

1

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

Tonight on History's Greatest Mysteries.

2

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

The who-do-see, the graveyard of the Atlantic.

3

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

Or, as we know it more commonly today, the Bermuda Triangle.

4

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

I'm Lawrence Fishburne.

5

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

Nearly 100 ships and planes have vanished into this enigma.

6

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

On tonight's mystery, the case that made the Bermuda Triangle famous.

7

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

The disappearance of Flight 19.

8

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

In December 1945, in the months after World War II,

9

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

a squadron of US Navy torpedo bombers took off from Florida

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

on a routine training mission and never returned.

11

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

Where did they crash? And why?

12

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

Somebody has to know the truth.

13

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

The only way we're going to solve this is to find an aircraft.

14

00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:09,000

Over the decades, there have been countless searches, but now a possible game changer.

15

00:01:09,000 --> 00:01:12,000

Bridge, standby. You're gonna die.

16

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:18,000

Three groups of investigators joined forces in the biggest search for Flight 19 yet.

17

00:01:18,000 --> 00:01:20,000

Dead ahead, what is that?

18

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:26,000

Deep-sea explorer Rob Kraft leads the most advanced research ship of its kind.

19

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:28,000

That's an aircraft. No doubt.

20

00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:34,000

Scientist and wreck diver Mike Barnett investigates new clues along the coastline.

21

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

We definitely have a mystery aircraft. Definitely a Navy.

22

00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:42,000

At researchers David O'Keefe and Wayne Abbott follow a trail of cover-ups,

23

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

conspiracy, and missing evidence.

24

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

Of course they're gonna whitewash it.

25

00:01:48,000 --> 00:01:52,000

From the deep, we're looking for F-28 to the swamps.

26

00:01:52,000 --> 00:01:54,000

That is a 50-caliber.

27

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:58,000

All leading to a moment that could solve the mystery.

28

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

Boom. Staring us in the face, a large propeller.

29

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

Flight 19 could be in this area. This could be one of them.

30

00:02:04,000 --> 00:02:08,000

Have they finally found Flight 19?

31

00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:27,000

the

32

00:02:39,960 --> 00:02:43,000

Petrol is a very unique ship.

33

00:02:43,000 --> 00:02:45,000

We are outfitted.

34

00:02:45,000 --> 00:02:53,600

Unlike any other vessel, the ship itself is inherently designed and built for deepwater search operation.

35

00:02:55,600 --> 00:03:02,600

It's February 13th, 2020, day one of a search 200 miles off the Florida coast.

36

00:03:05,600 --> 00:03:06,600

Camera's coming up.

37

00:03:07,200 --> 00:03:16,200

Underwater explorer Rob Kraft has led the research vessel RV Petrel deep into the Bermuda Triangle.

38

00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:18,200

You're in.

39

00:03:18,200 --> 00:03:24,200

An infamous area between Florida's coast, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

40

00:03:24,200 --> 00:03:29,200

Their hopes for finding Flight 19 are high.

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00:03:29,200 --> 00:03:32,200

Here's the bottom. That is our way forward.

42

00:03:32,200 --> 00:03:39,200

RV Petrel's mission is to seek out the great shipwrecks of the world using an array of advanced technology,

43

00:03:39,200 --> 00:03:44,200

including ultra-high-deaf cameras that can be deployed to extreme depths.

44

00:03:47,200 --> 00:03:57,200

Since 2017, Kraft and Petrel have discovered over 30 World War II ships and the final resting place of thousands of servicemen.

45

00:03:57,200 --> 00:04:03,200

It's really about them and the service that these men gave for their country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

46

00:04:03,200 --> 00:04:05,200

It's part of the reason we do what we do.

47

00:04:07,200 --> 00:04:11,200

And yet, this search will be Kraft and Petrel's greatest challenge.

48

00:04:13,200 --> 00:04:17,200

This is the biggest search project we have and will undertake.

49

00:04:17,200 --> 00:04:21,200

And the reality is, is there is no smoking gun here.

50

00:04:21,200 --> 00:04:26,200

There is no one piece of evidence that is going to put an X on a map and say they're here.

51

00:04:26,200 --> 00:04:27,200

It just doesn't exist.

52

00:04:29,200 --> 00:04:36,200

You really kind of have to put yourself back in 1945 and try and understand what these men were going through.

53

00:04:37,200 --> 00:04:45,200

The case of Flight 19 begins on December 5th, 1945 at the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station.

54

00:04:45,200 --> 00:04:47,200

It's 2.20 p.m.

55

00:04:48,200 --> 00:04:55,200

Five TPM Avenger torpedo bombers prepare to take off on a training mission designated Flight 19.

56

00:04:56,200 --> 00:04:58,200

Marshal bombs, one, two, seven, zero, twenty-three.

57

00:04:58,200 --> 00:04:59,200

One, five, zero, put the rocket.

58

00:04:59,200 --> 00:05:04,200

A choppy wind kicks up, but visibility was unlimited with blue skies.

59

00:05:04,200 --> 00:05:08,200

Keep the road right past, on course, three, four, five, four, five, four, five, four, five, four.

60

00:05:08,200 --> 00:05:11,200

The mission should have lasted just over two hours.

61

00:05:12,200 --> 00:05:19,200

Instead, these five planes carrying a total of 14 men disappear.

62

00:05:26,200 --> 00:05:32,200

Hours later, a Martin Mariner rescue plane with a crew of 13 goes looking for them.

63

00:05:35,200 --> 00:05:38,200

It too vanishes.

64

00:05:42,200 --> 00:05:48,200

The Martin Mariner also failed to return to base.

65

00:05:49,200 --> 00:05:52,200

It is so bizarre for us to try to comprehend.

66

00:05:53,200 --> 00:05:58,200

27 U.S. Navy sailors lost their lives.

67

00:05:59,200 --> 00:06:06,200

They disappeared in the Bermuda Triangle, and there has still never been an adequate explanation for what happened to them.

68

00:06:06,200 --> 00:06:08,200

It was a routine training flight.

69

00:06:08,200 --> 00:06:13,200

It was to take off, drop some bombs, shoot a little navigation, and then come back to base.

70

00:06:14,200 --> 00:06:16,200

So what happened to Flight 19?

71

00:06:17,200 --> 00:06:20,200

Did they crash somewhere near Florida's coast?

72

00:06:22,200 --> 00:06:26,200

Did they get hopelessly lost, ditching far out to sea?

73

00:06:26,200 --> 00:06:31,200

Or did they make it back to land, crashing in Florida?

74

00:06:31,200 --> 00:06:37,200

This is not a needle in a haystack. This is orders of magnitude more difficult than that.

75

00:06:37,200 --> 00:06:44,200

I mean, this was the largest Navy search ever conducted, and they found nothing out there.

76

00:06:45,200 --> 00:06:54,200

Fully fueled, the TBM Avengers lost on Flight 19 at a range of a thousand miles, creating a massive potential search area.

77

00:06:55,200 --> 00:07:01,200

No one has found anything. So really, all the cards are still on the table.

78

00:07:04,200 --> 00:07:11,200

Abort RV Petro. Kraft has invited David O'Keefe and Wayne Abbott to help narrow the search area.

79

00:07:11,200 --> 00:07:15,200

And I think you're right. I think that would be the area that we have to start at.

80

00:07:15,200 --> 00:07:19,200

David served in the Canadian Infantry and is now a military historian.

81

00:07:19,200 --> 00:07:25,200

I did two and a half years in uniform with one of the most famous regiments in Canada, which was the Black Watch of Canada.

82

00:07:25,200 --> 00:07:31,200

I was recruited from there to actually work as part of the official historical team.

83

00:07:31,200 --> 00:07:36,200

Going through old files and archives, that's my forte. That's what I love to do.

84

00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:39,200

There's nothing like it. I'm a veteran.

85

00:07:39,200 --> 00:07:45,200

Wayne is a historical investigator, obsessed with Flight 19 since he was a kid.

86

00:07:45,200 --> 00:07:50,200

I was early teens when Close Encounters of the Third Kind came out in the theaters.

87

00:07:50,200 --> 00:07:56,200

And that was really the first time I heard about the story of Flight 19, and it's an iconic opening.

88

00:07:56,200 --> 00:08:00,200

And these scientists are going through the dusty Mexican desert.

89

00:08:00,200 --> 00:08:05,200

All of a sudden you see five perfect planes from Flight 19.

90

00:08:05,200 --> 00:08:08,200

Who flies greets like these anymore?

91

00:08:08,200 --> 00:08:13,200

No one. These planes were reported missing in 1945.

92

00:08:13,200 --> 00:08:15,200

I don't understand.

93

00:08:15,200 --> 00:08:20,200

In the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Flight 19 is abducted.

94

00:08:20,200 --> 00:08:23,200

The plane is now in the air.

95

00:08:23,200 --> 00:08:26,200

I don't understand.

96

00:08:26,200 --> 00:08:32,200

In the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Flight 19 is abducted by aliens.

97

00:08:32,200 --> 00:08:38,200

To find out what really happened, Wayne and David are helping Kraft dig into the official report

98

00:08:38,200 --> 00:08:44,200

from the Navy Board of Inquiry that investigated Flight 19.

99

00:08:44,200 --> 00:08:49,200

This is all we have, so this is what we have to use.

100

00:08:49,200 --> 00:08:52,200

Nobody knew truly where the planes were.

101

00:08:52,200 --> 00:08:57,200

But there is a lot of evidence within the Board of Inquiry report of radio transmissions.

102

00:08:57,200 --> 00:09:03,200

And there's just great little tidbits of information.

103

00:09:03,200 --> 00:09:11,200

According to the report, signs of trouble began an hour and a half after takeoff.

104

00:09:11,200 --> 00:09:18,200

3.40 pm, Lieutenant Charles Taylor, the instructor leading Flight 19,

105

00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:22,200

radios one of the other pilots saying he thinks they're lost.

106

00:09:22,200 --> 00:09:28,200

Powers, do you copy? I think we got lost in that last turn.

107

00:09:32,200 --> 00:09:37,200

Back near Fort Lauderdale, another flight instructor, Lieutenant Robert Cox,

108

00:09:37,200 --> 00:09:41,200

overhears Flight 19's radio traffic.

109

00:09:41,200 --> 00:09:43,200

Both the compasses are out, we're lost.

110

00:09:43,200 --> 00:09:48,200

I'm sure we're over the keys, but I'm not sure how far down.

111

00:09:48,200 --> 00:09:50,200

How to get back to Lauderdale.

112

00:09:50,200 --> 00:09:55,200

According to Cox, Taylor was convinced Flight 19 was over the Florida keys,

113

00:09:55,200 --> 00:09:59,200

well off their flight path.

114

00:09:59,200 --> 00:10:03,200

Cox instructed Taylor to fly northeast till they hit Miami,

115

00:10:03,200 --> 00:10:09,200

and then on to Fort Lauderdale.

116

00:10:09,200 --> 00:10:14,200

But they never made it.

117

00:10:14,200 --> 00:10:18,200

Where were they?

118

00:10:18,200 --> 00:10:22,200

The flight leader, Charles Taylor, is completely confused about his position.

119

00:10:22,200 --> 00:10:27,200

The report says that at 17.50, military time for 5.50 pm,

120

00:10:27,200 --> 00:10:32,200

the Navy triangulated a rough position fix on Flight 19.

121

00:10:32,200 --> 00:10:35,200

And what we can see from the rudimentary data that we have

122

00:10:35,200 --> 00:10:40,200

is that the flight is actually progressing off the southeastern part of Florida.

123

00:10:40,200 --> 00:10:46,200

Charles Taylor thought he'd gotten badly turned around and was over the Gulf.

124

00:10:46,200 --> 00:10:51,200

But the location fix puts them north of the Bahamas.

125

00:10:51,200 --> 00:10:54,200

If Taylor did turn northeast, he would have been leading them

126

00:10:54,200 --> 00:10:58,200

even deeper into the Bermuda Triangle.

127

00:10:58,200 --> 00:11:03,200

This is the 17.50 fix that the Navy put them at.

128

00:11:03,200 --> 00:11:07,200

There is the 100 nautical mile radius.

129

00:11:07,200 --> 00:11:12,200

Kraft uses the bearings to calculate Petrel's search grid.

130

00:11:12,200 --> 00:11:16,200

It's an area more than twice the size of the state of Rhode Island,

131

00:11:16,200 --> 00:11:19,200

with an average depth of 3,000 feet.

132

00:11:19,200 --> 00:11:23,200

We were talking nearly 2,600 square nautical miles.

133

00:11:23,200 --> 00:11:26,200

And we're looking for a target that is, you know,

134

00:11:26,200 --> 00:11:31,200

the wingspan on an Avenger is 50 feet.

