



L2 060 Słuchanie

Transkrypcja tekstów

ZADANIE 1

Welcome to "Hidden Histories"! Today we bring you a story of Robert Smalls, an Afro-American who became a hero of the American Civil War. What was the Civil War? It was a conflict between the Union's North, which wanted to give freedom to slaves, and the Confederate South which supported slavery. During that fierce conflict, Robert Smalls did something unimaginable! He navigated a transport ship, USS Planter, from the Confederate-controlled territory to the Union's waters.

Robert Smalls was born in South Carolina in 1839. His mother, Lydia, was a slave owned by Henry McKee, who was in fact Robert's father. The boy knew that, as McKee's son, he enjoyed better treatment. He never had to work on the plantation and he was allowed to do lighter jobs in his father's house. However, Lydia wanted Robert to know what terrible conditions most slaves had to work in. So, she made sure her son saw the horrors of slavery, such as very frequent and brutal whippings of field workers. When Robert saw how cruelly his father treated other slaves, he became angry and often found himself in jail. As Lydia feared for Robert's safety, she decided to send the boy to Charleston Harbour. At the age of 12, Robert started working there for one dollar a week.

In 1856, Robert met the love of his life, Hannah Jones, a slave working in a local hotel. With both their owners' permission, they got married and had two children. Robert saved money and tried to buy the freedom for his family, but Hannah's owner didn't want to get rid of her. That is why he asked for \$800 for Hannah's freedom. It would take Robert years to save such an astronomical amount. That was when Robert promised Hannah they would escape from slavery one day.

After the war broke out in 1861, Robert started serving on a Confederate Ship – the USS Planter – which was commanded by General Ripley. Robert's role was to pilot the US Ship Planter along the south-eastern coast. From the Charleston port, he could see

the line of Union blockade ships, seven miles away. Robert had the trust of the USS Planter's crew and owners, and in April 1862, he began to plan an escape. He discussed his plans with all the slaves in the crew except one, whom he did not trust.

On May 12, 1862, the Planter travelled southwest of Charleston and stopped at a Confederate post. The Planter's three white officers left the ship to spend the night in the centre of Charleston, leaving the Afro-American crew on board. Before the officers left, Robert asked the captain if the black crew could spend some time with their families on board the ship. The captain agreed on condition that the families left the ship before sunset.

When the families arrived, Robert told them about the escape plan. This was the first time they had heard of it, although Robert had recently told his wife, Hannah. Hannah didn't realize, however, that her husband was planning to escape in a Confederate ship. She was surprised, but said she was ready to take the risk. The other women were not as calm. They cried and screamed when they learned about the danger ahead, and it took them a while to quiet down. Before nightfall, three crewmen escorted their family members back home. Overnight, however, the three families decided to return and join Robert in his dangerous mission. They had understood that freedom was worth the deadly risk.

At 3 a.m., Robert put on a Confederate uniform and started sailing towards the Union blockade. He passed five Confederate forts without incident, giving the hand signals that he had learned from his captain. However, the riskiest part came when the USS Planter sailed past Fort Sumter. Several men advised Robert to keep further away from that checkpoint. However, not to cause suspicion, Robert steered the ship along its normal path. When Fort Sumter flashed its signals, he again gave the correct hand signs. However, to his horror, the fort didn't immediately respond. Robert now expected cannon fire to destroy the Planter and kill them all. After a long minute, the fort signalled that all was well, and

Robert sailed out of the harbour. Then, he replaced the Confederate flags with a white bed sheet. Robert and 16 people on the Planter were free at last!

The USS Planter's cargo proved really valuable to the Union. The steamship carried 200 pounds of ammunition and the captain's code book with Confederate signals. After the war, Congress rewarded Robert's crew with half of the value of the USS Planter. Robert was soon assigned to pilot the USS Crusader, but, because he hadn't graduated from a naval academy, he was never promoted to captain. In 1897, Congress gave Robert Smalls a pension equal to that of a Navy captain.

ZADANIE 2

Hello, I'd like to welcome the representatives of special forces from 6 NATO countries to our briefing. Let me remind you that we will have a series of briefings on how to improve our cooperation during NATO missions. As the representative of the host country, I will start off by saying a few words about Poland's most recognizable special force known as the GROM Military Unit. The unit was named after the Silent Unseen – Poland's elite WWII special-operations unit.

The unit was formed in 1990. The training was provided to the initial GROM operators by the British Army Special Air Service and, as you probably know, by the US Army Delta Force. GROM is considered to be the most elite unit in the Polish Armed Forces.

