00:17:36,000 --> 00:17:39,000

and see, you know, if we can go above.

283

00:17:39,000 --> 00:17:40,000

Yes.

284

00:17:40,000 --> 00:17:41,000

To figure out where this went.

285

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:44,000

Having discovered what may be the remains of a tunnel,

286

00:17:44,000 --> 00:17:48,000

we excitedly returned to the surface to search from the top down.

287

00:17:48,000 --> 00:17:50,000

Kate calls in some reinforcements to help,

288

00:17:50,000 --> 00:17:53,000

and as it turns out, they're familiar faces.

289

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

Well, Josh, there's a few folks I'd like you to meet.

290

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:57,000

I believe you already know John.

291

00:17:57,000 --> 00:17:58,000

John, good to see you again.

292

00:17:58,000 --> 00:17:59,000

Good to see you. I'm Norrie.

293

00:17:59,000 --> 00:18:01,000

Norrie, pleasure from our Boudica investigation.

294

00:18:01,000 --> 00:18:02,000

Absolutely.

295

00:18:02,000 --> 00:18:03,000

That was a very exciting day.

296

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

I think there was more coins in one place than I've ever seen.

297

00:18:05,000 --> 00:18:11,000

We have 6, 12, 18, 24, 25 coins.

298

00:18:11,000 --> 00:18:12,000

Fantastic.

299

00:18:12,000 --> 00:18:14,000

And this is Dee Hillier, archaeologist.

300

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:15,000

Hello.

301

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:16,000

Dee, a real pleasure to meet you.

302

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

Pleasure to meet you too.

303

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

And I see a trusty ground penetrating radar here.

304

00:18:19,000 --> 00:18:20,000

Yes, definitely.

305

00:18:20,000 --> 00:18:22,000

So, OK, what's the plan for today?

306

00:18:22,000 --> 00:18:23,000

Well, it's such a historical site.

307

00:18:23,000 --> 00:18:26,000

We want to have a look around and see what there is.

308

00:18:26,000 --> 00:18:28,000

We're not sure what's going to be under the ground,

309

00:18:28,000 --> 00:18:30,000

but it'd be fascinating to find out and see.

310

00:18:30,000 --> 00:18:32,000

Yeah, I mean, just down in the basement,

311

00:18:32,000 --> 00:18:35,000

there's clearly evidence of, you know,

312

00:18:35,000 --> 00:18:37,000

an arch door that must have gone somewhere.

313

00:18:37,000 --> 00:18:39,000

So, I mean, anything could be down here, I suppose.

314

00:18:39,000 --> 00:18:41,000

Yeah, we could have a good look and see.

315

00:18:41,000 --> 00:18:42,000

Yeah.

316

00:18:44,000 --> 00:18:47,000

We start our GPR scan in an open field outside the manor,

317

00:18:47,000 --> 00:18:50,000

following a path from the direction of the bricked up tunnel

318

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

to ward what was once Burt Naby,

319

00:18:52,000 --> 00:18:55,000

while John carefully monitors the results.

320

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:58,000

This might look like a very simple machine,

321

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,000

but in fact, it's doing something pretty slick.

322

00:19:01,000 --> 00:19:04,000

The machine pulses radar signals down into the Earth,

323

00:19:04,000 --> 00:19:06,000

which reflect back up to the machine.

324

00:19:06,000 --> 00:19:10,000

We'll mark any disturbances with a flag to investigate further.

325

00:19:10,000 --> 00:19:13,000

Hopefully, underneath one of them will be a Templar tunnel.

326

00:19:15,000 --> 00:19:16,000

How am I doing, Dee?

327

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

Oh, brilliantly. Just keep it nice and straight.

328

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

Thank you. I used to mow lawns as a kid, so...

329

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

Really? Did you make much money?

330

00:19:23,000 --> 00:19:25,000

No, and nothing's changed.

331

00:19:28,000 --> 00:19:30,000

We meticulously run the GPR up and down

332

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

long stretches of the property near the house,

333

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

leaving a trail of flags in our wake.

334

00:19:37,000 --> 00:19:38,000

Stop.

335

00:19:38,000 --> 00:19:39,000

You got something?

336

00:19:39,000 --> 00:19:40,000

Yes. Dee?

337

00:19:40,000 --> 00:19:41,000

Yeah.

338

00:19:41,000 --> 00:19:42,000

Can we have a flag there, please?

339

00:19:44,000 --> 00:19:45,000

Press on.

340

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

OK.

341

00:19:46,000 --> 00:19:47,000

Be ready.

342

00:19:50,000 --> 00:19:51,000

Stop.

343

00:19:51,000 --> 00:19:52,000

More?

344

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:53,000

Just back a touch.

345

00:19:53,000 --> 00:19:54,000

Back.

346

00:19:55,000 --> 00:19:56,000

That's it.

347

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

Stop.

348

00:20:01,000 --> 00:20:03,000

Yeah, OK. Flag there, please, Dee.

349

00:20:05,000 --> 00:20:06,000

Dammit.

350

00:20:06,000 --> 00:20:09,000

Whatever these targets are, look how evenly spaced they are.

351

00:20:09,000 --> 00:20:10,000

Yeah.

352

00:20:10,000 --> 00:20:11,000

About two metres apart.

353

00:20:11,000 --> 00:20:12,000

So, let's see how far this goes.

354

00:20:12,000 --> 00:20:13,000

Yeah, OK.

355

00:20:16,000 --> 00:20:17,000

Stop.

356

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

So, same thing.

357

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

We've got kind of matching targets on either side of the driveway.

358

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

Yeah, you can see.

359

00:20:22,000 --> 00:20:23,000

OK, flags in.

360

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

Yeah, look at that.

361

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

Wow, it does. It looks like a big ditch here.

362

00:20:27,000 --> 00:20:28,000

Yeah, yeah.

363

00:20:28,000 --> 00:20:30,000

Something here is wrapped all the way around the house.

364

00:20:30,000 --> 00:20:34,000

So far, the line of flags indicates a subterranean anomaly

365

00:20:34,000 --> 00:20:36,000

in the shape of a uniform path.

366

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:40,000

Could it be the collapsed tunnel connecting to Sinai Park House?