135

00:11:31,200 --> 00:11:36,200

But in London, Kraft begins the search.

136

00:11:36,200 --> 00:11:41,200

It starts with some of the world's deepest diving autonomous underwater vehicles,

137

00:11:41,200 --> 00:11:48,200

or AUVs, able to reach depths of more than 3 miles.

138

00:11:48,200 --> 00:11:52,200

It's a drone that we program on the surface.

139

00:11:52,200 --> 00:11:55,200

We tell it where we want it to go and what we want it to do.

140

00:11:55,200 --> 00:11:59,200

And it goes and does its mission all by itself.

141

00:11:59,200 --> 00:12:03,200

Once the AUV nears the sea floor, it follows a grid pattern

142

00:12:03,200 --> 00:12:09,200

and emits bursts of sonar to create a detailed undersea map.

143

00:12:09,200 --> 00:12:14,200

Any unnatural shapes it finds could be wrecks.

144

00:12:14,200 --> 00:12:19,200

We have been lucky enough to find targets on the first dive in the past.

145

00:12:19,200 --> 00:12:24,200

I do not feel that level of confidence here.

146

00:12:24,200 --> 00:12:28,200

There we go. Dive one.

147

00:12:30,200 --> 00:12:35,200

As the AUV begins the search,

148

00:12:35,200 --> 00:12:39,200

Petrel's chief technician and lead researcher, Paul Mayer,

149

00:12:39,200 --> 00:12:44,200

reviews what an aircraft in deep water might look like.

150

00:12:44,200 --> 00:12:48,200

Here is a 3D model of an F4F.

151

00:12:48,200 --> 00:12:50,200

This is in about 10,000 feet of water,

152

00:12:50,200 --> 00:12:52,200

so the paint is still in very good condition.

153

00:12:52,200 --> 00:12:57,200

This F4F Wildcat is part of the Petrel's 2018 discovery

154

00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:02,200

of the carrier USS Lexington.

155

00:13:02,200 --> 00:13:07,200

The team discovered 35 aircraft that went down with the ship.

156

00:13:10,200 --> 00:13:15,200

In this deep water environment, low oxygen levels reduce corrosion.

157

00:13:15,200 --> 00:13:20,200

These planes have been on the ocean floor for nearly eight decades,

158

00:13:20,200 --> 00:13:23,200

yet the paint still looks fresh.

159

00:13:23,200 --> 00:13:26,200

On this particular aircraft we have victory tallies here

160

00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:29,200

of how many Japanese planes were shot down.

161

00:13:29,200 --> 00:13:33,200

There's a bomb here representing that he did a bombing mission

162

00:13:33,200 --> 00:13:38,200

and then the insignia of that flight crew.

163

00:13:38,200 --> 00:13:41,200

If Flight 19 is in deep water,

164

00:13:41,200 --> 00:13:45,200

the chances of a positive identification are high.

165

00:13:46,200 --> 00:13:52,200

13 hours later in the dead of night,

166

00:13:52,200 --> 00:13:55,200

the AUV completes its first die.

167

00:14:02,200 --> 00:14:05,200

Craft reviews the data.

168

00:14:05,200 --> 00:14:07,200

He immediately spots something.

169

00:14:07,200 --> 00:14:09,200

It stands out.

170

00:14:09,200 --> 00:14:12,200

It's an extremely bright, high-congress target.

171

00:14:12,200 --> 00:14:14,200

It could be something man-made,

172

00:14:14,200 --> 00:14:18,200

so we need to go put some eyes on those and figure out what they are.

173

00:14:18,200 --> 00:14:22,200

Could Rob Craft's instincts be proven right yet again?

174

00:14:22,200 --> 00:14:25,200

Is this Flight 19?

175

00:14:31,200 --> 00:14:34,200

It's day two of the search for Flight 19,

176

00:14:34,200 --> 00:14:37,200

the Bermuda Triangle's greatest mystery.

177

00:14:37,200 --> 00:14:41,200

What happened to five torpedo bombers that disappeared

178

00:14:41,200 --> 00:14:43,200

in 1945?

179

00:14:46,200 --> 00:14:49,200

Aboard RV Petrol, explorer Rob Craft

180

00:14:49,200 --> 00:14:52,200

has detected a promising target.

181

00:14:52,200 --> 00:14:53,200

It stands out.

182

00:14:53,200 --> 00:14:55,200

It could be something man-made.

183

00:14:55,200 --> 00:14:57,200

To get a visual,

184

00:14:57,200 --> 00:15:01,200

he deploys a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV,

185

00:15:01,200 --> 00:15:04,200

fitted with an array of cameras.

186

00:15:05,200 --> 00:15:07,200

You're gonna die.

187

00:15:07,200 --> 00:15:09,200

You're in.

188

00:15:12,200 --> 00:15:15,200

All right, ready for some thrusters?

189

00:15:15,200 --> 00:15:17,200

Out the meters on.

190

00:15:17,200 --> 00:15:19,200

There you go, it's up.

191

00:15:19,200 --> 00:15:21,200

Would it be just a meter off the bottom?

192

00:15:21,200 --> 00:15:24,200

Sound speed still 15-22.

193

00:15:27,200 --> 00:15:29,200

Here's the bottom.

194

00:15:30,200 --> 00:15:34,200

I think you're about 70, 75 meters due north of this road.

195

00:15:35,200 --> 00:15:38,200

It's head over to the left. Did you see that?

196

00:15:39,200 --> 00:15:43,200

Hold your heading right there, Rudy. Just hold there.

197

00:15:43,200 --> 00:15:45,200

What is that?

198

00:15:46,200 --> 00:15:48,200

That's the squid.

199

00:15:48,200 --> 00:15:50,200

Oh, yeah.

200

00:15:53,200 --> 00:15:56,200

Look at all that biology.

201

00:15:56,200 --> 00:15:59,200

145, that is our waypoint.

202

00:16:03,200 --> 00:16:06,200

We're just coming up on it now,

203

00:16:06,200 --> 00:16:09,200

and it appears to be...

204

00:16:11,200 --> 00:16:13,200

You think it's a wheel?

205

00:16:13,200 --> 00:16:16,200

No, it's a rock.

206

00:16:16,200 --> 00:16:21,200

It's just some form of rocks.

207

00:16:21,200 --> 00:16:25,200

It's just a geological anomaly.

208

00:16:25,200 --> 00:16:29,200

Sonar, this sensitive, will produce some false targets.

209

00:16:29,200 --> 00:16:31,200

Box ticked. Box ticked.

210

00:16:31,200 --> 00:16:33,200

Long target. Bring it up.

211

00:16:33,200 --> 00:16:36,200

But for craft, there is a silver lining.

212

00:16:36,200 --> 00:16:40,200

It's not mountainous like we see in a lot of deep water environments.

213

00:16:40,200 --> 00:16:45,200

So it's fairly flat, so we've got a pretty good chance of identifying these targets.

214

00:16:48,200 --> 00:16:51,200

But search operations must now be halted.

215

00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:55,200

The weather has come up pretty fast and ahead of schedule.

216

00:16:55,200 --> 00:16:59,200

We've got to get the vehicle up, get it on deck while we still have this window.

217

00:17:03,200 --> 00:17:07,200

We're getting everything secured for sea, because it's going to be a rough ride in.

218

00:17:07,200 --> 00:17:11,200

We can start running at 10 knots, and it's going to get pretty lively out here.

219

00:17:14,200 --> 00:17:20,200

Petrol is being chased back to port by the Bermuda Triangle's freak and dangerous weather swings.

220

00:17:23,200 --> 00:17:27,200

These sudden and violent storms called white squalls have sunk ships

221

00:17:27,200 --> 00:17:31,200

and added to the Triangle's deadly reputation.

222

00:17:32,200 --> 00:17:37,200

You had a lot of incidences where planes went missing, boats went missing.

223

00:17:37,200 --> 00:17:41,200

So you have to respect it and you have to fear it.

224

00:17:41,200 --> 00:17:46,200

The Bermuda Triangle borders some of the Earth's most powerful forces.

225

00:17:46,200 --> 00:17:51,200

The Gulf Stream, the Atlantic's strongest current,

226

00:17:51,200 --> 00:17:56,200

known to carry disabled ships and planes miles from their reported positions.

227

00:17:57,200 --> 00:18:01,200

A mid-ocean area that is often eerily become,

228

00:18:01,200 --> 00:18:06,200

trapping many a stranded vessel in a slow death grip.

229

00:18:07,200 --> 00:18:12,200

And the Triangle is a superhighway for hurricanes.

230

00:18:12,200 --> 00:18:15,200

There's no doubt that this area is incredibly active.

231

00:18:15,200 --> 00:18:21,200

It is an area where there are anomalies that cannot be explained by physical science.

232

00:18:22,200 --> 00:18:29,200

And nowhere else has so many eyewitness accounts of paranormal activity.

233

00:18:29,200 --> 00:18:36,200

Malfunctioning instruments and strange lights attributed to aliens or the supernatural.

234

00:18:39,200 --> 00:18:46,200

The U.S. government recently revealed that in 2017, navy pilots flying over the Bermuda Triangle

235

00:18:46,200 --> 00:18:49,200

captured UFOs on camera.

236

00:18:51,200 --> 00:18:53,200

The facts are the facts.

237

00:18:53,200 --> 00:18:56,200

There are disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle that are unexplained.

238

00:18:56,200 --> 00:18:58,200

I don't think it's aliens.

239

00:18:58,200 --> 00:19:03,200

But no one's ever really discovered the smoking gun.

240

00:19:06,200 --> 00:19:09,200

While craft waits for the weather to calm,

241

00:19:09,200 --> 00:19:14,200

team members Wayne Abbott and David O'Keefe head inland.

242

00:19:15,200 --> 00:19:20,200

They're hunting for any evidence the planes crashed in Florida.

243

00:19:22,200 --> 00:19:28,200

There is one possibility that the planes that night actually decided to split up and go their own way.

244

00:19:28,200 --> 00:19:34,200

And if that's the case, then it is a possibility that some made it back to land.

245

00:19:35,200 --> 00:19:38,200

The theory that at least one plane made it back to land

246

00:19:39,200 --> 00:19:44,200

rests on cryptic evidence of possible dissension on flight 19.

247

00:19:47,200 --> 00:19:50,200

Intercepted radio calls indicate that one of the student pilots,

248

00:19:50,200 --> 00:19:53,200

possibly Marine Captain Ed Powers,

249

00:19:53,200 --> 00:19:59,200

disagreed with instructor Charles Taylor that the flight was lost over the Florida Keys.

250

00:20:00,200 --> 00:20:03,200

Powers argued they were over the Atlantic.

251

00:20:04,200 --> 00:20:07,200

He urged Taylor to fly west.

252

00:20:08,200 --> 00:20:10,200

Dammit, we need to fly west.

253

00:20:10,200 --> 00:20:14,200

If we fly west, we will get home.

254

00:20:14,200 --> 00:20:16,200

There was some dissension in the ranks,

255

00:20:16,200 --> 00:20:20,200

and a guy like Captain Powers just says, you know, screw it.

256

00:20:20,200 --> 00:20:23,200

Taylor, you've messed us around too long.

257

00:20:23,200 --> 00:20:26,200

I'm gonna head towards land, because I know where we are.

258

00:20:27,200 --> 00:20:29,200

So that easily could have happened.

259

00:20:31,200 --> 00:20:36,200

Wayne and David have recently tracked down new evidence that could back up this theory.

260

00:20:39,200 --> 00:20:44,200

Just west of Varro Beach, Florida, they've come to meet Graham Steichleather,

261

00:20:44,200 --> 00:20:48,200

who is taking them back to the site of a vivid boyhood memory.

262

00:20:51,200 --> 00:20:53,200

So how old were you at the time?

263

00:20:53,200 --> 00:20:54,200

I was nine.

264

00:20:54,200 --> 00:20:57,200

So this is similar to what you remember?

265

00:20:57,200 --> 00:20:58,200

Yeah, it is.

266

00:20:58,200 --> 00:21:01,200

The first thing that you passed was the tail section,

267

00:21:01,200 --> 00:21:06,200

and then probably another, gosh, 50 to 100 feet in front of there was the plane.

268

00:21:09,200 --> 00:21:14,200

In 1962, years after the disappearance of Flight 19,

269

00:21:14,200 --> 00:21:19,200

a nine-year-old Graham was brought here by his father to see a plane wreck.

270

00:21:21,200 --> 00:21:23,200

Graham's father, a Florida judge,

271

00:21:23,200 --> 00:21:28,200

discovered the wreck while hunting and reported it to the Navy.

272

00:21:29,200 --> 00:21:32,200

He was told it was from Flight 19.