Now let me tell you a few words about its early history. GROM, which in English literally means "thunderbolt", was officially activated in 1990. Since then it has performed a variety of special operations and unconventional warfare roles. These include anti-terrorist operations, and GROM's most difficult role, which is using force behind enemy lines. Before GROM came into being, in the 1970s and 80s, there were several formations of special forces units in Poland. In 1982, General Edwin Rożubirski proposed that a secret military unit should be formed to counter a number of unconventional threats. However, this idea was rejected by the People's Army of Poland. This situation changed a few years later after two Polish diplomats were shot and had to be rescued from Beirut in 1990. Then Lt. Col. Sławomir Petelicki was sent to Lebanon to secure the transfer of the Polish diplomats. On his return to Poland, he

presented his plan for the creation of a special military unit that would be trained to defend Polish citizens in situations similar to the one in Lebanon. His ideas were finally accepted, and on June 13, 1990, GROM was formally established.

Sławomir Petelicki was chosen as GROM's first commander. Soon he began selecting soldiers that would be fit for special operations. Due to the high risks involved in special service, it was decided that all candidates should come from a variety of special units within the Polish Armed Forces. Out of the possible recruits, only a small group passed the training. During its first years, GROM remained completely secret. The unit first became known to the public in 1994. That happened after their military operation in Haiti.

As you may expect, GROM also took part in the war on terror. In 2003, during the invasion of Iraq, a team of 35 GROM operators and 20 US Navy SEALs took control over the hydroelectric dam located near Baghdad. Iraqi troops surrendered without a fight. There were no casualties to the team except for one GROM soldier, who broke his ankle. It happened during the insertion from a US helicopter. SEAL and GROM units continued to cooperate throughout the invasion phase.

Candidates applying to serve in GROM have to pass psychological and durability tests. The training of GROM soldiers includes a variety of disciplines. They receive basic special operations training in Karlskrona, which is Sweden's largest navy base. The unit consists of around 250 operators plus support personnel.

That's all about GROM. Let me now move on to...

ZADANIE 3

Hello, welcome to my vlog! My name's Karmen and today I'm going to show you round Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. The observatory was founded in 1955 and today it's home to the world's largest optical and radio telescopes. If you're ever in the area, this is the spot you cannot miss. I study Astrophysics at Stanford University, California, so I count myself lucky to have a summer job in this fascinating observatory in Arizona.

If you come to Kitt Peak, remember: although there is a cafeteria for employees on the premises, there are no public restaurants here, so be sure to pack lunch. There are a few picnic tables around the Visitor

Centre, but I personally like to have lunch one mile down the mountain. The picnic grounds there have a fantastic view of the 25-metre VLBA telescope. So I strongly advise you to have lunch there.

Let's now check out some of the telescopes! Behind me, you can see the world's largest solar telescope. It has a totally different design from all of the other telescopes on Kitt Peak. Almost all the telescopes here look a bit like London's St Paul's Cathedral. Their roofs have a round shape, as the telescopes need to be able to point anywhere in the sky. The solar telescope, on the other hand, was designed to observe the sun. That's why it is a long, white tunnel, which follows the sun's path from east to west.

Building a solar telescope is a little tricky, because if you're focusing light from the sun, you're also focusing the heat from the sun. So if you have a really big telescope focusing the sun's heat, you would expect very high temperatures inside the structure and giant fires as a result. To avoid this risk, scientists have made the solar telescope very long. Its part above the ground is 200 feet long and the underground part measures 300 feet. That way, the heat spreads over the length of 500 feet altogether, which protects the telescope from potential fires.

Let's move on. The 3.5-metre telescope behind me is the second largest optical telescope on Kitt Peak. It was completed in 1994, so it's the newest telescope here. The mirror in this 3.5-metre structure was produced at the Steward Observatory Lab, which makes mirrors of super-lightweight materials. Knowing that the mirror inside the structure would be very light, the constructors used heavier materials in the building itself, to make the telescope stable.

The last telescope I'm going to present is the RCT, which stands for Robotically Controlled Telescope. It was built in the 1960s, at a time when astronomers started to think that they would soon be able to put a telescope in space. Space is a great place to put a telescope, because you don't have to look at the sky through the atmosphere. The atmosphere makes everything we look at less clear. So, the RCT telescope was a prototype which helped scientists learn how to operate telescopes in space. That's why the RCT is so important for the history of space astronomy.

Well, I hope you are intrigued by the telescopes I've presented and you'll be able to visit Kitt Peak National Observatory one day. Next week, I'm planning to tell

you about the recent revolutionary discovery on Venus, which might mean that there's life on our super-hot neighbour!



**CENTRALNA
KOMISJA EGZAMINACYJNA
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MINISTERSTWA
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