367

00:20:40,000 --> 00:20:42,000

There's a lot of different types of flags.

368

00:20:43,000 --> 00:20:46,000

It's a very complex tunnel connecting to Sinai Park House.

369

00:20:46,000 --> 00:20:48,000

There's only one way to find out.

370

00:20:51,000 --> 00:20:53,000

We are not fooling around.

371

00:20:54,000 --> 00:20:58,000

This excavator will get the scoop on what lies below the surface.

372

00:21:01,000 --> 00:21:03,000

It may look like a rough process,

373

00:21:03,000 --> 00:21:07,000

but the excavator is actually delicately scraping layers of soil

374

00:21:07,000 --> 00:21:09,000

as it digs through history.

375

00:21:12,000 --> 00:21:14,000

Whoa, whoa, hang on. I think we've broken through here.

376

00:21:15,000 --> 00:21:16,000

Wow.

377

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

The anomaly in the soil turns out to be a thick layer of clay.

378

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

Is that clay layer naturally occurring, do you think, Dee?

379

00:21:23,000 --> 00:21:29,000

No, I believe it was put there purposefully as puddling clay.

380

00:21:29,000 --> 00:21:31,000

And what is puddling clay exactly?

381

00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:33,000

To make it waterproof, to seal it, essentially.

382

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

It's an absolute fact that in the 1200s, there was a moat around Sinai.

383

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

There was?

384

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

Yes.

385

00:21:41,000 --> 00:21:43,000

So if in fact that's what we're looking at here,

386

00:21:43,000 --> 00:21:46,000

this could be a moat that dates back to the Templar times?

387

00:21:46,000 --> 00:21:48,000

A thousand years or even older.

388

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:49,000

Wow.

389

00:21:49,000 --> 00:21:53,000

This isn't a Templar tunnel, but it may well be a Templar-era moat

390

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

that would have been used as a line of defense.

391

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

And John has convinced there's even more to find, below the moat.

392

00:21:59,000 --> 00:22:01,000

Okay, so should we try to get down under it?

393

00:22:01,000 --> 00:22:02,000

I believe so.

394

00:22:02,000 --> 00:22:06,000

The radar data clearly showed that there was rubble at about three feet.

395

00:22:06,000 --> 00:22:08,000

All right, let's keep digging.

396

00:22:12,000 --> 00:22:18,000

After just a few more scoops, we suddenly uncover more pieces of the story.

397

00:22:18,000 --> 00:22:20,000

Hold, yeah, hold something.

398

00:22:24,000 --> 00:22:25,000

Oh, wow.

399

00:22:25,000 --> 00:22:26,000

Looks like a bridge tile.

400

00:22:26,000 --> 00:22:27,000

And more.

401

00:22:27,000 --> 00:22:29,000

So what is this?

402

00:22:29,000 --> 00:22:32,000

It looks like terracotta, Roman tile, roof tiles.

403

00:22:32,000 --> 00:22:34,000

How old do you think this is?

404

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

First century AD.

405

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

This is Roman era?

406

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

Yeah.

407

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

Wow.

408

00:22:38,000 --> 00:22:40,000

And that's right underneath this clay layer?

409

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

Yes.

410

00:22:41,000 --> 00:22:43,000

And there's a lot of it, it looks like.

411

00:22:43,000 --> 00:22:46,000

Which means it was a Roman defensive ditch and then they fold it in.

412

00:22:46,000 --> 00:22:47,000

Later adapted into a moat?

413

00:22:47,000 --> 00:22:48,000

Yes.

414

00:22:48,000 --> 00:22:49,000

It's incredible.

415

00:22:49,000 --> 00:22:52,000

What we've potentially uncovered is astounding.

416

00:22:52,000 --> 00:22:56,000

A defended Roman settlement here would be an historic find.

417

00:22:56,000 --> 00:23:02,000

One that may explain the very existence of Sinai Park House right here on this site.

418

00:23:02,000 --> 00:23:06,000

And it would likely have made it very attractive to the Templar as well.

419

00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:12,000

So based on the data, this ditch, you think extends this way?

420

00:23:12,000 --> 00:23:13,000

Yes.

421

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

And how big do you figure this is?

422

00:23:15,000 --> 00:23:18,000

I think it encircles the whole of the property.

423

00:23:18,000 --> 00:23:19,000

It's incredible.

424

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

I mean, this could have been a defensive structure, not only for the Templars,

425

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

but for earlier generations as well.

426

00:23:25,000 --> 00:23:26,000

Right.

427

00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:29,000

And if that's the case, that adds to the possibility of the Templars being here

428

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:31,000

with wanting to defend something.

429

00:23:31,000 --> 00:23:33,000

It just adds another layer to that story.

430

00:23:33,000 --> 00:23:34,000

Right.

431

00:23:34,000 --> 00:23:35,000

What are they defending?

432

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

They're pretty important and probably pretty valuable.

433

00:23:37,000 --> 00:23:41,000

Based on what we've seen here and based on the fact that that door in the cellar goes somewhere,

434

00:23:41,000 --> 00:23:44,000

I'd say there's a lot more searching to be done here at Sinai House.

435

00:23:44,000 --> 00:23:46,000

I think that's very right.

436

00:23:46,000 --> 00:23:48,000

Well, I'll be back in six months.

437

00:23:48,000 --> 00:23:49,000

Please have it all dug up.

438

00:23:49,000 --> 00:23:55,000

While there's no sign of Templar treasure at Sinai House,

439

00:23:55,000 --> 00:23:59,000

our discoveries here have turned out to be even older and no less significant.

440

00:23:59,000 --> 00:24:03,000

David and Kate are determined to keep investigating the grounds,

441

00:24:03,000 --> 00:24:09,000

which I have no doubt will yield many more remarkable finds in the years to come.

442

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

As the sun sets, one Templar mystery sparks another.

443

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

We know the Templars' power stretched from the Holy Land

444

00:24:16,000 --> 00:24:21,000

all the way to here in England, in churches and properties like Sinai House.

445

00:24:21,000 --> 00:24:26,000

The question is, how did they maintain influence over such a huge territory?

446

00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:31,000

Equating themselves with the protective power of God was a good start.

