

CoOI S12 E24 Into the Void

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

Alex arrives at the Money Pit to check on the progress of TOT1. John tells Alex that everything is going well and the pressures are good. TOT1 is less than 10 feet south of TB1, which collapsed. After the collapse of TB1, the team felt that the vault and more than 100 cubic yards of material fell into the solution channel below, and they hope to dig TOT1 deep enough to reach the solution channel where the vault could have fallen. Terry and Jack are supervising the dig in the Money Pit when John arrives and tells them they have reached a depth of 142 feet, and they will take another measurement in about an hour. A scoop comes out, and Jack notices a lot of wood. Terry says they are chewing through the side of the Chappell shaft. Marty arrives and wants to know if they are out of the wood, and Terry tells him they have about another 25 to 30 feet to go. Marty decides to take a look at some of the wood, and Terry goes with him to show him a couple of pieces. Terry shows Marty a piece of wood with a wedge cut into the end of it. Marty looks at a piece of wood and tells Terry that some of the wood looks like it doesn't belong in the Chappell shaft. Terry then points out a piece of wood with a dowel in it. Then Marty notices some round pieces of wood. Terry brings over a piece for Marty to examine. Marty thinks the wood looks odd and sets it aside for later. That afternoon, the team is going through the spoils that are coming from TOT1. Gary scans for metal while Marty and Terry remove pieces of wood. Terry finds a piece of wood with a piece of the shoe attached. In 1931, Melbourne Chappell braced the bottom of the Chappell shaft with a four-foot-tall metal shoe to prevent flooding and cave-ins. This means that anything that comes up now could be from the original Money Pit. The next scoop from 160 feet comes out, and when Gary scans the material, he gets a hit. Marty digs out part of an old iron tool. Gary

says he can even see the striations on it. Rick arrives, and Marty tells him they think they are below the Chappell shaft, and also shows him the piece of metal they found. Adam comes over and tells the group they are at about 171 feet, and they are going to stop for the day. The next day, Terry tells Rick that they have a heavy plug and it is causing high pressure. Adam tells them they are progressing very slowly, and the material is binding up inside the casing, which makes it harder to dig. The shaft then begins to cave in all the way around the caisson. More gravel is used to fill in the cave-in, and they continue the dig. The next bucket comes out, and it contains more material. Adam comes over and tells the group they are advancing, and they aren't really worried about a collapse. Adam also tells them that what he is seeing in the bucket is a good sign and that the casing is at 183.5 feet. Terry, Marty, and Gary go over to take a look at the next grab. Terry notices a chunk of gypsum wood that Marty takes over to see if it will float. The wood sinks, which could indicate that it is very old. Rick comes over, and Marty shows him the wood. Scott arrives and asks how things are going. John tells them they are at 192.5 feet and the casing is not advancing. Marty and Terry think they are hitting a ledge. Marty suggests doing an airlift to try to bring up material.

Lot 5

Alex and Peter arrive to help with the ongoing search at the round feature on Lot 5. The group begins digging, and Ethan finds a square nail. Fiona thinks the nail could be from the late 1600s to mid-1700s.

Interpretive Center

The team is meeting to discuss the work done in the swamp. Rick tells the group that he asked Steve to compile the results of testing done on the wood and organic materials in the different features in the swamp. Steve compiled a list of dates for each feature. Dr. Spooner says they looked at things like the

cobble path and the stake that was found under a pile of stone. Steve tells the group there is 600 feet of cobble path, and there were multiple survey stakes that dated from 1650 to 1700. Next, Steve tells them that the Eye of the Swamp at the north end of the swamp also dates from 1630 to 1680. Steve tells them the vault also dates back to the late 1600s. Peter mentions that all of those dates fit with the Knights of Malta being in the area in the 1600s. Jack suggests that the Knights of Malta could have been finishing up work started by the Templars. Next, the group discusses the boulders in the northern part of the swamp. Steve says that mixed in with the boulders were survey stakes or support stakes that dated from the late 1600s to the early 1700s. Moya then explains that scans done north of the boulders or seawall showed an elongated anomaly that could be interesting. It is agreed that they should dig in that area.

North End of Swamp

As Alan begins to dig the area where the anomaly was located, Rick, Peter, Alex, Craig, and Gary are watching for any clues or artifacts that could indicate they are near Fred's wall. Alan scoops away a bucket of dirt, and Rick notices a possible piece of wood. Alan pulls away a little more dirt and reveals a piece of wood. Gary begins to scan the area but doesn't get a hit. Rick decides they should dig down a little more and let the water come in. Alan pulls out more dirt, and Craig says it looks like they have hit virgin ground. Rick says there is nothing there and says they are done.

The Lab

The team is meeting with Carmen to hear his opinion on the tool that was found in the Money Pit yesterday during the excavation of TOT1. Carmen takes a look at the piece and says it is broken off from another piece. He then points out that the grains are starting to fold on the end. Carmen says that when you beat on it repeatedly, they will start to fold up. Carmen says the piece was

repeatedly hit with stone. Carmen asks Emma about the analysis, and she shows him a cross-section of the piece, which shows a crack in the piece. Carmen thinks it could be part of a very heavy and very old pickaxe. Carmen then tells them that pickaxes like this are usually from the 1500s and maybe the early 1600s. Emma then tells them that the piece contains potassium, phosphorus, sulfur, and magnesium, and these impurities indicate it is from the 1500s to 1700s.