273

00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:38,200

But the wreck was removed, and the Navy later denied any knowledge of the incident.

274

00:21:39,200 --> 00:21:42,200

What did your father do upon finding the wreck?

275

00:21:42,200 --> 00:21:45,200

The first place he called was Patrick Air Force Base.

276

00:21:45,200 --> 00:21:50,200

They finally did pull the plane out, and there were bodies in it.

277

00:21:51,200 --> 00:21:53,200

Where did your father take this story, then?

278

00:21:53,200 --> 00:21:58,200

He finally kind of hit a wall, and nobody talked to him anymore.

279

00:21:58,200 --> 00:22:04,200

What really raises a lot of mystery about this plane is the Navy told him

280

00:22:04,200 --> 00:22:06,200

that this was part of Flight 19.

281

00:22:07,200 --> 00:22:11,200

Unfortunately, no matter how much the judge went back to the Navy,

282

00:22:11,200 --> 00:22:13,200

he could not get any more information.

283

00:22:14,200 --> 00:22:17,200

As a researcher, you can't place too much faith in human memory.

284

00:22:17,200 --> 00:22:20,200

Human memory becomes fallible immediately after.

285

00:22:21,200 --> 00:22:24,200

You still needed some sort of concrete proof.

286

00:22:24,200 --> 00:22:26,200

Do you have anything that came from the plane?

287

00:22:26,200 --> 00:22:29,200

Yeah, I do. I do have pieces of plane and some bits.

288

00:22:29,200 --> 00:22:32,200

You have pieces of the plane that your father found?

289

00:22:32,200 --> 00:22:33,200

Yeah, absolutely.

290

00:22:34,200 --> 00:22:39,200

After his father died, Graham gave the plane pieces to a friend named Jimmy,

291

00:22:39,200 --> 00:22:41,200

who collects World War II memorabilia.

292

00:22:42,200 --> 00:22:45,200

Jimmy has agreed to meet Wayne and David.

293

00:22:46,200 --> 00:22:51,200

Are they about to uncover a piece of the legendary Flight 19?

294

00:22:51,200 --> 00:22:52,200

Here it is.

295

00:22:52,200 --> 00:22:54,200

Oh, here we go.

296

00:22:54,200 --> 00:23:01,200

Wayne Abbott and David O'Keefe are part of a team of Bermuda Triangle investigators.

297

00:23:01,200 --> 00:23:05,200

They're now in Florida to examine plane wreckage.

298

00:23:06,200 --> 00:23:07,200

Here it is, fellas.

299

00:23:08,200 --> 00:23:12,200

It was found on this spot and is allegedly part of Flight 19.

300

00:23:12,200 --> 00:23:13,200

That's a .50 caliber.

301

00:23:13,200 --> 00:23:16,200

That is a .50 caliber.

302

00:23:16,200 --> 00:23:19,200

Yes, this is an M2 and a .50 caliber.

303

00:23:19,200 --> 00:23:22,200

I believe would have been mounted in the wing of the aircraft.

304

00:23:22,200 --> 00:23:23,200

And this is the mount?

305

00:23:23,200 --> 00:23:28,200

That would be the forward mount that would have attached to this portion of the gun.

306

00:23:29,200 --> 00:23:33,200

David compares the parts to a schematic from a TBM Avenger manual.

307

00:23:34,200 --> 00:23:38,200

Looking at this picture, if you look right there, look it.

308

00:23:38,200 --> 00:23:39,200

There's the mount.

309

00:23:39,200 --> 00:23:40,200

That is.

310

00:23:40,200 --> 00:23:41,200

That is it.

311

00:23:42,200 --> 00:23:43,200

That is it.

312

00:23:43,200 --> 00:23:48,200

The TBM-3 Avenger had .50 cal machine guns mounted on its wings.

313

00:23:48,200 --> 00:23:55,200

This gun was used on many planes, but the small mount is unique to the Avenger.

314

00:23:57,200 --> 00:24:03,200

Making it likely this gun came off the same kind of planes lost on Flight 19.

315

00:24:05,200 --> 00:24:08,200

Are there any other markings on the plane?

316

00:24:08,200 --> 00:24:09,200

No.

317

00:24:09,200 --> 00:24:10,200

There are.

318

00:24:10,200 --> 00:24:14,200

The original markings from the factory and there is a serial number which...

319

00:24:14,200 --> 00:24:15,200

Yes.

320

00:24:15,200 --> 00:24:16,200

All right.

321

00:24:16,200 --> 00:24:17,200

This is great.

322

00:24:17,200 --> 00:24:22,200

This is great because all of these were logged, particularly when it came to armaments on

323

00:24:22,200 --> 00:24:28,200

planes and somewhere in the archives there is going to be a log of this.

324

00:24:29,200 --> 00:24:33,200

The big reason that having a machine gun is great is because it comes with a serial number

325

00:24:33,200 --> 00:24:37,200

and with the serial number it's going to be a log of this.

326

00:24:37,200 --> 00:24:42,200

This is the serial number and with the serial number we might be able to find out what plane

327

00:24:42,200 --> 00:24:43,200

this came off of.

328

00:24:43,200 --> 00:24:47,200

We might be able to find out who the pilots and the rest of the crew were.

329

00:24:47,200 --> 00:24:52,200

This is the best piece of hard evidence we've ever come across.

330

00:24:52,200 --> 00:25:00,200

As David follows the trail of the serial number, another member of the Bermuda Triangle

331

00:25:00,200 --> 00:25:07,200

team, seasoned explorer Mike Barnett is opening up a new search.

332

00:25:07,200 --> 00:25:12,200

His dive team will focus on the waters along Florida's coastline.

333

00:25:12,200 --> 00:25:17,200

I've been working in the Bermuda Triangle or as I call it the Bulls*** Triangle for 30 years.

334

00:25:17,200 --> 00:25:23,200

As a scientist Barnett believes these disappearances have a rational explanation.

335

00:25:23,200 --> 00:25:26,200

There's all sorts of theories about what's going on here.

336

00:25:26,200 --> 00:25:32,200

There's all sorts of paranormal phenomena, UFOs, time warps, Atlantis.

337

00:25:32,200 --> 00:25:37,200

In the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind, another famous Bermuda Triangle disappearance,

338

00:25:37,200 --> 00:25:44,200

the ship called the Kodopaxi, was set down by extraterrestrials in the Gobi Desert.

339

00:25:45,200 --> 00:25:50,200

Barnett recently found the Kodopaxi and worked out what really happened.

340

00:25:51,200 --> 00:25:55,200

The Kodopaxi was caught in a storm on November 30th in 1925.

341

00:25:55,200 --> 00:26:00,200

She sank just over 100 feet of water about 40 miles off the coast of Florida.

342

00:26:02,200 --> 00:26:04,200

There's no need for additional drama.

343

00:26:04,200 --> 00:26:07,200

The weather can provide all the drama you ever would want.

344

00:26:07,200 --> 00:26:15,200

The weather can go from flat calm to raging 7 to 10 foot seas and 25 knot winds at a snap of a finger.

345

00:26:16,200 --> 00:26:21,200

To find Flight 19, Barnett's using the same approach he used to find the Kodopaxi.

346

00:26:22,200 --> 00:26:24,200

Follow the fish.

347

00:26:24,200 --> 00:26:28,200

Fish are after structure and habitat and shipwrecks provide great habitat.

348

00:26:28,200 --> 00:26:33,200

Shipwrecks are like mini reeds that make for rich fishing ground.

349

00:26:34,200 --> 00:26:37,200

There are hundreds off Florida's coast.

350

00:26:37,200 --> 00:26:42,200

And the fishermen who make their living off these wrecks can provide valuable leads.

351

00:26:43,200 --> 00:26:45,200

They know where the wrecks are. They don't know what the wrecks are.

352

00:26:45,200 --> 00:26:47,200

They know there's something there.

353

00:26:49,200 --> 00:26:53,200

I've worked with all sorts of commercial fishermen, whether it be draggers and trawlers.

354

00:26:53,200 --> 00:26:58,200

Or in this case, I'm working with Captain Jeff Marenko, who is a commercial spear fisherman.

355

00:27:01,200 --> 00:27:09,200

Me and Barnett have been friends for a long time and we wanted to come out here and check out some wrecks off of North Florida that we've been talking about for years.

356

00:27:12,200 --> 00:27:14,200

A lot of these wrecks, a lot of people lost their lives.

357

00:27:14,200 --> 00:27:23,200

So anytime you can identify something and finish the equation of what happened to it, I think it's a good thing.

358

00:27:25,200 --> 00:27:29,200

There's a mystery wreck the captain's told us about. No one knows what it is.

359

00:27:30,200 --> 00:27:36,200

The dive team includes Jimmy Godomsky and underwater cinematographer Evan Kovacs.

360

00:27:36,200 --> 00:27:38,200

What's the range, depth range?

361

00:27:38,200 --> 00:27:40,200

130 to almost 200 feet of water.

362

00:27:40,200 --> 00:27:47,200

They're rated to hit extreme depths of up to 500 feet, close to the limit for human divers.

363

00:27:47,200 --> 00:27:49,200

Just starting to mark the edge of the wreck now.

364

00:27:49,200 --> 00:27:56,200

We're starting to see some stuff. The bottom's at 160, 165, and we're seeing the fish up to 140, so it's definitely something here.

365

00:27:56,200 --> 00:27:59,200

I'm ready when you are if you want to try hooking right now.

366

00:27:59,200 --> 00:28:01,200

Go.

367

00:28:09,200 --> 00:28:15,200

Below they find not a plane, but a 200 foot shipwreck.

368

00:28:16,200 --> 00:28:22,200

Could this be an important piece of the Bermuda Triangle mystery?

369

00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:26,200

The Bermuda Triangle

370

00:28:29,200 --> 00:28:35,200

Mike Barnett is part of a team of investigators exploring the legendary Bermuda Triangle.

371

00:28:37,200 --> 00:28:43,200

Searching for a lost squadron of Navy bombers, they may have stumbled upon another of the Triangle's victims.

372

00:28:45,200 --> 00:28:47,200

A massive shipwreck.

373

00:28:49,200 --> 00:28:51,200

What is it?

374

00:28:53,200 --> 00:28:57,200

We found a wreck that's about 200 feet long, with a 24 and a half foot beam.

375

00:29:00,200 --> 00:29:04,200

We noticed it was carrying a very bizarre cargo, this white clay-like material.

376

00:29:05,200 --> 00:29:12,200

We took a sample of that, so we figured if we could identify the cargo, potentially we could identify the wreck.

377

00:29:13,200 --> 00:29:18,200

Barnett's team heads to the surface to try to work out what they found.

378

00:29:19,200 --> 00:29:22,200

This is a sample of cargo.

379

00:29:23,200 --> 00:29:27,200

It used to look like a white-graced clay, but it's just tons of it down there.

380

00:29:28,200 --> 00:29:30,200

So I'm curious what this is.

381

00:29:32,200 --> 00:29:39,200

After assessing the evidence, Barnett matches the wreck to a famous unsolved Bermuda Triangle disappearance.

382

00:29:40,200 --> 00:29:46,200

A cargo ship lost in April 1950 and never heard from again, the Sandra.

383

00:29:49,200 --> 00:29:57,200

The Sandra left Savannah with a 12-man crew and vanished, thought to have been swallowed by the legendary Bermuda Triangle.

384

00:29:58,200 --> 00:30:04,200

We found a record of a vessel called the Sandra that was lost in 1950, and it was carrying a cargo of DDT.

385

00:30:08,200 --> 00:30:16,200

And when we actually analyzed the cargo, we found out it was Kaelin clay, which uses an insecticide or pesticide, as well as traces of DDT.

386

00:30:18,200 --> 00:30:25,200

We know when the Sandra left Savannah, Georgia headed south along the North Florida coast, it would

pass right over where we were diving, where this mystery wreck is.

387

00:30:26,200 --> 00:30:30,200

In all the dimensions, all the machinery matched exactly what the Sandra was.

388

00:30:31,200 --> 00:30:38,200

We put all this evidence all together, cumulatively, it was overwhelming that the mystery wreck was indeed the Sandra.

389

00:30:39,200 --> 00:30:44,200

For the Bermuda Triangle investigation team, it's a major discovery.

390

00:30:45,200 --> 00:30:50,200

A 200-foot ship, thought to be vanished forever, is now found.

391

00:30:52,200 --> 00:30:58,200

But what or who buried the Sandra and her 12 sailors in this watery grave?

392

00:31:00,200 --> 00:31:06,200

Is there some unknown force behind this and so many Bermuda Triangle mysteries?

393

00:31:08,200 --> 00:31:13,200

With the sensational discovery, these questions can now be investigated.