447

00:24:31,000 --> 00:24:37,000

But they would have needed to back that up with some muscle on the ground.

448

00:24:37,000 --> 00:24:41,000

To find out how, I make my way to the London suburb of Woking

449

00:24:41,000 --> 00:24:49,000

to enroll in a little night school.

450

00:24:49,000 --> 00:24:55,000

Oh boy.

451

00:24:55,000 --> 00:25:00,000

To learn how the Knights Templar were able to control the roads of Europe for hundreds of years,

452

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

I've come to the Skola Gladiatoria Historical Fencing Club.

453

00:25:04,000 --> 00:25:15,000

Currently hurting each other are founder Matt Easton and his appropriately named colleague, Jack Butcher.

454

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

Hello. I'm hoping one of you is Matt.

455

00:25:17,000 --> 00:25:18,000

I'm Matt.

456

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

Is that you? Otherwise I've just interrupted the weirdest mugging in history.

457

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

Jack.

458

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:23,000

Jack, nice to meet you. You guys are incredible.

459

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

Thank you.

460

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

Amazing.

461

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

So, I see swords. I see shields.

462

00:25:28,000 --> 00:25:31,000

Are we in Templar territory here with these weapons?

463

00:25:31,000 --> 00:25:34,000

Yeah, we're reconstructing the fighting techniques of Sword and Shield

464

00:25:34,000 --> 00:25:38,000

that the Templars might have used according to medieval fencing treatises.

465

00:25:38,000 --> 00:25:42,000

So, they have this reputation as being really fierce warriors.

466

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:44,000

Is that well deserved?

467

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

I think all the sources from the time say that they were.

468

00:25:46,000 --> 00:25:49,000

Yeah, I mean they were pretty much professional warriors of their day.

469

00:25:49,000 --> 00:25:52,000

Full-time training and, you know, dedicated that lifestyle.

470

00:25:52,000 --> 00:25:57,000

Their cavalry charge was famous and we know from the regulations of their order

471

00:25:57,000 --> 00:25:59,000

their primary weapons the lance.

472

00:25:59,000 --> 00:26:02,000

So, they took the cavalry element of it very, very seriously.

473

00:26:02,000 --> 00:26:04,000

Right. This wasn't a ragtag group of knights.

474

00:26:04,000 --> 00:26:08,000

No, no. These guys were very highly organized, very well trained.

475

00:26:08,000 --> 00:26:10,000

Because they were wiped out so thoroughly,

476

00:26:10,000 --> 00:26:15,000

specifics of the Templars' training slipped through the cracks of recorded history.

477

00:26:15,000 --> 00:26:18,000

However, we know they were highly disciplined monks

478

00:26:18,000 --> 00:26:21,000

who did little besides eat, sleep, pray and fight

479

00:26:21,000 --> 00:26:25,000

using the deadliest weapons of their day.

480

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:27,000

As for me, well, I'm tall.

481

00:26:27,000 --> 00:26:30,000

Maybe that'll be enough to keep me alive.

482

00:26:30,000 --> 00:26:33,000

Can you give me a little Templar fighting 101 here?

483

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:36,000

We can do that, can't we? Yeah, we'll teach you some basic techniques.

484

00:26:36,000 --> 00:26:37,000

Without killing me?

485

00:26:37,000 --> 00:26:38,000

Probably.

486

00:26:38,000 --> 00:26:39,000

We'll try our best.

487

00:26:39,000 --> 00:26:40,000

Probably.

488

00:26:41,000 --> 00:26:45,000

On the loose promise that I probably won't die, I suit up for battle.

489

00:26:46,000 --> 00:26:51,000

The Templars invested heavily in the best armor and weapons money could buy.

490

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:56,000

Knowing that, I can't help but feel a little underwhelmed in this getup.

491

00:26:56,000 --> 00:26:57,000

So, Josh, how do you feel?

492

00:26:57,000 --> 00:26:59,000

I feel like I'm wearing a lot less armor than this guy.

493

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

You've got enough of this, OK?

494

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

You've got enough.

495

00:27:02,000 --> 00:27:04,000

How about a full armor?

496

00:27:04,000 --> 00:27:05,000

Here's a stick.

497

00:27:05,000 --> 00:27:06,000

I don't even get a sword?

498

00:27:06,000 --> 00:27:08,000

No, you get a stick to start off with.

499

00:27:08,000 --> 00:27:09,000

OK.

500

00:27:10,000 --> 00:27:14,000

I start by learning to crawl before I can run, or in this case walk,

501

00:27:14,000 --> 00:27:18,000

through some very basic fighting steps under the tutelage of Matt.

502

00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:20,000

Now, where to hold the weapons?

503

00:27:20,000 --> 00:27:21,000

You've got a few different options.

504

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

A really, really simple one is just hold this up here, ready to hit.

505

00:27:25,000 --> 00:27:26,000

OK.

506

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

That's a good position.

507

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

Another variation of this is the hand in the same position, but with the point forward.

508

00:27:30,000 --> 00:27:31,000

OK.

509

00:27:31,000 --> 00:27:32,000

Good.

510

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

So, if Jack's in the second...

511

00:27:34,000 --> 00:27:35,000

All that shit just got real.

512

00:27:35,000 --> 00:27:38,000

He took a stance and I got real scared.

513

00:27:38,000 --> 00:27:39,000

OK, God.

514

00:27:39,000 --> 00:27:44,000

Matt offers me a few medieval combat techniques that the Templars may have used in battle.

515

00:27:44,000 --> 00:27:47,000

And with that crash course, I'm ready to go.

516

00:27:48,000 --> 00:27:49,000

And I'm killing him.

517

00:27:49,000 --> 00:27:50,000

I hope.

518

00:27:52,000 --> 00:27:57,000

We don our helmets and I prepare for my impending fight with the Black Knight.

519

00:27:57,000 --> 00:27:59,000

None shall pass.

520

00:28:01,000 --> 00:28:02,000

This sucks.

521

00:28:08,000 --> 00:28:09,000

Ow!

522

00:28:09,000 --> 00:28:11,000

Ah, it's fine.

523

00:28:11,000 --> 00:28:13,000

It's only a flesh wound.

