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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 25/08/15

Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland

Today, let's talk about Nazi gold. It's a hot topic to discuss, especially since the alleged discovery in the Polish mountains of a long lost Nazi ghost train. Legend says it is full of gold and other such treasures. If the speculation is correct it would be a truly fascinating discovery. Certainly, it would make a good Indiana Jones style movie, for sure!

Seventy years since the end of the Third Reich two treasure hunters have now reported their discovery. The train is said to be hidden in a long-forgotten sealed off tunnel under the mountains near the town of Walbrzych in southwest Poland near the Czech border.

The Nazis are known to have built a subterranean system of tunnels in what today is Gluszyca-Osowka, Poland. According to local folklore a Nazi train loaded with gold and weapons vanished into a mountain here at the end of World War 2.

Polish authorities held a crisis meeting in Walbrzych to discuss how to tackle the alleged discovery. They warn Nazi gold hunters to keep away, as the train could be booby-trapped with mines. There could also be methane.

Legend tells us that in 1945, with the Red Army closing in, the train left the city of Wroclaw - then called Breslau and a part of Germany - laden with gold. It travelled southwest before disappearing into the hills around Walbrzych.

The two treasure hunters, a Pole and a German, claim to have found a 150 metre (490-foot) long armoured train with 'precious metals' at an undisclosed location that could be worth well over a million dollars. They won't reveal the train's location without a guarantee that they will be awarded 10% of the value of the treasure. Time will tell if they have or not...

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about Nazi gold. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the nationalities.
- 2) Name the town.
- 3) Who were closing in on whom?
- 4) Who allegedly has found the missing train?
- 5) How long is this ghost train?

Student B questions

- 1) What is the possible value of the missing Nazi train?
- 2) The Nazis are known to have built what?
- 3) Polish authorities have held what?
- 4) What is the legend?
- 5) What does 'booby-trapped' mean?

Category: Poland / Mystery / Nazi Gold
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about '**Nazi Gold**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. Write down three things that might be on the lost Nazi ghost train. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs – Both of you are in tunnels under the hills in southwest Poland. *Student A* is a Nazi treasure hunter. *Student B* is a TV reporter. You are with a film crew. Together describe the tunnels, what you are looking for, what lays behind the sealed off tunnels etc... **The teacher** can select some students to hear their results.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 2

Allow 3 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following... What else did the Nazis steal from people? What happened to it?

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Would you like to visit the tunnels where the train is said to be hidden in southwest Poland?
- 3) What are the chances of finding the lost Amber Room that was stolen by the Nazis from Leningrad (now called St. Petersburg)?
- 4) Why do many people have a fascination with Nazi gold?
- 5) If the lost Nazi ghost train turns out to be real what might happen to it?
- 6) Do you think the lost ghost train might be booby-trapped?
- 7) Could there be methane gas in the tunnel where the train is said to be hidden?
- 8) Why haven't more hidden Nazi relics been unearthed till now?
- 9) What was the last tunnel you entered?
- 10) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland.*

- 1) A Nazi treasure hunter.
- 2) A spokesperson for the Polish town where the train is said to be hidden.
- 3) One of the men who claims to have discovered the lost train.
- 4) An investigative journalist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION 1

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

Nazi gold hidden in mines

The ghost train possibly found in tunnels in Poland.

The Amber Room – Where is it?

Gold found in a lake in Bavaria

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Why didn't the Nazis simply hand over the gold to the Americans?
- 3) What are the chances of finding more hidden Nazis relics?
- 4) What other hidden secrets might be under the hills of southwest Poland (formerly a part of Germany)?
- 5) Do you think the discovery of the long lost Nazi gold train will make a good movie or documentary?
- 6) Why doesn't the Polish government uncover more sealed off tunnels?
- 7) Are the WWII allies still keeping some things secret from folk? There is talk that the Americans have documents that are restricted for 100 years to do with the Nazis.
- 8) Is this just a summer silly season story?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland

Today, let's talk about Nazi gold. It's a hot topic to discuss, especially since the alleged discovery in the Polish mountains of a long lost Nazi (1)___ train. (2)___ says it is full of gold and other such treasures. If the (3)___ is correct it would be a truly fascinating discovery. Certainly, it would make a good Indiana Jones style movie, for sure!

Seventy years since the end of the Third Reich two (4)___ hunters have now reported their (5)___ discovery. The train is said to be hidden in a long-forgotten sealed off tunnel under the mountains near the town of Walbrzych in southwest Poland near the Czech border.