394

00:31:14,200 --> 00:31:24,200

I mean, just serendipity, right? We're trying to find information on another Bermuda Triangle mystery, and yet we stumble into another one, which just shows you that's what happens when you go out exploring out here. You just never know where you're going to run into.

395

00:31:27,200 --> 00:31:36,200

But the mystery of the Sandra must wait. Barnett is eager to return to his primary mission, finding the missing planes.

396

00:31:39,200 --> 00:31:49,200

Forced into port by severe weather, Petrel is heading back to sea. Barnett joins team member Rob Kraft for the next leg of the expedition.

397

00:31:50,200 --> 00:31:51,200

Yeah, I really appreciate your opportunity.

398

00:31:52,200 --> 00:32:01,200

Mike Barnett is a NOAA Marine biologist and an avid diver. We're going to bring him on board and

we're going to talk to him about the PBM Mariner aspect of Flight 19.

399

00:32:02,200 --> 00:32:06,200

Barnett is most interested in a lesser known aspect of the Flight 19 saga.

400

00:32:08,200 --> 00:32:11,200

The loss of the Martin Mariner search and rescue plane.

401

00:32:12,200 --> 00:32:22,200

In the process of trying to rescue these five aircraft, another search and rescue aircraft was dispatched to go find them. And it disappeared less than a half hour after taking off.

402

00:32:24,200 --> 00:32:27,200

So in an instant, we've doubled the men at EV rescued.

403

00:32:28,200 --> 00:32:33,200

7.30 PM, about an hour since the last transmission from Flight 19.

404

00:32:35,200 --> 00:32:41,200

A 13 man rescue team goes after the lost flight, like firemen running into a burning building.

405

00:32:42,200 --> 00:32:43,200

20-0-0 departure radar contact.

406

00:32:44,200 --> 00:32:48,200

Around 8.30 PM, the rescue plane suddenly drops off radar.

407

00:32:49,200 --> 00:32:59,200

A passing freighter, the SS Gaines Mill, reported a large fireball in the skies around that time.

408

00:33:00,200 --> 00:33:03,200

Did the plane explode mid-flight?

409

00:33:05,200 --> 00:33:11,200

No wreckage was ever found. And the true location of the incident is hotly debated.

410

00:33:12,200 --> 00:33:16,200

This is a site identified in 1989 during the search for Challenger debris.

411

00:33:17,200 --> 00:33:24,200

Barnett thinks he may have found the missing Mariner by digging through the archives of a seemingly unrelated event.

412

00:33:27,200 --> 00:33:30,200

The 1986 explosion of the Challenger Space Shuttle.

413

00:33:34,200 --> 00:33:39,200

Tragically, it exploded a few minutes after launch and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean several pieces.

414

00:33:39,200 --> 00:33:42,200

There was a major effort to go out and search for this debris.

415

00:33:43,200 --> 00:33:49,200

And they actually found what they identified as a DC-3, a twin-engine aircraft in this area here.

416

00:33:51,200 --> 00:33:56,200

Searching for the debris of the Challenger, NASA identified the wreck of a DC-3 aircraft.

417

00:33:58,200 --> 00:34:01,200

But the dive report states visibility was poor.

418

00:34:03,200 --> 00:34:05,200

So, did they get it right?

419

00:34:06,200 --> 00:34:09,200

Could this actually be the missing Mariner?

420

00:34:10,200 --> 00:34:11,200

How far offshore is this?

421

00:34:11,200 --> 00:34:13,200

This is about 30 miles.

422

00:34:14,200 --> 00:34:18,200

Okay, let's get on the phone and call the branch and give them that position.

423

00:34:19,200 --> 00:34:24,200

Rob Kraft adjusts course to head towards Mike Barnett's provocative target.

424

00:34:28,200 --> 00:34:30,200

It's early March, 2020.

425

00:34:31,200 --> 00:34:39,200

Rob Kraft and Mike Barnett have taken RV petrol over the very spot where NASA records document a mysterious aircraft wreck.

426

00:34:41,200 --> 00:34:44,200

Max gun, you'll be 133 meters.

427

00:34:45,200 --> 00:34:52,200

They suspect that it may be the PBM Mariner rescue plane that was lost along with Flight 19.

428

00:34:52,200 --> 00:34:59,200

We know the PBM was likely traveling it and out to 800 feet or so, so if it did crash, we should have large chunks of wreckage.

429

00:35:01,200 --> 00:35:09,200

Using the petrol sonar, they searched the ocean floor for half a mile in every direction and turned up.

430

00:35:10,200 --> 00:35:11,200

Nothing.

431

00:35:12,200 --> 00:35:14,200

Yeah, there's nothing there.

432

00:35:16,200 --> 00:35:21,200

Is the NASA data inaccurate or did churning undersea currents destroy the wreck?

433

00:35:23,200 --> 00:35:26,200

Whatever the explanation, there's no plane here.

434

00:35:27,200 --> 00:35:30,200

But for Kraft, this is still progress.

435

00:35:31,200 --> 00:35:35,200

When you rule targets out, that can help you focus your search.

436

00:35:35,200 --> 00:35:38,200

X rarely ever marks the spot.

437

00:35:40,200 --> 00:35:47,200

As Kraft steers petrol back toward deeper water, Barnett prepares another dive expedition along the coast.

438

00:35:48,200 --> 00:35:59,200

Meanwhile, back in Florida, the other members of the team, investigators Wayne Abbott and David O'Keefe, have uncovered a provocative witness.

439

00:36:00,200 --> 00:36:02,200

This is the first interview she's ever given.

440

00:36:02,200 --> 00:36:06,200

Yeah, I mean, 75 years later, it's going to be hard to find any eyewitnesses.

441

00:36:06,200 --> 00:36:08,200

And so she's about the closest thing we're going to get.

442

00:36:11,200 --> 00:36:14,200

My father was Lieutenant Robert Cox.

443

00:36:15,200 --> 00:36:19,200

He was in radio contact with Flight 19.

444

00:36:20,200 --> 00:36:23,200

Colby Cox is the daughter of Lieutenant Robert Cox.

445

00:36:24,200 --> 00:36:28,200

The first to realize Flight 19 was in trouble on that fateful day.

446

00:36:29,200 --> 00:36:31,200

Uh, hours? You copy?

447

00:36:32,200 --> 00:36:34,200

I don't know where we are.

448

00:36:35,200 --> 00:36:40,200

Cox was also the only person to have more than a fleeting contact with Flight 19.

449

00:36:40,200 --> 00:36:43,200

Please identify yourself so someone can help.

450

00:36:46,200 --> 00:36:50,200

Cox was sure he could find them, but he was low on fuel.

451

00:36:51,200 --> 00:36:55,200

He requested to land and swap into a ready plane that was on standby.

452

00:36:56,200 --> 00:36:59,200

This is FD-74 coming in low on fuel.

453

00:36:59,200 --> 00:37:02,200

Request permission to immediately disembark in ready plane.

454

00:37:03,200 --> 00:37:06,200

I think I got a pretty good fix on those lost fliers.

455

00:37:07,200 --> 00:37:10,200

But his request was inexplicably denied.

456

00:37:13,200 --> 00:37:17,200

Why wasn't Lieutenant Cox allowed to go back up after Flight 19?

457

00:37:18,200 --> 00:37:22,200

It's very sad that Dad wasn't allowed to go back up.

458

00:37:22,200 --> 00:37:24,200

Did it weigh heavily on him?

459

00:37:24,200 --> 00:37:32,200

My dad felt extremely strongly that he could locate the flight if he were allowed to go back up.

460

00:37:32,200 --> 00:37:38,200

And he was very frustrated that he wasn't allowed to go back up.

461

00:37:39,200 --> 00:37:41,200

What was the follow-up for your father then?

462

00:37:41,200 --> 00:37:49,200

My mother was always convinced that this adversely affected my father's career

463

00:37:49,200 --> 00:37:52,200

because my father told the truth.

464

00:37:53,200 --> 00:37:58,200

Robert Cox is one of the most crucial characters in the whole Flight 19 story.

465

00:37:58,200 --> 00:38:03,200

Now, Robert died a few years ago and his story died with him,

466

00:38:03,200 --> 00:38:09,200

but Colby Cox told us a story that is shocking.

467

00:38:10,200 --> 00:38:16,200

There was a huge party on the base that night from what I recall Dad saying.

468

00:38:16,200 --> 00:38:19,200

They couldn't even find the base commander.

469

00:38:21,200 --> 00:38:26,200

My father believed that the fact that there was that big party the night before

470

00:38:26,200 --> 00:38:30,200

definitely contributed to the loss of Flight 19.

471

00:38:32,200 --> 00:38:39,200

If Lieutenant Cox did testify to this base-wide party the night before Flight 19 was lost,

472

00:38:39,200 --> 00:38:42,200

it's nowhere in the Navy's official report.

473

00:38:43,200 --> 00:38:46,200

Did your father believe that they whitewashed, say, the Board of Inquiry?

474

00:38:46,200 --> 00:38:47,200

Yes.

475

00:38:47,200 --> 00:38:48,200

Wow.

476

00:38:48,200 --> 00:38:51,200

The Navy doesn't want to hear that.

477

00:38:51,200 --> 00:38:54,200

I grew up as a Navy brat.

478

00:38:54,200 --> 00:39:01,200

My father was in the service 24 years and knowing what I know about the Navy,

479

00:39:01,200 --> 00:39:05,200

of course they're going to whitewash it.

480

00:39:07,200 --> 00:39:10,200

Boy, did she just open up something.

481

00:39:10,200 --> 00:39:13,200

Do you think that they would have sanitized the Board of Inquiry?

482

00:39:13,200 --> 00:39:14,200

Well, it could have.

483

00:39:14,200 --> 00:39:18,200

I mean, let's just say the entire base was off its game.

484

00:39:18,200 --> 00:39:19,200

They were all hungover.

485

00:39:19,200 --> 00:39:22,200

Would the Navy really want that to come out?

486

00:39:22,200 --> 00:39:24,200

Especially with the loss of 27 men.

487

00:39:24,200 --> 00:39:27,200

Particularly with the loss of 27 men.

488

00:39:29,200 --> 00:39:37,200

The amount of partying that was happening is a bit surprising, shocking, but also understandable.

489

00:39:38,200 --> 00:39:41,200

My God, these guys just got home from fighting World War II.

490

00:39:41,200 --> 00:39:42,200

It's official.

491

00:39:42,200 --> 00:39:43,200

It's all over.

492

00:39:43,200 --> 00:39:45,200

It's total victory.

493

00:39:46,200 --> 00:39:53,200

The guns of World War II fell silent in August 1945 after the final Japanese surrender.

494

00:39:53,200 --> 00:39:58,200

Cameramen and reporters of many countries record this historic moment.

495

00:39:58,200 --> 00:40:04,200

Service men from all branches went from high alert to suddenly, unexpectedly, coming home.

496

00:40:04,200 --> 00:40:09,200

The American military did not look to the year 1945 and go,

497

00:40:09,200 --> 00:40:12,200

we'll wrap it all up then and then we'll all go home.

498

00:40:12,200 --> 00:40:14,200

That was not the plan.

499

00:40:14,200 --> 00:40:20,200

The American military had imagined a force of 305,000 American troops

500

00:40:20,200 --> 00:40:23,200

participating in amphibious landing on the Japanese home islands.

501

00:40:26,200 --> 00:40:29,200

I don't want to say that they suddenly became unprofessional

502

00:40:29,200 --> 00:40:32,200

and that they neglected their duties and responsibilities.

503

00:40:33,200 --> 00:40:38,200

But I am saying that there's a different set of priorities by December 5th, 1945.

504

00:40:39,200 --> 00:40:43,200

Even if there was a massive base party the night before,

505

00:40:43,200 --> 00:40:47,200

the men of Flight 19 were experienced aviators.

506

00:40:47,200 --> 00:40:50,200

Most had seen combat in the Pacific.

507

00:40:51,200 --> 00:40:55,200

None more than Flight Instructor Charles Taylor.

508

00:40:55,200 --> 00:40:59,200

His friends called him Cece and he was from Texas from Corpus Christi

509

00:40:59,200 --> 00:41:01,200

and he joined the Navy in 1941.

510

00:41:03,200 --> 00:41:05,200

He was a highly seasoned pilot.

511

00:41:07,200 --> 00:41:12,200

He had combat experience but he had also logged 2,500 hours of flying time

512

00:41:12,200 --> 00:41:14,200

mostly on the Avenger.

513

00:41:15,200 --> 00:41:17,200

He ditched twice while in combat.

514

00:41:18,200 --> 00:41:22,200

If there was anybody on Flight 19 who understood what it was like to land in the ocean,

515

00:41:22,200 --> 00:41:26,200

deploy the rafts and survive, it seems to have been Charles Taylor.