524

00:28:13,000 --> 00:28:17,000

And suddenly, I'm grateful we're only using sticks.

525

00:28:18,000 --> 00:28:19,000

OK.

526

00:28:32,000 --> 00:28:33,000

Ah!

527

00:28:33,000 --> 00:28:35,000

OK, that was solid and I thought...

528

00:28:35,000 --> 00:28:36,000

You were right.

529

00:28:36,000 --> 00:28:38,000

Right in the skull!

530

00:28:38,000 --> 00:28:41,000

That was literally me watching myself get stabbed in the eye.

531

00:28:41,000 --> 00:28:43,000

It was like a 3D movie.

532

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

I yield.

533

00:28:44,000 --> 00:28:46,000

You did really, really well though.

534

00:28:46,000 --> 00:28:47,000

Very, very good.

535

00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:48,000

You're a natural.

536

00:28:48,000 --> 00:28:49,000

You're not right.

537

00:28:49,000 --> 00:28:50,000

I'm naturally dead.

538

00:28:50,000 --> 00:28:52,000

Honestly, that was really good.

539

00:28:52,000 --> 00:28:54,000

Woo!

540

00:28:54,000 --> 00:28:55,000

Props to the Knights Templar.

541

00:28:55,000 --> 00:28:56,000

Good.

542

00:28:56,000 --> 00:28:57,000

It ain't easy.

543

00:28:57,000 --> 00:28:58,000

But you've learned some real techniques there.

544

00:28:58,000 --> 00:29:01,000

You've learned some real fundamental fencing techniques.

545

00:29:01,000 --> 00:29:04,000

I learned to make peace with God, just like the Templars actually.

546

00:29:04,000 --> 00:29:05,000

Thanks very much.

547

00:29:05,000 --> 00:29:06,000

How's it going?

548

00:29:06,000 --> 00:29:07,000

It was brilliant.

549

00:29:07,000 --> 00:29:08,000

Well done.

550

00:29:08,000 --> 00:29:09,000

OK, I'm going to run away.

551

00:29:10,000 --> 00:29:14,000

I leave Templar battle school even more impressed with their accomplishments.

552

00:29:14,000 --> 00:29:17,000

But considering the Templars fighting prowess,

553

00:29:17,000 --> 00:29:19,000

it's incredible how quickly they were decimated.

554

00:29:19,000 --> 00:29:23,000

And I'm anxious to learn more about the mysteries of their final days.

555

00:29:23,000 --> 00:29:26,000

Fortunately, I get word of an archaeological site

556

00:29:26,000 --> 00:29:30,000

making some remarkable discoveries that could provide answers.

557

00:29:30,000 --> 00:29:34,000

So I pack my bags for a plane ride east to Poland.

558

00:29:34,000 --> 00:29:44,000

Welcome to Western Poland.

559

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

We are just over the border from Germany.

560

00:29:47,000 --> 00:29:51,000

And this is probably not a place that you associate with the Knights Templar.

561

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:53,000

At least I didn't.

562

00:29:53,000 --> 00:29:58,000

Poland wasn't historically on the main route from Western Europe to the Holy Land.

563

00:29:58,000 --> 00:30:00,000

So what were the Templars doing here?

564

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

The archaeological dig at a nearby church could offer some clues.

565

00:30:05,000 --> 00:30:10,000

I'm not exactly sure what a Templar church in the Polish countryside looks like,

566

00:30:10,000 --> 00:30:14,000

but hopefully we can find it.

567

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:17,000

Oh, my word.

568

00:30:17,000 --> 00:30:20,000

I think we found it.

569

00:30:20,000 --> 00:30:25,000

Towering above the Polish countryside is an imposing red-bricked chapel.

570

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

Like the temple church I saw in England, it looks more like a fortified castle.

571

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

In front of the enigmatic structure, I'm greeted by archaeologist and Templar historian

572

00:30:36,000 --> 00:30:40,000

Dr. Shemislav Kolosowski and his translator Carl Lindholm.

573

00:30:40,000 --> 00:30:42,000

This is incredible.

574

00:30:42,000 --> 00:30:46,000

It is. The first time I came here, I was totally amazed.

575

00:30:46,000 --> 00:30:49,000

It's a Templar church in the middle of nowhere.

576

00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:53,000

Right. I mean, you have this countryside and then this huge structure.

577

00:30:53,000 --> 00:30:55,000

When was this built?

578

00:30:55,000 --> 00:30:57,000

When was this built?

579

00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:03,000

It was built in the late 1200s, shortly before the total destruction of the Templar knights.

580

00:31:03,000 --> 00:31:06,000

The design of the church is really surprising.

581

00:31:06,000 --> 00:31:10,000

It's a church, but it also looks kind of like a fortress, right?

582

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:13,000

We have these big towers. Those look like aeroslits.

583

00:31:13,000 --> 00:31:15,000

Why is it designed this way?

584

00:31:15,000 --> 00:31:19,000

The church was known as a commandery, and it served as both a place of worship

585

00:31:19,000 --> 00:31:22,000

and a defensive outpost for the Templar.

586

00:31:22,000 --> 00:31:25,000

It was a sign of the Templar's power to all who saw it.

587

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

A commandery is the name given specifically to outposts of the Knights Templar.

588

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

They would be led by a single commander and would be used as churches, forts, even as treasuries.

589

00:31:37,000 --> 00:31:43,000

According to Dr. Kolosowski, this particular church was the headquarters of the Eastern European Templar

590

00:31:43,000 --> 00:31:46,000

and a very important site during their last years.

591

00:31:46,000 --> 00:31:49,000

So a very important place for them. Why is it here?

592

00:31:49,000 --> 00:31:53,000

Why is this huge church in the middle of what's now Poland?

593

00:31:53,000 --> 00:31:59,000

As the Templar were losing control of the Holy Land and as they were being persecuted in France,

594

00:31:59,000 --> 00:32:03,000

this became the eastern edge of their territory in Europe.

595

00:32:04,000 --> 00:32:09,000

With pilgrimages to Jerusalem now on hold and King Philip of France turning on them,

596

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:12,000

it was time for the Templar to redefine their mission.

