



ZADANIE 1

Welcome to my lecture. Today I'll tell you a story of Japanese submarine I-52, which is also known as Japan's "Golden Submarine". Why? Well, just listen carefully and you'll find out soon.

In March 1944, I-52 left Japan on a secret mission. The route of the journey was across the Indian and Atlantic oceans with a stopover in Singapore. The submarine's destination was Lorient, a town on the French coast, which was then occupied by Germany.

What was the I-52's secret mission? The Japanese submarine was carrying a cargo of gold to Germany. It was payment for German military technology and equipment. Apart from gold, the cargo from Japan included 3 tons of opium. There were also 14 Japanese technicians on board, who were to study German technology in anti-aircraft guns, and engines for torpedo boats.

In Lorient, the Germans wanted to give the Japanese optical technology, acoustic torpedoes, radars and 800 kg of uranium. The submarine was to transport all this cargo to Japan. The Japanese needed this radioactive element to develop a radiological weapon for use against the United States. Luckily, the amount of uranium was not enough to create an atomic bomb.

On 6 June 1944, the Japanese attaché in Berlin informed the submarine that the Allies had landed in Normandy. So now it was too dangerous for I-52 to go to Lorient. That's why, the I-52 crew got orders from Japan's HQ to go to Norway instead. They were also instructed to meet a German submarine on its way to Norway. On the night of 22 June, I-52 met a German U-boat. The Germans provided the Japanese submarine with fuel, a radar detector, and an Enigma coding machine.

Fortunately, the message about the German-Japanese secret meeting was decoded by US intelligence. That is why, a special US task force was formed and it closely followed I-52 all the way from Singapore. The task force consisted of an escort carrier, five destroyer escorts, and Avenger aircraft.

When the US task force arrived in the area of the meeting on 23rd June, a new, very important stage of their mission began. As you may expect, Avenger aircraft started looking for the Japanese submarine.

Before midnight, one of the Avengers detected the noise made by I-52 and began a torpedo attack. The Avenger dropped an acoustic torpedo called Fido. Fido was designed not to destroy a submarine but to damage it. Consequently, the submarine would have to surface and then it could be captured. At first, the Americans thought they had hit and sunk the submarine. However, when Avenger aircraft returned on the scene just after midnight on 24th, they heard the same noise in the area. It meant that the first torpedo had missed the target. Then the Commander of the task force ordered the crew to drop another torpedo. After firing the second Fido, Avenger aircraft circled the area and listened for any sign of activity, but they heard nothing. Next morning, the task force found pieces of the submarine.

The mission was completed. What about the sunken submarine? Well, until 1994, it lay intact and forgotten on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. But, the same year, an operation named Project Orca was started to locate the I-52 and its gold. Despite an extensive search, by March 1995 the operation had proved unsuccessful. But later on in 1995, explorer Paul Tidwell, working with the ocean exploration company, located the wreck. Tidwell's team managed only to lift a metal box to the surface in the hope that it would contain gold. But when it was opened, the team were disappointed to find not gold, but opium.

There were some plans to lift the whole submarine to the surface, but they were unsuccessful. It's a pity as there are no full-size Japanese submarines from WWII on display anywhere in the world. Only Japanese small submarines are on display at a museum in Texas and at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Some researchers speculate that on board the I-52 there was a peace proposal to the Allies as well. But this is unlikely: there is no evidence that the Japanese government was

interested in peace proposals at this stage in the war.

Thank you for your attention. I hope to have you back at my next lecture on Friday.

ZADANIE 2

Good morning. I'm Col. Jukka Nurmi from Finland's MOD and I'm here today to talk about our country's membership in NATO.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine not only changed the security situation in Europe but also speeded up our accession to NATO. So, what does NATO membership mean for us? And what does Finland bring to NATO?

We are a relatively small country with a population of just 5.5 million. However, in the time of war, we are able to mobilize as many as 280,000 soldiers. How's that possible? Well, it's because every citizen must undergo military training. It is the heart of our system. It's like a glue which unites the whole nation. Everybody has lived in a tent having field rations, getting cold, getting wet, and fighting together. According to the Finnish constitution, all men must complete military service. Women don't have to serve in the army. However, nowadays more and more women decide to join the military, too. Which branch of service are women mostly interested in? Well, they usually choose the Border Guard. This year over 1500 women have joined the military service. Generally, after the war in Ukraine started, the number of people, men and women, ready to defend their country is growing.