516

00:41:28,200 --> 00:41:31,200

So he was nowhere near in over his head.

517

00:41:32,200 --> 00:41:36,200

There must have been something that really threw him off that day.

518

00:41:37,200 --> 00:41:42,200

Could Flight 19 have run into something in the Bermuda Triangle that surprised them?

519

00:41:43,200 --> 00:41:47,200

In aviation, when we look at accidents, we look at reports,

520

00:41:47,200 --> 00:41:51,200

we look at things as a compound series of events.

521

00:41:51,200 --> 00:41:54,200

An accident doesn't just happen with one thing.

522

00:41:55,200 --> 00:41:59,200

Wayne and David have come to the Florida Aviation Academy.

523

00:41:59,200 --> 00:42:03,200

They're meeting U.S. Air Force pilot and accident investigator,

524

00:42:03,200 --> 00:42:06,200

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Harris.

525

00:42:06,200 --> 00:42:10,200

We need to be able to gain experience from somebody who's been in the cockpit,

526

00:42:10,200 --> 00:42:13,200

somebody who's been in situations like this before.

527

00:42:13,200 --> 00:42:17,200

Jason has a way to give David a pilot's eye view of Flight 19.

528

00:42:18,200 --> 00:42:21,200

Whoa, Dave, jeez, I didn't realize you weighed that much.

529

00:42:22,200 --> 00:42:27,200

They're lifting off in a flight simulator, programmed for December 5th, 1945.

530

00:42:28,200 --> 00:42:30,200

Are you ready? Let's go.

531

00:42:34,200 --> 00:42:36,200

So we're going to start climbing on them.

532

00:42:36,200 --> 00:42:37,200

Perfect.

533

00:42:38,200 --> 00:42:44,200

We know that the weather report here in Fort Lauderdale on that day was cavoo.

534

00:42:45,200 --> 00:42:48,200

Clear skies, visibility unrestricted.

535

00:42:49,200 --> 00:42:54,200

But the naval report shows that offshore conditions quickly deteriorated.

536

00:42:54,200 --> 00:42:57,200

And that is almost standard in this part of the country,

537

00:42:57,200 --> 00:43:00,200

that there might be clear weather here on the landmass,

538

00:43:00,200 --> 00:43:04,200

but the flight conditions over the entire route of the flight were not.

539

00:43:06,200 --> 00:43:10,200

In a time before GPS and with limited aerial radar,

540

00:43:10,200 --> 00:43:14,200

pilots relied on visual landmarks to correct for course drift.

541

00:43:16,200 --> 00:43:21,200

Flight 19's first landmark was a small island called Chicken Shoals.

542

00:43:22,200 --> 00:43:29,200

With poor visibility, Jason thinks Flight 19 was unable to find Chicken Shoals.

543

00:43:30,200 --> 00:43:35,200

Wow, when it comes in at first, you don't realize how quick you can lose your visibility to reference points.

544

00:43:35,200 --> 00:43:36,200

Absolutely.

545

00:43:37,200 --> 00:43:43,200

Unable to find the small island, Taylor would have turned to his compasses to stay on course.

546

00:43:44,200 --> 00:43:46,200

The Avenger had two.

547

00:43:47,200 --> 00:43:51,200

But turbulence and poor weather could lead both to read incorrectly.

548

00:43:52,200 --> 00:43:57,200

Even in a simulator, the feeling of being lost leads to a pilot's worst enemy, Pennin.

549

00:43:58,200 --> 00:44:00,200

This is it, this is serious, we're lost.

550

00:44:00,200 --> 00:44:05,200

And we have no idea where Chicken Shoals is, where our intended target is.

551

00:44:05,200 --> 00:44:06,200

This is not a good feeling.

552

00:44:06,200 --> 00:44:07,200

It's not.

553

00:44:12,200 --> 00:44:14,200

When you look at the transfer of the pilot,

554

00:44:14,200 --> 00:44:17,200

you can see that the pilot is in a very good position.

555

00:44:18,200 --> 00:44:21,200

When you look at the transcripts on Flight 19,

556

00:44:21,200 --> 00:44:29,200

you begin to realize that Taylor, the flight instructor, was clearly panicked because he was lost.

557

00:44:29,200 --> 00:44:31,200

You're running out of fuel.

558

00:44:31,200 --> 00:44:32,200

It's in the middle of the night.

559

00:44:32,200 --> 00:44:34,200

You've got rain potentially.

560

00:44:34,200 --> 00:44:37,200

You've got cloud cover, you've got turbulence, you've got winds,

561

00:44:37,200 --> 00:44:40,200

you've got instruments that you no longer can trust.

562

00:44:41,200 --> 00:44:42,200

I'd be panicked.

563

00:44:42,200 --> 00:44:45,200

I don't care how much experience I have as a professional pilot.

564

00:44:45,200 --> 00:44:48,200

Those are a recipe for disaster.

565

00:44:49,200 --> 00:44:53,200

From the simulator, Jason reconstructs one possible scenario.

566

00:44:56,200 --> 00:44:59,200

Unforecasted bad weather closes in,

567

00:44:59,200 --> 00:45:03,200

reducing visibility and causing Flight 19 to drift from their planned route.

568

00:45:05,200 --> 00:45:10,200

As panic sets in, Charles Taylor distrusts his compasses.

569

00:45:10,200 --> 00:45:15,200

And leads the squadron further out to sea towards certain doom.

570

00:45:17,200 --> 00:45:21,200

So there's the possibility that there was a lot of weather that day.

571

00:45:21,200 --> 00:45:22,200

There was a lot of stress.

572

00:45:22,200 --> 00:45:25,200

What I think happened is that these guys got lost.

573

00:45:26,200 --> 00:45:32,200

If Jason's right, that means Flight 19 is most likely deep out to sea.

574

00:45:34,200 --> 00:45:39,200

But now, on land, Wayne and David are on the same plane.

575

00:45:40,200 --> 00:45:44,200

They have uncovered a clue that could flip the whole case on its head.

576

00:45:44,200 --> 00:45:46,200

You have been misinformed about me.

577

00:45:46,200 --> 00:45:49,200

I'm very much alive, Georgie.

578

00:45:50,200 --> 00:45:54,200

Was there a survivor from Flight 19?

579

00:45:56,200 --> 00:45:58,200

Flight 19.

580

00:45:58,200 --> 00:46:02,200

It's the most legendary Bermuda Triangle disappearance on record.

581

00:46:04,200 --> 00:46:09,200

David O'Keefe and Wayne Abbott are part of a team trying to finally solve this mystery.

582

00:46:10,200 --> 00:46:15,200

They're now hunting for clues in the stories of the men who disappeared that night.

583

00:46:16,200 --> 00:46:20,200

This is about 14 men that took off that day and never came home.

584

00:46:20,200 --> 00:46:23,200

14 families that had to deal with that.

585

00:46:23,200 --> 00:46:27,200

Not to mention the other 13 men lost on the Martin Mariner that went out to rescue them.

586

00:46:27,200 --> 00:46:31,200

27 men died in one night.

587

00:46:31,200 --> 00:46:33,200

That's the real story.

588

00:46:34,200 --> 00:46:37,200

The trails led them to the suburbs of New York City.

589

00:46:37,200 --> 00:46:41,200

For years, I've been hoping that we could speak to somebody from the Panessa family.

590

00:46:41,200 --> 00:46:45,200

Yeah, they've got that one piece of cryptic evidence we have to take a look at.

591

00:46:47,200 --> 00:46:50,200

Wayne and David are meeting Bill Panessa.

592

00:46:50,200 --> 00:46:51,200

Hi, how are you?

593

00:46:51,200 --> 00:46:52,200

Good.

594

00:46:52,200 --> 00:46:53,200

Dave O'Keefe.

595

00:46:53,200 --> 00:46:54,200

Bill Panessa.

596

00:46:54,200 --> 00:46:55,200

Hey, Bill, Wayne Abbott.

597

00:46:55,200 --> 00:46:58,200

Bill's uncle was Flight 19 radio man George Panessa.

598

00:46:58,200 --> 00:47:01,200

I've got something to show you that's going to be peaking your interest.

599

00:47:02,200 --> 00:47:05,200

Today, Bill is the keeper of a family secret.

600

00:47:05,200 --> 00:47:07,200

Is this all related to George?

601

00:47:07,200 --> 00:47:14,200

All related to George, that my aunt Lou, who's the matriarch, took very good care of in communication.

602

00:47:14,200 --> 00:47:20,200

I also have some of his effects from Florida where he disappeared and also from the Pacific.

603

00:47:20,200 --> 00:47:23,200

Even the stencil from his locker.

604

00:47:23,200 --> 00:47:24,200

No way.

605

00:47:26,200 --> 00:47:30,200

George was my dad's brother and George was the youngest of the brothers.

606

00:47:30,200 --> 00:47:36,200

My dad was in the Army. George was Marines, flight aviator, gunner, and bombardier.

607

00:47:38,200 --> 00:47:43,200

The disappearance and the Bermuda Triangle always hung over the family.

608

00:47:43,200 --> 00:47:48,200

And something we have always wanted an answer.

609

00:47:50,200 --> 00:47:53,200

And his flight book, this was from the Pacific.

610

00:47:54,200 --> 00:47:55,200

He was on patrols.

611

00:47:55,200 --> 00:47:57,200

He was on convoy duty, dive bombing.

612

00:47:57,200 --> 00:48:01,200

They were attacking Japanese hilled islands, strafing.

613

00:48:01,200 --> 00:48:03,200

I mean, he saw some heavy combat.

614

00:48:03,200 --> 00:48:08,200

What is the family said about the night of December 5th with you?

615

00:48:08,200 --> 00:48:11,200

Well, they really thought there was a miscommunication.

616

00:48:11,200 --> 00:48:17,200

How could men who were experienced, seasoned pilots, get lost?

617

00:48:19,200 --> 00:48:22,200

Whatever happened, they wanted an explanation.

618

00:48:22,200 --> 00:48:30,200

Ironclad that tells them why this happened to a group of servicemen that went through the Pacific theater and came back to die in the Atlantic Ocean.

619

00:48:32,200 --> 00:48:42,200

In December 1945, as families around America prepared for their first Christmas together again after years of war, the Poneces received a series of telegrams.

620

00:48:44,200 --> 00:48:46,200

Your son is missing.

621

00:48:47,200 --> 00:48:49,200

The search has been discontinued.

622

00:48:50,200 --> 00:48:52,200

Your son was killed.

623

00:48:54,200 --> 00:49:02,200

And then, the day after Christmas, they received a telegram that appeared to be from George.

624

00:49:04,200 --> 00:49:13,200

One telegram that threw everybody for a loop was on December 26th, my uncle Joe received this telegram.

625

00:49:14,200 --> 00:49:16,200

So this is a bit strange.

626

00:49:17,200 --> 00:49:22,200

You have been misinformed about me. I'm very much alive, Georgie.

627

00:49:22,200 --> 00:49:27,200

And he spelled the G-E-O-R-G-I-E. That was his signature.

628

00:49:31,200 --> 00:49:38,200

The telegram was allegedly sent by my uncle and he signed it G-E-O-R-G-I-E.

629

00:49:38,200 --> 00:49:41,200

He was the only person that signed his name like that.

630

00:49:41,200 --> 00:49:51,200

So it was like, wait a minute, we got a letter from the government saying he's lost at sea, presumed dead, and we've given up on the search because it's been over 10 days.

631

00:49:52,200 --> 00:49:59,200

And yet we get a telegram from Georgie alleged that he's fine. Which one do you want to believe?

632

00:50:01,200 --> 00:50:10,200

This mystery telegram leads to so many questions with the strangest question being, did George survive?

633

00:50:12,200 --> 00:50:18,200

George Pinesa was Captain Ed Powers' radio man.

634

00:50:20,200 --> 00:50:32,200

Some speculate Powers realized Flight Instructor Charles Taylor was heading the wrong way and turned west toward land, ultimately crashing somewhere over Florida.

635

00:50:33,200 --> 00:50:36,200

If so, could Pinesa have survived?

636

00:50:37,200 --> 00:50:43,200

Was there discussion in the family like who would have done this as a hoax?

637

00:50:43,200 --> 00:50:50,200

No, no, no, no. This came from Florida. It came from the Western Union in Florida near the base.

638

00:50:50,200 --> 00:50:59,200

So this all had credence of its original, its authentic. It might not have been sent by Georgie, but it was sent by somebody.

639

00:50:59,200 --> 00:51:03,200

Any frustration or hurt or anger even over this?

640

00:51:03,200 --> 00:51:08,200

I think hurt from the standpoint of there wasn't any satisfactory answer that it seemed to be a cover-up.