597

00:32:12,000 --> 00:32:17,000

Commanderies like this one on the fringes of their territory would be the perfect place to regroup

598

00:32:17,000 --> 00:32:20,000

and plan for an uncertain future.

599

00:32:21,000 --> 00:32:26,000

When the Templar were disbanded, most of their buildings were either repurposed or torn down.

600

00:32:26,000 --> 00:32:32,000

Very, very few Templar artifacts have been found and confirmed burials of Templars, even fewer.

601

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

But I think we're on the verge of making some huge finds here, possibly even a Templar cemetery.

602

00:32:38,000 --> 00:32:41,000

I see your heart at work here. How long have you been excavating here?

603

00:32:41,000 --> 00:32:43,000

We've just begun to excavate this section,

604

00:32:43,000 --> 00:32:47,000

but there's a mystery in the building itself that I'd love for you to see.

605

00:32:47,000 --> 00:32:48,000

Please.

606

00:32:49,000 --> 00:32:55,000

As Dr. Kolasowski's dig team works next to the building, we make our way to the entrance of the Commandery.

607

00:32:55,000 --> 00:33:03,000

There, he introduces me to Janet Czervenska, a historian who's researching an interesting quirk in the church's architecture.

608

00:33:03,000 --> 00:33:06,000

Okay, you have a bit of a mystery here.

609

00:33:06,000 --> 00:33:09,000

Yes, and I think you will be very interested in it.

610

00:33:09,000 --> 00:33:13,000

One of these towers has stairs, the second doesn't.

611

00:33:13,000 --> 00:33:15,000

It's just a huge empty tower.

612

00:33:15,000 --> 00:33:17,000

Yes, completely empty tower.

613

00:33:17,000 --> 00:33:19,000

Have you seen other construction like this?

614

00:33:20,000 --> 00:33:28,000

We don't know of any similar towers, and most of the Templar structures that resemble this building have just one tower.

615

00:33:29,000 --> 00:33:32,000

The plot thickens. It's even weirder.

616

00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:35,000

So what do we think they used an empty tower for?

617

00:33:35,000 --> 00:33:37,000

A place for treasure.

618

00:33:37,000 --> 00:33:39,000

A place for treasure, okay.

619

00:33:39,000 --> 00:33:47,000

If this was the headquarters for the Eastern European Templar, it would certainly have contained a treasury with both cash and valuable documents.

620

00:33:47,000 --> 00:33:49,000

Can we look inside? Yeah.

621

00:33:49,000 --> 00:33:50,000

In the back?

622

00:33:50,000 --> 00:33:51,000

Yeah, let's take a look.

623

00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:53,000

Let's have a look.

624

00:33:53,000 --> 00:33:55,000

Wow.

625

00:33:56,000 --> 00:33:58,000

Unbelievable.

626

00:33:58,000 --> 00:34:00,000

Beautiful place.

627

00:34:00,000 --> 00:34:02,000

It is stunning.

628

00:34:02,000 --> 00:34:04,000

And the mystery tower is back here.

629

00:34:04,000 --> 00:34:05,000

Yes.

630

00:34:05,000 --> 00:34:06,000

Can I see?

631

00:34:08,000 --> 00:34:13,000

Does it look here?

632

00:34:13,000 --> 00:34:16,000

Oh my word.

633

00:34:23,000 --> 00:34:26,000

Does it look here?

634

00:34:26,000 --> 00:34:29,000

Oh my word.

635

00:34:30,000 --> 00:34:36,000

A mysteriously inaccessible tower in a commandery of the Knights Templar has me dreaming of Templar treasure.

636

00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:38,000

Only there's no way to get to it.

637

00:34:38,000 --> 00:34:43,000

This is crazy. There really is no staircase of any kind.

638

00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:45,000

We've got only a lift-up cable.

639

00:34:45,000 --> 00:34:47,000

And the cable comes from the roof?

640

00:34:47,000 --> 00:34:48,000

Yes.

641

00:34:48,000 --> 00:34:49,000

So they just dropped it down?

642

00:34:49,000 --> 00:34:50,000

Yes.

643

00:34:50,000 --> 00:34:54,000

And so what are these little niches, these little cutouts in the wall?

644

00:34:54,000 --> 00:34:55,000

We don't know.

645

00:34:55,000 --> 00:34:57,000

The niches are inexplicable.

646

00:34:57,000 --> 00:35:02,000

Janet says they don't in any way match the construction of the stairs in the other tower.

647

00:35:02,000 --> 00:35:07,000

And to get a closer look at them will unfortunately be a little bit, well, unconventional.

648

00:35:07,000 --> 00:35:09,000

How do you get up there?

649

00:35:09,000 --> 00:35:13,000

The only way to get up is to come down.

650

00:35:14,000 --> 00:35:15,000

Like from the roof?

651

00:35:15,000 --> 00:35:16,000

Yes.

652

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:19,000

Oh no, no, no.

653

00:35:19,000 --> 00:35:20,000

It's not so high.

654

00:35:20,000 --> 00:35:23,000

No, it is Janet. It's very high. And you know it.

655

00:35:23,000 --> 00:35:24,000

Come on.

656

00:35:25,000 --> 00:35:30,000

To get to the top, we make our way up the Southwest Tower, the one with stairs.

657

00:35:30,000 --> 00:35:33,000

Josh, if you have a look.

658

00:35:33,000 --> 00:35:36,000

Oh, look at that, a Templar cross. Wow.

659

00:35:36,000 --> 00:35:41,000

Every step is made with bricks shaped like this.

660

00:35:41,000 --> 00:35:43,000

So this is the original staircase?

661

00:35:43,000 --> 00:35:47,000

Yes. It has been here for almost a thousand years.

662

00:35:47,000 --> 00:35:49,000

Wow. Okay.

663

00:35:49,000 --> 00:35:55,000

Okay. All right. Well, you know, what are the odds that it gives way today?

664

00:36:01,000 --> 00:36:02,000

Okay.

665

00:36:02,000 --> 00:36:04,000

Now we are on the roof.

666

00:36:04,000 --> 00:36:07,000

Now that I've reached the top, it's time to go down.

667

00:36:07,000 --> 00:36:12,000

Janet and the team have rigged the tower's cross beams with repelling gear so we can descend from above.