What else has Finland got to offer to NATO? We have one of the largest artillery capabilities in Europe with an arsenal of approximately 1500 weapons. We also have a modern system of far-reaching joint fires. But the main advantage of our defence system, and an extra value for NATO, is our ability to fight in a deep-forest area.

What about our Navy? We mustn't forget that, because of its location, Finland is an important center for trade and transport in the Baltic Sea. That's why our Navy has so many duties in the region. The Navy's main tasks include patrolling territorial waters and countering maritime attacks. Earlier conflicts have shown that the Baltic Sea is an area where our enemies can easily place mines. The conditions there are really difficult. We are talking

about shallow waters, rocky bottoms, and a very hard sound profile. However, because of those difficult conditions, the Finnish Navy is now well trained in finding mines. That's something we are very proud of. I'm sure that our knowledge and experience in finding mines will be useful for other NATO partners.

Finland is protected not only from the sea but also from the air. The main objective of the Air Force is obviously air defence. The Air Force protects Finland's airspace 24/7. But the Finnish Air Force is involved in other highly important tasks, too. Its duty is to help other services in crisis management. Most air missions are performed by F/A-18 Hornet jet fighters. However, starting in 2026, the current fleet of F/A-18s is going to be replaced with F-35 fighter aircraft. Thanks to it, allied air defences in the region will become even more integrated. The Finnish Air Force has long trained together with international partners but now this cooperation has become even closer. The best example is exercise Nordic Response, which we organized. The main goal of the exercise was to carry out multinational air operations. I must say, it was a great success, but Captain Smith is going to give you more details about it. Thank you for your attention.

ZADANIE 3

On today's programme, we are going to talk about Elizabeth Marks – an extraordinary woman who became Military Times' 2024 Soldier of the Year.

Why did Elizabeth choose a military career? Well, her father was a Marine and Vietnam veteran, who worked at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Arizona. She spent her childhood in the company of elderly patients who had all served in the military. It's them who inspired Elizabeth to enlist. Even though her father strongly protested, she joined the Army as a combat medic in 2008.

Two years later a disaster struck. Elizabeth was seriously injured while serving in Iraq. Both her hips were so damaged that despite three operations, she was unable to walk. But Elizabeth is no quitter. Even though she was fighting chronic pain, the thought of ending the military career never crossed her mind. The desire to return to service alongside her fellow soldiers kept her going. All she wanted was to be fit for duty again.

To recover, Elizabeth took up swimming and that's how she regained strength to overcome her disability. The beginnings were hard, but during the process Elizabeth discovered much more than swimming, she found a new purpose in life. She started training and soon joined the Army's World Class Athlete Program. That's when she began swimming competitively full-time.

In 2014, she flew to London for the Invictus Games, an international competition for Para-athletes created by Prince Harry. She wasn't feeling well before she left, and when she landed in London her health rapidly worsened. So, instead of entering the competition, she ended up in hospital. Unable to breathe, she was put in a coma for a month. Then, she was transferred to San Antonio, to the same hospital she went to after she was injured in Iraq. When she woke up from the coma, Elizabeth had to start the recovery process all over again. This time, though, was different. She felt comfortable at San Antonio Hospital because she already knew people there. Elizabeth had her swimming coaches, teammates and friends around her. This speeded up her recovery. Nobody had even expected that she would be back in the pool so soon.

Paradoxically, all those obstacles made Elizabeth even more determined to achieve better results. She doubled her efforts and trained so hard that, when she returned to the Invictus Games two years later, she won four gold medals. When she received one of them from Prince Harry, Elizabeth gave the medal back to him, asking Harry to pass it on to the hospital, where her life had been saved twice.

Winning the Invictus Games was just the beginning. She won a gold medal at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Summer Paralympic Games, setting a world record in the 100-meter breaststroke. Unfortunately, less than a year after winning gold in Rio, because of ongoing complications, Elizabeth had her leg amputated. But even this did not stop her. Elizabeth took part in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Paralympics, where she won gold in the 100-meter backstroke (setting another world record), silver in the 50-meter freestyle and bronze in the 50-meter butterfly.

Elizabeth Marks is far from done. She is currently considered a favourite to qualify for the next Paralympic Games. Interestingly, for Elizabeth winning medals is not as important as helping other people. Though she no longer works as a combat

medic, Elizabeth continues her most important mission – to inspire others not to give up, no matter how tough life is. So, let's keep our fingers crossed for Elizabeth's performance in the next Paralympics.



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MINISTERSTWA
OBRONY NARODOWEJ