641

00:51:09,200 --> 00:51:12,200

In the end, nobody had an answer.

642

00:51:12,200 --> 00:51:20,200

So you know what we're trying to do here is try to get down to the truth, the truth of what happened. And if we do succeed, what would the truth mean to you in this?

643

00:51:21,200 --> 00:51:29,200

Well, finalize everything for a family, for myself, but I think I already know the outcome, but it would be nice to, you know, to find the planes.

644

00:51:34,200 --> 00:51:42,200

I really feel for the Pinesa family because we don't really know what the situation was, whether that was a hoax. It kind of goes down as a hoax.

645

00:51:42,200 --> 00:51:49,200

But why would anybody do that? You know, why? I mean, I kind of lean on believing it.

646

00:51:49,200 --> 00:51:56,200

In other words, that, you know, maybe he deserted, maybe he had enough, maybe he wanted to get out.

647

00:51:56,200 --> 00:52:01,200

Maybe our search in land will discover something that ties that together.

648

00:52:04,200 --> 00:52:12,200

The Pinesa telegram could add more weight to the theory that one or more of the planes somehow made it back to land.

649

00:52:15,200 --> 00:52:21,200

Could this clue connect to the plane Graham Steichleather's father allegedly found in 1962?

650

00:52:23,200 --> 00:52:28,200

While Wayne and David may be on the verge of a major breakthrough.

651

00:52:29,200 --> 00:52:36,200

Back on RV Petro, frustration is mounting among the deep sea team members.

652

00:52:39,200 --> 00:52:47,200

That was a f***ing bad idea. That was a terrible idea.

653

00:52:47,200 --> 00:52:50,200

It's now mid-March, 2020.

654

00:52:50,200 --> 00:52:52,200

Hi, Eric, where are we?

655

00:52:52,200 --> 00:53:00,200

Rob Kraft and the crew have been scouring the Bermuda Triangle for weeks, looking for any sign of the Avengers.

656

00:53:01,200 --> 00:53:05,200

Nothing. Nothing but a barren wasteland.

657

00:53:07,200 --> 00:53:08,200

Here you go, Dine.

658

00:53:08,200 --> 00:53:11,200

Kraft knew this search would be a slow grind.

659

00:53:11,200 --> 00:53:13,200

Wait, something on the bellicle, buddy.

660

00:53:13,200 --> 00:53:15,200

But there is some good news at last.

661

00:53:17,200 --> 00:53:20,200

They have detected a promising new target.

662

00:53:21,200 --> 00:53:26,200

It's around a thousand meters or so, so it's not going to take long to get the ROV down there.

663

00:53:26,200 --> 00:53:31,200

We should be able to get a good look at this and decide whether it's one of our planes or not.

664

00:53:31,200 --> 00:53:32,200

Over there.

665

00:53:32,200 --> 00:53:33,200

Yeah.

666

00:53:37,200 --> 00:53:39,200

We'll start pushing towards the target, Rob, yeah?

667

00:53:39,200 --> 00:53:40,200

Yeah.

668

00:53:42,200 --> 00:53:44,200

Dead ahead. What is that, Rudy?

669

00:53:45,200 --> 00:53:46,200

There's something.

670

00:53:50,200 --> 00:53:55,200

As the target comes into view, it's clear it's definitely man-made.

671

00:53:56,200 --> 00:54:00,200

And it's clear it's definitely not a plane.

672

00:54:01,200 --> 00:54:05,200

Most likely it's a fridge thrown overboard as trash.

673

00:54:07,200 --> 00:54:09,200

Well, it's an adventure.

674

00:54:10,200 --> 00:54:11,200

You know what an adventure is?

675

00:54:11,200 --> 00:54:12,200

What?

676

00:54:12,200 --> 00:54:14,200

It's a poorly planned vacation.

677

00:54:15,200 --> 00:54:17,200

The team can still joke.

678

00:54:17,200 --> 00:54:21,200

They've proven they can detect even the smallest objects.

679

00:54:22,200 --> 00:54:27,200

And Rob Kraft is convinced that all they need to do is finish mapping their prime target area.

680

00:54:29,200 --> 00:54:33,200

To date, we've covered about 210, 220 square nautical miles.

681

00:54:33,200 --> 00:54:37,200

So it's really just the beginning of this search.

682

00:54:39,200 --> 00:54:41,200

It's just going to take a lot of time to cover it all.

683

00:54:42,200 --> 00:54:43,200

Breaking news tonight.

684

00:54:43,200 --> 00:54:47,200

The US and Canada are closing their borders as the coronavirus pandemic deepens.

685

00:54:47,200 --> 00:54:48,200

New shelter in place.

686

00:54:48,200 --> 00:54:51,200

What time is something Rob Kraft has just run out of?

687

00:54:51,200 --> 00:54:55,200

World Health Organization has officially named it COVID-19.

688

00:54:55,200 --> 00:54:58,200

Two waves of states are issuing stay-at-home orders tonight,

689

00:54:58,200 --> 00:55:01,200

recognizing the measures needed to control the virus.

690

00:55:01,200 --> 00:55:04,200

So we've had to cut the mission short.

691

00:55:04,200 --> 00:55:07,200

And there's a bit of craziness going on with this coronavirus.

692

00:55:07,200 --> 00:55:11,200

So we're going to shut it down right now and get everybody a chance to get home

693

00:55:11,200 --> 00:55:14,200

so they can get rested up and we can get back out here.

694

00:55:14,200 --> 00:55:19,200

Petrel is driven to port by the pandemic and lockdown.

695

00:55:19,200 --> 00:55:25,200

But with the discovery of a provocative new target, the search is just heating up.

696

00:55:28,200 --> 00:55:34,200

A team of investigators are on the hunt for the Bermuda Triangle's most famous disappearance.

697

00:55:35,200 --> 00:55:37,200

Flight 19.

698

00:55:39,200 --> 00:55:44,200

The COVID pandemic has thrown a wrench into the offshore search.

699

00:55:44,200 --> 00:55:51,200

But on land, David O'Keefe and Wayne Abbott are now following up on a tantalizing clue.

700

00:55:51,200 --> 00:55:56,200

A 50-caliber machine gun that could be from Flight 19.

701

00:55:57,200 --> 00:56:02,200

You've attempted to cross-reference the serial number with the reports written at the time.

702

00:56:02,200 --> 00:56:06,200

That's what I was planning to do. The problem is trying to find the reports.

703

00:56:08,200 --> 00:56:13,200

The gun was allegedly recovered by a Florida judge in the 1960s.

704

00:56:14,200 --> 00:56:20,200

Naval officials initially told the judge that the plane was part of Flight 19.

705

00:56:21,200 --> 00:56:26,200

But the Navy later denied any knowledge of the incident.

706

00:56:27,200 --> 00:56:31,200

The gun is the only evidence of the crash.

707

00:56:33,200 --> 00:56:40,200

But after an exhaustive search, David has failed to uncover any record of this serial number.

708

00:56:41,200 --> 00:56:50,200

I'm not going to call it a cover-up or anything, but the judge tried to get information out of the Navy once they cleared the rack, and he came up empty.

709

00:56:50,200 --> 00:56:55,200

Yeah, I can understand the 1960s. It was still kind of fresh. It was new. There were security classifications.

710

00:56:55,200 --> 00:57:03,200

But 75 years later? I mean, it should be relatively easy to get our hands on this information if it still exists.

711

00:57:04,200 --> 00:57:10,200

Typically, 50-caliber machine guns were carefully tracked, so the missing serial number raises eyebrows.

712

00:57:12,200 --> 00:57:15,200

Is there something the Navy is hiding?

713

00:57:16,200 --> 00:57:22,200

Or is there a less conspiratorial explanation for why David has been unable to locate the records?

714

00:57:22,200 --> 00:57:27,200

This is December 1945. There's a big giant war machine that is starting to gear down.

715

00:57:27,200 --> 00:57:32,200

And who knows? You know, who knows whether the people on the base took their eye off the ball a little bit.

716

00:57:32,200 --> 00:57:35,200

You're no longer at war. All you want to do is get home.

717

00:57:35,200 --> 00:57:39,200

Maybe your record keeping is not as good as it was.

718

00:57:40,200 --> 00:57:44,200

David still believes the serial number records are buried somewhere.

719

00:57:45,200 --> 00:57:48,200

But a definitive answer won't come anytime soon.

720

00:57:48,200 --> 00:57:52,200

The pandemic has shut down the archives.

721

00:57:56,200 --> 00:58:02,200

We are now locked down. We're shut out. So for the time being, this remains one heck of a mystery.

722

00:58:04,200 --> 00:58:08,200

And the news for Robcraft has gone from bad to worse.

723

00:58:09,200 --> 00:58:14,200

The pandemic has forced RV petrol off the water for seven months and counting.

724

00:58:15,200 --> 00:58:19,200

We had no idea that it was going to have the impact that it did.

725

00:58:19,200 --> 00:58:24,200

The boat went into the dry dock period, and so right now it's unavailable.

726

00:58:26,200 --> 00:58:29,200

Hopes of finding the missing Avengers are dwindling.

727

00:58:29,200 --> 00:58:33,200

But Robcraft has never been one to go down without a fight.

728

00:58:35,200 --> 00:58:44,200

With petrol's high tech tools off the table, he has assembled an ad hoc team to go after a provocative new lead, codenamed Target 77.

729

00:58:45,200 --> 00:58:49,200

This target was discovered by another team.

730

00:58:49,200 --> 00:58:52,200

The target was discovered by another team.

731

00:58:52,200 --> 00:58:56,200

And it was an incidental target. It was not something that they were actually looking for.

732

00:58:57,200 --> 00:59:03,200

While the target is outside Crafts' primary search area, it is well within Flight 19's range.

733

00:59:04,200 --> 00:59:09,200

And the sonar image matches the wingspan of a TBM Avenger.

734

00:59:10,200 --> 00:59:14,200

It's the right signature on sonar. It's the right size.

735

00:59:14,200 --> 00:59:17,200

It is definitely something we need to go look at.

736

00:59:18,200 --> 00:59:25,200

Robcraft and petrol's lead technician, Paul Mayer, are teaming up with Micah Eldred and Dan Taylor on this expedition.

737

00:59:26,200 --> 00:59:28,200

So what do you have on this target?

738

00:59:28,200 --> 00:59:34,200

We found this target doing a big survey out here within AUV, and this is going to be the first time we've got an ROV on it to see what's there.

739

00:59:35,200 --> 00:59:37,200

We found this target on the ground.

740

00:59:37,200 --> 00:59:44,200

We found this target doing a big survey out here within AUV, and this is going to be the first time we've got an ROV on it to see what's there.

741

00:59:45,200 --> 00:59:46,200

Excavate a little bit there.

742

00:59:47,200 --> 00:59:49,200

Dan and Micah are modern-day treasure hunters.

743

00:59:50,200 --> 00:59:51,200

Look at that.

744

00:59:52,200 --> 00:59:57,200

They search for lost ships, some known to have gone down with cargo worth millions of dollars.

745

00:59:58,200 --> 01:00:02,200

There's not a lot of people in the world that do this, particularly in the deep ocean because it's so expensive.

746

01:00:03,200 --> 01:00:10,200

For us, not independently wealthy, we needed to find targets that could potentially find commercial cargo that would be of value.

747

01:00:11,200 --> 01:00:18,200

Micah and Dan were conducting sonar scans in an area known for colonial-era shipwrecks.

748

01:00:19,200 --> 01:00:24,200

When they stumbled across what looked like an airplane, where an airplane should not be.

749

01:00:25,200 --> 01:00:27,200

I was like, hey, what's this airplane doing out here?

750

01:00:28,200 --> 01:00:31,200

It's not on a flight path where you would go with a single-engine aircraft.

751

01:00:32,200 --> 01:00:35,200

We came to the conclusion that this could be one of those adventures.

752

01:00:39,200 --> 01:00:45,200

With Petrol's future uncertain, this could very well be Kraft's best shot to find the lost squadron.

753

01:00:47,200 --> 01:00:53,200

We have to go identify this target, and this is all we can do right now. This is our last chance.

754

01:00:56,200 --> 01:01:00,200

As Kraft and the Go America head toward the mystery wreck in deep water,

755

01:01:03,200 --> 01:01:10,200

back on shore, like Barnett is meeting Wayne Abbott and David O'Keefe, to review a new series of targets.

756

01:01:11,200 --> 01:01:15,200

Well, I think our investigation has run its course, you know, for now.

757

01:01:16,200 --> 01:01:19,200

And I think it's up to you and Kraft to get out there and search that deeper water.