668

00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:18,000

And by we, I mean me, because nobody else wants to dangle from Templar-era timbers.

669

00:36:19,000 --> 00:36:25,000

We don't know what purpose this tower served or whether the niches could contain historic artifacts.

670

00:36:25,000 --> 00:36:28,000

But there's only one way to find out for sure.

671

00:36:28,000 --> 00:36:30,000

Okay. Here we go.

672

00:36:32,000 --> 00:36:33,000

Tight fit.

673

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

Whoo. Long way down.

674

00:36:36,000 --> 00:36:43,000

I have plenty of repelling experience, but somehow doing it in a 12th century building seems a bit more risky.

675

00:36:44,000 --> 00:36:46,000

Okay. Heading down.

676

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:56,000

So I'm at the first set of niches here right at the top.

677

00:36:56,000 --> 00:36:59,000

They look empty. Nothing here.

678

00:37:05,000 --> 00:37:07,000

Okay. I'm going down to the next level.

679

00:37:07,000 --> 00:37:08,000

Okay. Be careful.

680

00:37:08,000 --> 00:37:09,000

Yeah.

681

00:37:10,000 --> 00:37:15,000

The niches are placed every three to four feet and are fairly regular throughout.

682

00:37:15,000 --> 00:37:22,000

They don't spiral down like a staircase would, but they could have been placed here to support beams that have long rotted away.

683

00:37:22,000 --> 00:37:25,000

Okay. Don't look down. Just keep working. Here we go.

684

00:37:31,000 --> 00:37:33,000

All right. I'm at the next opening on the wall here.

685

00:37:33,000 --> 00:37:35,000

What can you see there?

686

00:37:35,000 --> 00:37:38,000

Some loose brick here.

687

00:37:41,000 --> 00:37:43,000

More loose brick in here.

688

00:37:43,000 --> 00:37:45,000

Nothing else.

689

00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:47,000

Okay. Heading down.

690

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:52,000

I got no carvings. No nothing.

691

00:37:54,000 --> 00:37:56,000

Pretty weird looking bat on the wall right here.

692

00:37:56,000 --> 00:37:58,000

Hey buddy. Sorry to bother you.

693

00:37:58,000 --> 00:38:01,000

All right. I'm at the next opening on the wall here.

694

00:38:01,000 --> 00:38:03,000

Got something different here.

695

00:38:03,000 --> 00:38:05,000

One of these openings goes way back.

696

00:38:05,000 --> 00:38:07,000

Not like the others.

697

00:38:07,000 --> 00:38:09,000

Can you tell me more about it?

698

00:38:09,000 --> 00:38:17,000

It's probably three or four times the depth of any of the other openings in the bricks.

699

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:19,000

The question is why?

700

00:38:19,000 --> 00:38:21,000

I don't know. It's a good question.

701

00:38:22,000 --> 00:38:24,000

It's filled with sand.

702

00:38:25,000 --> 00:38:28,000

There's definitely loose brick back there.

703

00:38:28,000 --> 00:38:29,000

Josh?

704

00:38:29,000 --> 00:38:30,000

Yeah?

705

00:38:30,000 --> 00:38:31,000

Do you think it's a hiding place?

706

00:38:31,000 --> 00:38:32,000

Maybe.

707

00:38:32,000 --> 00:38:35,000

I can see that behind that mortar it goes back further.

708

00:38:35,000 --> 00:38:37,000

But I can't get to it from this angle.

709

00:38:37,000 --> 00:38:41,000

Because of the age and historical importance of this building,

710

00:38:41,000 --> 00:38:44,000

we don't want to use any invasive methods like drilling.

711

00:38:44,000 --> 00:38:48,000

We film and document the recessed opening before carrying on.

712

00:38:48,000 --> 00:38:49,000

All right. I'm headed down.

713

00:38:49,000 --> 00:38:52,000

Okay. Great job, Josh.

714

00:38:55,000 --> 00:38:56,000

I'm down.

715

00:38:56,000 --> 00:38:58,000

Congratulations.

716

00:39:01,000 --> 00:39:02,000

Is it dusty?

717

00:39:02,000 --> 00:39:04,000

Is it dusty? Yeah, a little.

718

00:39:04,000 --> 00:39:07,000

1000 year old Templar dust.

719

00:39:07,000 --> 00:39:08,000

It's good for you.

720

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:11,000

Okay. I'm off belay.

721

00:39:12,000 --> 00:39:16,000

A thousand year old dust aside, our repel has aided the investigation

722

00:39:16,000 --> 00:39:20,000

and we've documented a previously unseen feature in the building.

723

00:39:20,000 --> 00:39:24,000

In the future, Janet and the team will need to determine how they want to proceed

724

00:39:24,000 --> 00:39:27,000

as they continue to investigate the tower.

725

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:30,000

However, no sooner have I reached the bottom.

726

00:39:30,000 --> 00:39:32,000

Josh, Josh, come quickly.

727

00:39:32,000 --> 00:39:35,000

Then I'm called back outside for some exciting news.

728

00:39:36,000 --> 00:39:37,000

What did you find?

729

00:39:37,000 --> 00:39:41,000

We have discovered the wall and we think that maybe there's a burial here.

730

00:39:41,000 --> 00:39:42,000

A burial here?

731

00:39:42,000 --> 00:39:44,000

Oh, where it's dark?

732

00:39:44,000 --> 00:39:45,000

Yes, space over there.

733

00:39:45,000 --> 00:39:46,000

You can see there.

734

00:39:46,000 --> 00:39:48,000

Yes, you can see. Right.

735

00:39:48,000 --> 00:39:53,000

The difference in color in these two sections of soil tells us at some point in time

736

00:39:53,000 --> 00:39:56,000

the darker portion was disturbed or dug up.

737

00:39:56,000 --> 00:39:58,000

You think it's a complete burial?

738

00:39:58,000 --> 00:40:03,000

It looks like it's facing east-west, which could mean it's a Templar period burial.

739

00:40:03,000 --> 00:40:04,000

Wow.

740

00:40:04,000 --> 00:40:10,000

Templars were traditionally buried facing toward Jerusalem to witness the rapture and Christ's

return.