The Nazis are known to have built a (6)___ system of tunnels in what today is Gluszyca-Osowka, Poland. According to local (7)___ a Nazi train loaded with (8)___ and weapons vanished into a mountain here at the end of World War 2.

ghost / folklore / discovery / subterranean / gold / speculation / legend / treasure /

Polish authorities held a crisis meeting in Walbrzych to discuss how to tackle the alleged discovery. They warn (1)___ gold hunters to keep away, as the train could be booby-trapped with mines. There could also be (2)___.

Legend tells us that in 1945, with the Red Army closing in, the train left the city of Wroclaw - then called Breslau and a part of Germany - (3)___ with gold. It travelled southwest before disappearing into the hills around Walbrzych.

The two treasure hunters, a Pole and a German, (4)___ to have found a 150 metre (490-foot) long armoured train with 'precious metals' at an undisclosed (5)___ that could be worth well over a million dollars. They won't (6)___ the train's location without a (7)___ that they will be awarded 10% of the (8)___ of the treasure. Time will tell if they have or not...

location / methane / value / guarantee / laden / Nazi / claim / reveal /

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland

Today, let's talk about Nazi gold. It's a hot topic to discuss, especially (1)___ the alleged discovery in the Polish mountains of a long lost Nazi ghost train. Legend says it is full of gold and (2)___ (3)___ treasures. If the speculation is correct it (4)___ be a truly fascinating discovery. Certainly, it would make a good Indiana Jones style movie, for sure!

Seventy years since the end of the Third Reich two treasure hunters have now reported (5)___ discovery. The train is said to be hidden in a long-forgotten sealed off tunnel under the mountains near the town of Walbrzych in southwest Poland near the Czech border.

The Nazis are known to have built a subterranean system of tunnels in (6)___ today is Gluszyca-Osowka, Poland. According to local folklore a Nazi train loaded (7)___ gold and weapons vanished (8)___ a mountain here at the end of World War 2.

into / would / such / what / with / other / their / since

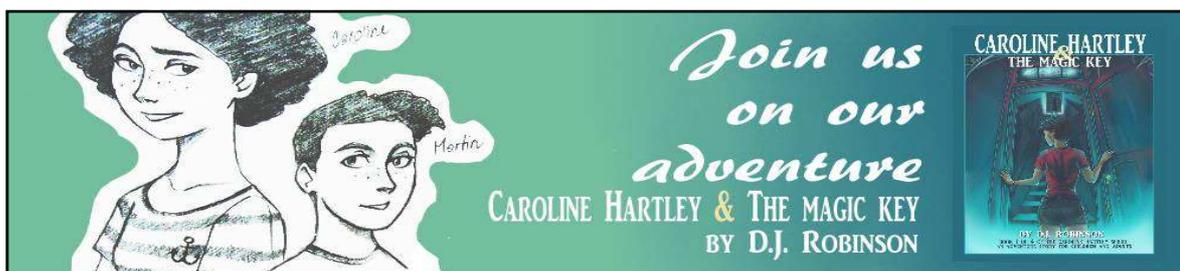
Polish authorities held a crisis meeting in Walbrzych to discuss (1)___ to tackle the alleged discovery. They warn Nazi gold hunters to keep away, (2)___ the train could be booby-trapped with mines. There could also be methane.

Legend tells us that (3)___ 1945, with the Red Army closing in, the train left the city of Wroclaw - then called Breslau (4)___ a part of Germany - laden with gold. It travelled southwest before disappearing into the hills around Walbrzych.

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of / in / as / if / how / the / and / a

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about **Nazi Gold**. *One-two minutes*. *Talk about each of them*.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Nazi gold _____
- 2) The train _____
- 3) Legend _____

3) In class - Write 50 words about: **Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland**. Your work can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Nazi gold ghost train possibly found in Poland**. Your email can be read out in class.

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) speculation
- 2) legend
- 3) especially
- 4) ghost
- 5) fascinating
- 6) treasure
- 7) discovery
- 8) forgotten
- 9) tunnel
- 10) subterranean

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12
Good = 15
Very good = 18
Excellent = 20

- 11) folklore
- 12) disappearing
- 13) armoured
- 14) undisclosed
- 15) location
- 16) guarantee
- 17) weapons
- 18) discuss
- 19) topic
- 20) Nazi

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