758

01:01:20,200 --> 01:01:26,200

Yeah, I think, you know, Rob has got a very worthwhile target he's going to be looking at, and I have that cluster of aircraft that we're going to check out.

759

01:01:27,200 --> 01:01:30,200

A cluster of plane wrecks, that's what we're looking for.

760

01:01:30,200 --> 01:01:34,200

When this fisherman told me he's got three, four aircraft within about five miles of each other.

761

01:01:35,200 --> 01:01:38,200

No way. It's just a pretty tight cluster when you're talking about 80 miles offshore.

762

01:01:39,200 --> 01:01:41,200

So we've got to focus on that now.

763

01:01:42,200 --> 01:01:48,200

Barnett's intel for this cluster of plane wrecks comes from spear fisherman Jeff Marenko.

764

01:01:49,200 --> 01:01:52,200

Warp speed, there's no secrets in the ocean.

765

01:01:53,200 --> 01:01:59,200

And I feel if it's in traveled water, somebody has a number for a Flight 19 wreck.

766

01:02:00,200 --> 01:02:03,200

It's just a matter of when it lands in the right hands.

767

01:02:09,200 --> 01:02:11,200

The team begins their descent.

768

01:02:15,200 --> 01:02:18,200

This time, they hit Paterton.

769

01:02:19,200 --> 01:02:22,200

The unmistakable outline of an aircraft.

770

01:02:24,200 --> 01:02:26,200

Could this be Flight 19?

771

01:02:30,200 --> 01:02:39,200

Deep in the waters off Florida's coast, Mike Barnett is part of a team of investigators out to solve the Bermuda Triangle's greatest mystery.

772

01:02:40,200 --> 01:02:46,200

Flight 19, a squadron of torpedo bombers that disappeared in 1945.

773

01:02:48,200 --> 01:02:51,200

Going down the water column, we actually had great visibility.

774

01:02:51,200 --> 01:02:56,200

We got down, the marine life came out, looked at us, realized they can't eat us, and they headed back to the wreck.

775

01:02:57,200 --> 01:03:01,200

So we followed them, and that's where we found an aircraft wreck.

776

01:03:05,200 --> 01:03:10,200

Any initial dive that I do on a new wreck site, I want to try to gather as much information as possible.

777

01:03:11,200 --> 01:03:14,200

The prop of an aircraft is three blades versus four blades.

778

01:03:15,200 --> 01:03:17,200

Basic size, how many engines.

779

01:03:17,200 --> 01:03:24,200

But as we look a little bit closer, the site is dominated by a large turbine jet engine.

780

01:03:25,200 --> 01:03:29,200

And so this is not World War II vintage, this is not what we're looking for.

781

01:03:32,200 --> 01:03:34,200

But this aircraft has a story to tell.

782

01:03:36,200 --> 01:03:39,200

Diving on sites like this, you have to keep your emotions in check.

783

01:03:39,200 --> 01:03:43,200

There could be very well a fatality associated with these sites.

784

01:03:44,200 --> 01:03:47,200

It's definitely a jet engine fighter aircraft.

785

01:03:48,200 --> 01:03:51,200

Most likely from the 1960s or 70s, or maybe even more recent.

786

01:03:52,200 --> 01:03:57,200

odds are US Navy probably has a report of this crash site right here, or at least an event in near vicinity.

787

01:04:00,200 --> 01:04:07,200

Barnett identifies the wreck as an F-8 Crusader, at one time the fastest vehicle in the world.

788

01:04:08,200 --> 01:04:14,200

Naval records reveal a deadly 1966 incident that's likely tied to this wreck.

789

01:04:15,200 --> 01:04:19,200

The Navy lost contact with a Crusader on patrol in this area.

790

01:04:21,200 --> 01:04:24,200

Later finding only an oil slick and some floating debris.

791

01:04:26,200 --> 01:04:29,200

The cause of the crash remains unknown.

792

01:04:32,200 --> 01:04:36,200

Barnett will report here that the wreck site is a wreck site.

793

01:04:37,200 --> 01:04:42,200

He will report his discovery to the Navy who can more fully investigate and inform the family.

794

01:04:45,200 --> 01:04:52,200

While this wreck is not from Flight 19, it's proof that Mike's intel is good and his approach is working.

795

01:04:53,200 --> 01:04:56,200

Just going out blindly and diving in the water is not very productive.

796

01:04:57,200 --> 01:05:00,200

Every hour you can spend in the library, in the archives, speaking to commercial fishermen.

797

01:05:01,200 --> 01:05:05,200

Every little piece of that puzzle can come together to solve the mystery.

798

01:05:08,200 --> 01:05:16,200

Back aboard Go America, shipwreck investigator Dan Taylor believes the key to the triangle mystery is a bizarre subsea anomaly.

799

01:05:19,200 --> 01:05:20,200

Methane bubbles.

800

01:05:22,200 --> 01:05:31,200

Naturally occurring gas seeps are not uncommon, but Dan seen evidence that in the Bermuda Triangle

they can be lethal.

801

01:05:32,200 --> 01:05:37,200

On one of our surveys, we discovered huge crater-like formations.

802

01:05:39,200 --> 01:05:43,200

We had no idea what these things were. The largest one was 600 meters across.

803

01:05:45,200 --> 01:05:56,200

There is growing scientific consensus that when subsea methane deposits explode, they can create a massive bubble with the potential to displace water and sink ships.

804

01:05:57,200 --> 01:06:05,200

A 600 meter gas hydrate bubble would create a bubble on the surface of the ocean that's miles, miles wide.

805

01:06:06,200 --> 01:06:16,200

If you were a vessel and a bubble burst underneath you, then you would simply fall off the planet into the abyss and the water was swelling.

806

01:06:18,200 --> 01:06:22,200

Some even speculate they can create lethal turbulence and down aircraft.

807

01:06:23,200 --> 01:06:27,200

Could this explain the disappearance of Flight 19?

808

01:06:31,200 --> 01:06:38,200

Or is this another far-fetched explanation for what may have been a tragically simple disaster?

809

01:06:39,200 --> 01:06:45,200

This story took on a life of its own and people were connecting it to aliens and vortexes and, you know, different dimensions.

810

01:06:46,200 --> 01:07:00,200

Paranormal and supernatural explanations have proliferated. They include subsea crystal pyramids, alien abductions, time warps, and vortexes to alternate dimensions.

811

01:07:01,200 --> 01:07:08,200

When Flight 19 disappears out over the Bermuda Triangle, people want some bigger explanation.

812

01:07:08,200 --> 01:07:16,200

They want something better than the crew made of a navigational error because that seems so hard to

reconcile.

813

01:07:17,200 --> 01:07:23,200

To lose someone for something so common and banal is just a little bit too painful.

814

01:07:24,200 --> 01:07:28,200

But if you lose them to supernatural forces, suddenly it all makes sense.

815

01:07:30,200 --> 01:07:34,200

Everybody's looking for the one reason why they got lost, the one reason they didn't come home.

816

01:07:34,200 --> 01:07:41,200

But it doesn't work that way. There are plenty of different reasons, all playing off of each other.

817

01:07:42,200 --> 01:07:47,200

And the only way we're really going to solve this is if we find an aircraft.

818

01:07:49,200 --> 01:07:55,200

On board the Go America, that's exactly what underwater explorer Rob Kraft is hoping to do.

819

01:07:56,200 --> 01:08:10,200

He is teamed up with modern-day treasure hunters Micah Eldred and Dan Taylor to investigate target 77, a wreck the size of the Avengers from Flight 19.

820

01:08:11,200 --> 01:08:17,200

It looks really good. It's the same size as an Avenger, so we got a pretty good shot here.

821

01:08:18,200 --> 01:08:28,200

They are 300 miles offshore in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle, on a vessel that has been retrofitted for deep-sea exploration.

822

01:08:29,200 --> 01:08:31,200

Is this digging in quite hard on the front? Gotcha.

823

01:08:32,200 --> 01:08:37,200

Rough conditions make it challenging to launch the remotely operated vehicle, or ROV.

824

01:08:38,200 --> 01:08:45,200

The boat's pitching and rolling quite a bit, so as soon as you pick that heavy vehicle up off the deck, it starts swinging.

825

01:08:46,200 --> 01:08:50,200

And once that happens, you can't really stop it, you've got to set it down and try again.

826

01:08:51,200 --> 01:08:54,200

Alright, great. Let's try the invention. Nice and easy.

827

01:09:03,200 --> 01:09:05,200

She didn't want to go, did she?

828

01:09:08,200 --> 01:09:10,200

Oh, he's at 950.

829

01:09:12,200 --> 01:09:13,200

We're off, Bob.

830

01:09:14,200 --> 01:09:15,200

Eagle has landed.

831

01:09:17,200 --> 01:09:23,200

Ahead, the ROV detects the unmistakable outline of an aircraft.

832

01:09:25,200 --> 01:09:27,200

Wing, wing, nose, tail.

833

01:09:28,200 --> 01:09:31,200

That's an aircraft. No doubt.

834

01:09:32,200 --> 01:09:38,200

Will this aircraft finally unlock the mystery of what happened to Flight 19?

835

01:09:43,200 --> 01:09:51,200

In the heart of the Bermuda Triangle, underwater explorer Rob Kraft watches as a remote vehicle approaches a mysterious plane wreck.

836

01:09:52,200 --> 01:09:59,200

He's searching for the Triangle's most famous victims, five Avenger torpedo bombers that vanished without a trace.

837

01:10:07,200 --> 01:10:09,200

Visibility is really bad.

838

01:10:10,200 --> 01:10:14,200

The current's really strong, trying to push me to port.

839

01:10:17,200 --> 01:10:18,200

You're on it.

840

01:10:21,200 --> 01:10:22,200

There it is.

841

01:10:27,200 --> 01:10:28,200

There's the prop right there.

842

01:10:30,200 --> 01:10:32,200

Is that the cockpit to the left?

843

01:10:34,200 --> 01:10:35,200

There's a windshield there.

844

01:10:37,200 --> 01:10:38,200

Looks like it's white, doesn't it?

845

01:10:40,200 --> 01:10:41,200

Nice. Stripes.

846

01:10:43,200 --> 01:10:44,200

Yeah.

847

01:10:46,200 --> 01:10:47,200

It's not our bird.

848

01:10:52,200 --> 01:10:55,200

Well, we definitely have an airplane boat.

849

01:10:55,200 --> 01:11:01,200

We've got some paint markings on this aircraft that indicate that it's commercial, it's not military.

850

01:11:03,200 --> 01:11:04,200

So it's not an Avenger.

851

01:11:08,200 --> 01:11:13,200

From the yellow and white paint, it's immediately clear that this is not Flight 19.

852

01:11:17,200 --> 01:11:18,200

So what is it?

853

01:11:19,200 --> 01:11:20,200

And how did it end up here?

854

01:11:21,200 --> 01:11:27,200

You can see the shapes and how this lines up with the window, it sets down below here.

855

01:11:27,200 --> 01:11:32,200

This little triangular window here is a really unique feature on this airplane.

856

01:11:35,200 --> 01:11:39,200

The team identify the aircraft as a Cessna Skymaster.

857

01:11:41,200 --> 01:11:45,200

A ditched Cessna can float hundreds of miles before sinking.

858

01:11:46,200 --> 01:11:51,200

This wreck is most likely tied to an accident report from 1982.

859

01:11:51,200 --> 01:11:57,200

The pilot ran out of fuel and ditched overseas before being rescued by the Coast Guard.

860

01:12:00,200 --> 01:12:04,200

We were excited to come out and rule out this target. It needed to be done.

861

01:12:04,200 --> 01:12:14,200

You know, we were always hoping to find an Avenger, but this would lead us to believe or reaffirm our theory that the flight is much further to the west.

862

01:12:16,200 --> 01:12:18,200

So it is kind of a bittersweet ending.

863

01:12:21,200 --> 01:12:25,200

Now, their last chance of finding an Avenger lies with Mike Barnett.

864

01:12:27,200 --> 01:12:31,200

So guys, we have an opportunity for one more dive before the weather really shuts us down for good.

865

01:12:31,200 --> 01:12:36,200

He and his team have been exploring a cluster of plane wrecks off the north Florida coast.

866

01:12:38,200 --> 01:12:43,200

They're racing to hit one last target before weather closes the door for the season.

867

01:12:45,200 --> 01:12:47,200

But it may already be too late.

868

01:12:48,200 --> 01:12:53,200

We have a hurricane to the east of us, we have a hurricane to the west of us, and here we are stuck in the middle.

869

01:12:54,200 --> 01:13:01,200

Being out there in 25 knots, 70 miles offshore, that's what's caused a lot of these shipwrecks out here. We don't want to become one of them.

870

01:13:01,200 --> 01:13:04,200

There's only a short window before dangerous weather moves in.