741

00:40:10,000 --> 00:40:16,000

If this is a Templar burial, it may give us real physical clues about who they really were

742

00:40:16,000 --> 00:40:20,000

and why so little of their material culture survives.

743

00:40:20,000 --> 00:40:25,000

As the team carefully digs, another member scans the pit with a metal detector.

744

00:40:29,000 --> 00:40:30,000

Good thing, too.

745

00:40:33,000 --> 00:40:35,000

They found a coin there.

746

00:40:35,000 --> 00:40:36,000

Oh, coin?

747

00:40:36,000 --> 00:40:38,000

Yes, there's a coin.

748

00:40:41,000 --> 00:40:42,000

Ah, f\*\*\*.

749

00:40:44,000 --> 00:40:46,000

You got a brush or something?

750

00:40:46,000 --> 00:40:49,000

Official tool of archaeology, toothbrush.

751

00:40:49,000 --> 00:40:51,000

It's made of, is it silver?

752

00:40:51,000 --> 00:40:52,000

It's silver, yeah.

753

00:40:52,000 --> 00:40:53,000

Silver, but old silver, yeah?

754

00:40:53,000 --> 00:40:54,000

It's patina, yeah.

755

00:40:54,000 --> 00:40:55,000

It's patina, yeah.

756

00:40:55,000 --> 00:40:56,000

That's bracteat.

757

00:40:56,000 --> 00:40:57,000

So what is it?

758

00:40:57,000 --> 00:40:58,000

Bracteatic.

759

00:40:58,000 --> 00:41:01,000

14th, 15th century.

760

00:41:01,000 --> 00:41:04,000

14th, 15th century?

761

00:41:04,000 --> 00:41:07,000

So this coin could be 700 years old.

762

00:41:07,000 --> 00:41:08,000

Yes, it is.

763

00:41:10,000 --> 00:41:13,000

And for you to give that to me, that's so nice of you.

764

00:41:13,000 --> 00:41:14,000

Thank you, bye-bye.

765

00:41:16,000 --> 00:41:21,000

A coin from the Templar era buried in front of a commandery like this is a tantalizing discovery.

766

00:41:21,000 --> 00:41:25,000

The team uses the find as fuel as they excavate further down.

767

00:41:25,000 --> 00:41:29,000

And we quickly learn that coins are the least of what this place has to offer.

768

00:41:29,000 --> 00:41:30,000

What did you find?

769

00:41:30,000 --> 00:41:33,000

Yeah, looks like we have a burial.

770

00:41:33,000 --> 00:41:34,000

Oh, oh, oh, right here.

771

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:35,000

Is that bone?

772

00:41:41,000 --> 00:41:46,000

In the historic English town of Burton-upon-Trent, they've been brewing beer since Templar times,

773

00:41:46,000 --> 00:41:51,000

making this the perfect place to seek out the holy grail or just a local ale.

774

00:41:52,000 --> 00:41:53,000

Another beer, please.

775

00:41:53,000 --> 00:41:54,000

Yeah, no problem.

776

00:41:54,000 --> 00:41:56,000

Choose wisely.

777

00:42:04,000 --> 00:42:06,000

He chose poorly.

778

00:42:10,000 --> 00:42:11,000

I got it.

779

00:42:11,000 --> 00:42:13,000

I've seen the movie.

780

00:42:15,000 --> 00:42:16,000

This is right, right?

781

00:42:16,000 --> 00:42:17,000

Yeah, that's right.

782

00:42:17,000 --> 00:42:18,000

Okay.

783

00:42:18,000 --> 00:42:19,000

Phew.

784

00:42:25,000 --> 00:42:29,000

Looks like we have a burial.

785

00:42:29,000 --> 00:42:31,000

Oh, oh, oh, right here.

786

00:42:31,000 --> 00:42:32,000

Is that bone?

787

00:42:32,000 --> 00:42:33,000

Yeah, yeah, yeah, it is a skull.

788

00:42:33,000 --> 00:42:34,000

Oh, there's a skull.

789

00:42:34,000 --> 00:42:35,000

Look at that.

790

00:42:35,000 --> 00:42:36,000

Can I come down?

791

00:42:36,000 --> 00:42:37,000

Yes, come down.

792

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

I'm in western Poland investigating one of the last strongholds of the Knights Templar,

793

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

and we may be about to make headlines.

794

00:42:45,000 --> 00:42:46,000

Is that the skull?

795

00:42:46,000 --> 00:42:47,000

Yes.

796

00:42:47,000 --> 00:42:53,000

Few relics from the Templars are still in existence, and a confirmed burial, even rarer still.

797

00:42:53,000 --> 00:42:56,000

And so the body is laying, is this east-west here?

798

00:42:56,000 --> 00:42:57,000

Yes.

799

00:42:57,000 --> 00:42:59,000

So this may be Templar?

800

00:42:59,000 --> 00:43:06,000

Yes, this may be Templar, because the head is west, but the face itself is looking east

801

00:43:06,000 --> 00:43:07,000

towards the holy land.

802

00:43:10,000 --> 00:43:16,000

This location for burials was a specially important one, so it was possible that it was somebody very important,

803

00:43:16,000 --> 00:43:18,000

and this was from the Templar period here.

804

00:43:18,000 --> 00:43:19,000

Okay.

805

00:43:19,000 --> 00:43:24,000

We're in the right era, and we're perched on the edge of a huge commandery.

806

00:43:24,000 --> 00:43:27,000

Now for the question of the hour, is this a Templar?

807

00:43:27,000 --> 00:43:29,000

This is really amazing.

808

00:43:29,000 --> 00:43:31,000

Look at this.

809

00:43:31,000 --> 00:43:35,000

I mean, this really actually well-preserved skull.

810

00:43:35,000 --> 00:43:37,000

Good teeth.

811

00:43:37,000 --> 00:43:44,000

It's hard to tell on the tops, but the bottom teeth are in great shape, so maybe somebody who is

eating well,

812

00:43:44,000 --> 00:43:45,000

somebody of status, maybe?

813

00:43:45,000 --> 00:43:46,000

I don't know.