871

01:13:06,200 --> 01:13:11,200

Barnett's team decides to take advantage of the calm before the storm and go for it.

872

01:13:16,200 --> 01:13:21,200

As the divers descend, Captain Jeff Morinco closely watches the surface.

873

01:13:22,200 --> 01:13:28,200

With typical scuba diving, there's actually bubbles coming up that we would follow.

874

01:13:28,200 --> 01:13:32,200

However, when they're doing closed circuit rebreathers, there's no bubbles to follow.

875

01:13:33,200 --> 01:13:38,200

So basically I just have a timer running, approximate bottom time that they're trying to do.

876

01:13:40,200 --> 01:13:43,200

The team has only about 30 minutes on the sea floor.

877

01:13:46,200 --> 01:13:50,200

But to Jeff's surprise, they resurface way too early.

878

01:13:53,200 --> 01:13:55,200

Something has gone wrong.

879

01:13:57,200 --> 01:14:02,200

The tide on the bottom is running really hard. The storm is really stirring things up. It's really green water.

880

01:14:03,200 --> 01:14:06,200

Yeah, so the hook had pulled out, it had no sign of the wreck on the bottom.

881

01:14:06,200 --> 01:14:11,200

So I made a abort the dive and come up and try for another run at it.

882

01:14:12,200 --> 01:14:18,200

A whipping bottom current ripped out the line, securing the boat to the dive target.

883

01:14:18,200 --> 01:14:20,200

And they missed the wreck.

884

01:14:24,200 --> 01:14:29,200

With their weather window closing fast, the team can't afford another miss.

885

01:14:29,200 --> 01:14:34,200

Just makes things a little tougher, but that's been the theme of this, hasn't it?

886

01:14:34,200 --> 01:14:39,200

It's just been one hurdle after another. First COVID, now there's hurricanes.

887

01:14:40,200 --> 01:14:42,200

It just doesn't stop.

888

01:14:43,200 --> 01:14:45,200

Alright, let's try this again.

889

01:14:53,200 --> 01:15:01,200

This time, everywhere Barnett looks, fish, a sure sign he's close.

890

01:15:02,200 --> 01:15:06,200

That's them, they're on it for sure. This is good.

891

01:15:09,200 --> 01:15:13,200

Below, the wreck comes into view.

892

01:15:15,200 --> 01:15:17,200

But what is it from?

893

01:15:18,200 --> 01:15:23,200

One of the first things we see is there's this big chunk of debris metal that could have been from anything.

894

01:15:23,200 --> 01:15:28,200

It could have been garbage, pitched off a ship. It didn't really speak to me of an airplane.

895

01:15:32,200 --> 01:15:37,200

And the next thing we come across is a large section of flat metal with rivets.

896

01:15:39,200 --> 01:15:43,200

Looking through a rustle on the top, I saw what appeared to be black rubber.

897

01:15:43,200 --> 01:15:46,200

I'm saying to myself, maybe this is a tired.

898

01:15:49,200 --> 01:15:55,200

Time is our enemy right now. The clock is ticking. We gotta find something to reveal what we're diving on.

899

01:15:57,200 --> 01:15:59,200

Then boom.

900

01:16:01,200 --> 01:16:04,200

Right there, staring in the face, a large repeller.

901

01:16:09,200 --> 01:16:12,200

And right next to us, the engine.

902

01:16:16,200 --> 01:16:23,200

We are excited, we are stoked. We know we have an aircraft. We have a World War II vintage aircraft.

903

01:16:29,200 --> 01:16:35,200

Now we want to find proof positive of what this aircraft is. We want to find that smoking gun.

904

01:16:36,200 --> 01:16:44,200

And then we move on a little bit farther and we see this round piece of wreckage with, in the middle of it, teeth, like for gears.

905

01:16:45,200 --> 01:16:52,200

I'm thinking to myself, this looks like a turret. Emotions are running off the chart.

906

01:16:58,200 --> 01:17:01,200

Could this be an adventure?

907

01:17:06,200 --> 01:17:08,200

The next day

908

01:17:12,200 --> 01:17:17,200

Barnett meets up with Rob Kraft and Paul Mayer to share the exciting discovery.

909

01:17:17,200 --> 01:17:21,200

We checked out some targets and I can show you some of the footage. We definitely found an aircraft.

910

01:17:21,200 --> 01:17:25,200

It's spread out pretty wide and it's been busted up pretty good.

911

01:17:25,200 --> 01:17:31,200

Obviously this aircraft had a really bad day. I mean, its ending was catastrophic.

912

01:17:32,200 --> 01:17:41,200

To find out what the mystery wreck is, they're joined by Roy Stafford, a former Navy pilot and World War II aircraft expert.

913

01:17:41,200 --> 01:17:47,200

That a three-blade prop and this ball turret, which looks to me like it's definitely a ball turret.

914

01:17:47,200 --> 01:17:50,200

Sounds like you got a lot of convincing clues there.

915

01:17:50,200 --> 01:17:57,200

At first, I wasn't sure, you know, because there's so many World War II aircraft that had three-bladed props.

916

01:17:57,200 --> 01:18:01,200

The wreckage was kind of dispersed.

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01:18:01,200 --> 01:18:05,200

One by one, Roy identifies each piece.

918

01:18:06,200 --> 01:18:08,200

The wing.

919

01:18:10,200 --> 01:18:13,200

The propeller and double radial engine.

920

01:18:16,200 --> 01:18:20,200

And the gunner's turret with a pane of bulletproof glass.

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01:18:21,200 --> 01:18:28,200

But it is the first piece of wreckage that reveals what the aircraft is.

922

01:18:31,200 --> 01:18:36,200

This structure, almost overlooked on the dive, is a landing gear.

923

01:18:38,200 --> 01:18:42,200

And the design is unique to the Avenger.

924

01:18:43,200 --> 01:18:50,200

It was a perfect match because the TBM sat real high and had torpedo bay underneath it, just like the other.

925

01:18:50,200 --> 01:18:58,200

You take the landing gear, the bulletproof glass, serrated teeth on the gears of the turret, it's all there.

926

01:18:58,200 --> 01:19:02,200

I'm actually 100% at this point that it's a TBM.

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01:19:02,200 --> 01:19:05,200

Roy looking at the footage, he's pointing out multiple things.

928

01:19:05,200 --> 01:19:07,200

And he's saying, oh, it's this, this, and this.

929

01:19:07,200 --> 01:19:09,200

And we're like, so it's an Avenger?

930

01:19:09,200 --> 01:19:11,200

He's like, oh yeah, now it's an Avenger.

931

01:19:11,200 --> 01:19:13,200

And that one was just exciting to know.

932

01:19:13,200 --> 01:19:15,200

You've made some amazing discoveries here.

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01:19:15,200 --> 01:19:17,200

You found an Avenger, you've still got some other targets.

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01:19:17,200 --> 01:19:20,200

And based on what we know, Flight 19 could be in this area.

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01:19:20,200 --> 01:19:21,200

This could be one of them.

936

01:19:21,200 --> 01:19:24,200

It's an enticing discovery.

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01:19:24,200 --> 01:19:33,200

A TBM Avenger torpedo bomber on the edge of the Bermuda Triangle, where all indications are, Flight 19 went missing.

938

01:19:34,200 --> 01:19:45,200

After 75 years, has Mike Barnett finally found the legendary Lost Squadron?

939

01:19:46,200 --> 01:19:50,200

December 5, 1945.

940

01:19:50,200 --> 01:20:05,200

Five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers and a Martin Mariner rescue plane fly into the Bermuda Triangle and disappear.

941

01:20:08,200 --> 01:20:12,200

75 years later, no trace of them has ever been found.

942

01:20:13,200 --> 01:20:16,200

That may be about to change.

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01:20:18,200 --> 01:20:26,200

Mike Barnett's been invited to the Washington Navy Yard to share a promising discovery with Dr. Robert Nieland.

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01:20:26,200 --> 01:20:29,200

This first one here obviously is a three-blade propeller.

945

01:20:29,200 --> 01:20:34,200

Nieland heads underwater archaeology in the Navy's history and heritage command.

946

01:20:35,200 --> 01:20:43,200

He and naval underwater archaeology expert Augustin Ortiz review Mike's dive.

947

01:20:43,200 --> 01:20:48,200

So I see here you were counting cylinders. How many were you able to count there?

948

01:20:48,200 --> 01:20:50,200

I think I saw seven. It's definitely two rows.

949

01:20:50,200 --> 01:20:56,200

This really looks positive that this could very well be an Avenger, but is it one of the Flight 19 Avengers?

950

01:20:56,200 --> 01:20:59,200

That's the question we need to answer.

951

01:20:59,200 --> 01:21:05,200

To be able to actually identify it to a specific one is really tough because it's broken up.

952

01:21:05,200 --> 01:21:11,200

It's very corroded. So you're looking for something that will tie it to a specific aircraft.

953

01:21:12,200 --> 01:21:15,200

The one thing they know for sure is where it was found.

954

01:21:17,200 --> 01:21:20,200

Could the Rex location match any known crashes?

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01:21:20,200 --> 01:21:31,200

We found the record of TBM aircraft 73379 that crashed within the crash zone of this wreck site.

956

01:21:35,200 --> 01:21:45,200

The Navy's records now declassified reveal a botched carrier landing in February 1945, just three miles from Barnett's discovery.

957

01:21:46,200 --> 01:21:49,200

Luckily, the pilot was able to escape.

958

01:21:49,200 --> 01:21:58,200

We can't say for 100% that this is that aircraft without doing more exploration to see if there's some sort of marking that identifies it.

959

01:21:58,200 --> 01:22:05,200

Without identifiable markings, there's no way to be certain this plane is tied to the carrier crash.

960

01:22:06,200 --> 01:22:09,200

And key questions remain unanswered.

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01:22:10,200 --> 01:22:17,200

Why is an aircraft that ditched while trying to land broken into scattered pieces like this?

962

01:22:19,200 --> 01:22:22,200

And what are the other nearby plane wrecks?

963

01:22:22,200 --> 01:22:26,200

There are other wrecks in this general area and we don't know what those wrecks are.

964

01:22:26,200 --> 01:22:33,200

That's really exciting and we look forward to continuing to work with you and we'd be very interested to see what you find next.

965

01:22:34,200 --> 01:22:42,200

If the nearby wrecks are also Avengers, that would strengthen the case that Barnett has indeed discovered Flight 19.

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01:22:42,200 --> 01:22:52,200

This story with Flight 19 is important for the Navy to see resolve because it highlights the sacrifice and the service that military personnel have done.

967

01:22:52,200 --> 01:22:57,200

If it's other Navy aircraft out there, we need to know where these are located.

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01:22:57,200 --> 01:23:03,200

With a dive season closed for the year, Barnett must wait to explore the nearby targets.

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01:23:05,200 --> 01:23:16,200

For the moment, the Bermuda Triangle still holds its grip on this mystery, but the team is more determined than ever to find the planes.

970

01:23:17,200 --> 01:23:23,200

This is going to be a lifelong pursuit. We're not going to stop until we find the Martin Mariner and hopefully Flight 19.

971

01:23:23,200 --> 01:23:29,200

If the Avengers crashed in shallow water, Mike Barnett is convinced he can find them all.

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01:23:30,200 --> 01:23:36,200

And the investigation still cannot rule out. The possibilities some of them made it back to land.

973

01:23:36,200 --> 01:23:43,200

We've been able to check off some of the boxes. There's a lot of them here and there's still more to check, but we've been able to get rid of some of them.

974

01:23:43,200 --> 01:23:48,200

Wayne Abbott and David O'Keefe believe the archives still hold secrets.

975

01:23:49,200 --> 01:23:56,200

Just when we think we're answering one question, a whole bunch of others pop up. But that's the mystery of Flight 19.

976

01:23:56,200 --> 01:24:02,200

And Rob Kraft was only able to map out a fraction of his primary search area.

977

01:24:02,200 --> 01:24:07,200

We spent a lot of time and effort to make sure that we were doing the right thing, and I think we were.

978

01:24:07,200 --> 01:24:12,200

If the planes are in deep water, Kraft is sure he can find them.

979

01:24:12,200 --> 01:24:15,200

We need to go back and resume the search where we were before.

980

01:24:15,200 --> 01:24:23,200

Despite the challenges, the team believes they've come closer to finding Flight 19 than anyone else.

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01:24:23,200 --> 01:24:27,200

And it's just a matter of time before the mystery is solved.

982

01:24:28,200 --> 01:24:34,200

Officially, Flight 19 is still out there. But the net could be closing fast.

983

01:24:35,200 --> 01:24:41,200

I'm Lawrence Fishburne. Thank you for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.