814

00:43:47,000 --> 00:43:52,000

The condition of teeth in an historic burial is often a good indicator of social status,

815

00:43:52,000 --> 00:43:56,000

for the simple reason that only the wealthy got enough nourishment to have healthy ones.

816

00:43:56,000 --> 00:44:00,000

We might expect a Templar at a commandery to have teeth like this.

817

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

And there's one other strong indicator this man was once a Templar.

818

00:44:05,000 --> 00:44:08,000

It appears the arms are bent.

819

00:44:08,000 --> 00:44:11,000

Templars were always buried when their arms crossed.

820

00:44:11,000 --> 00:44:12,000

Right.

821

00:44:12,000 --> 00:44:15,000

So we see his right arm is crossed like this.

822

00:44:15,000 --> 00:44:18,000

There appears to be two burials, actually.

823

00:44:18,000 --> 00:44:19,000

What?

824

00:44:19,000 --> 00:44:20,000

They're on different levels.

825

00:44:20,000 --> 00:44:21,000

Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa!

826

00:44:21,000 --> 00:44:22,000

Look at this!

827

00:44:22,000 --> 00:44:26,000

So we have a totally separate burial here, right?

828

00:44:26,000 --> 00:44:29,000

And then this is directly underneath this, so...

829

00:44:29,000 --> 00:44:37,000

In the Middle Ages, they didn't have a tradition of remembering the exact location of every individual burial.

830

00:44:37,000 --> 00:44:42,000

So if there were no monuments placed, they just kept burying people one onto another.

831

00:44:42,000 --> 00:44:43,000

Right.

832

00:44:43,000 --> 00:44:50,000

I'm a pair of bodies deep in this hole, and things are looking more and more like we found an exceedingly rare Templar burial.

833

00:44:50,000 --> 00:44:56,000

But incredibly, this grave seems to be more than just a table for two.

834

00:44:56,000 --> 00:45:00,000

Something here.

835

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

Oh, is this...this is bone, yeah?

836

00:45:03,000 --> 00:45:04,000

Yeah.

837

00:45:04,000 --> 00:45:07,000

Is that a third burial?

838

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:09,000

Wait, is this a skull?

839

00:45:09,000 --> 00:45:10,000

Yes.

840

00:45:10,000 --> 00:45:12,000

Oh, my word.

841

00:45:12,000 --> 00:45:14,000

Another burial.

842

00:45:14,000 --> 00:45:17,000

That's three in this pit.

843

00:45:17,000 --> 00:45:18,000

Oh, my word.

844

00:45:18,000 --> 00:45:19,000

Look at that.

845

00:45:19,000 --> 00:45:23,000

So we have burial upon burial upon burial here.

846

00:45:23,000 --> 00:45:25,000

This is truly incredible.

847

00:45:25,000 --> 00:45:34,000

Every pile of dirt that you move reveals more of this person, maybe this Templar.

848

00:45:34,000 --> 00:45:35,000

We don't know.

849

00:45:35,000 --> 00:45:40,000

But more of their story is revealed with every handful of dirt.

850

00:45:40,000 --> 00:45:45,000

So this is pretty extraordinary.

851

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

I think, Josh, that you are likely standing with several Templars at this very moment.

852

00:45:53,000 --> 00:45:57,000

This is an important discovery and an emotional one.

853

00:45:57,000 --> 00:45:59,000

This is more than just history.

854

00:45:59,000 --> 00:46:01,000

These are individuals.

855

00:46:01,000 --> 00:46:06,000

However, I'll admit to being a little surprised not to see evidence of more pageantry here.

856

00:46:06,000 --> 00:46:08,000

Imagine the Templars.

857

00:46:08,000 --> 00:46:14,000

I think many people picture, you know, knights in armor with shields and swords.

858

00:46:14,000 --> 00:46:16,000

That's our fantasy of the Templars.

859

00:46:16,000 --> 00:46:18,000

This is the reality, right?

860

00:46:18,000 --> 00:46:22,000

We have a burial here that is simple, that's humble.

861

00:46:22,000 --> 00:46:26,000

At heart, the Templars were monks doing the Lord's work.

862

00:46:26,000 --> 00:46:30,000

According to their traditions, this is how we should find them.

863

00:46:30,000 --> 00:46:34,000

No swords, no shields, and no mythical treasures.

864

00:46:34,000 --> 00:46:36,000

The mythical treasures are here.

865

00:46:36,000 --> 00:46:43,000

They are real people who had real lives and real stories, and this is their real story right here.

866

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

Still, we should probably make sure there isn't a grail down here somewhere.

867

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

Feel free to keep looking.

868

00:46:48,000 --> 00:46:50,000

Yes, a little more, just a little more.

869

00:46:50,000 --> 00:46:52,000

We just, we gotta be sure, we gotta be sure.

870

00:46:53,000 --> 00:46:56,000

We know the Knights Templar were many things.

871

00:46:56,000 --> 00:47:00,000

Holy men, soldiers, financiers.

872

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

Their wealth and the power it brought was the fulcrum on which all of medieval history turned.

873

00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:13,000

Yet 800 years after they were violently disbanded, most of what is left of the Templars are stories,

874

00:47:13,000 --> 00:47:16,000

and most of those have grown into legends.

875

00:47:16,000 --> 00:47:22,000

Vast stockpiles of gold, the fortunes of entire nations, the cup of a carpenter.

876

00:47:22,000 --> 00:47:27,000

No one knows for certain what treasures, if any, are still out there to be found.

877

00:47:27,000 --> 00:47:32,000

But what we do know is that their existence so threatened the powers of Europe

878

00:47:32,000 --> 00:47:36,000

that the order was reduced to little more than a gauzy memory.

879

00:47:36,000 --> 00:47:37,000

But not anymore.

880

00:47:37,000 --> 00:47:44,000

Today, I met the Templar face to face, and I think I better understand the principles for which they lived,

881

00:47:44,000 --> 00:47:46,000

and in the end, died.

882

00:47:46,000 --> 00:47:49,000

Penitence, service, and faith.

883

00:47:49,000 --> 00:47:54,000

We may call them a secret society, but there's no conspiracy here,

884

00:47:54,000 --> 00:47:58,000

and their story is, in and of itself, a treasure.