

GOING UNDERGROUND: THE CRIME BENEATH OUR FEET

SERIES 10 x 60'

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE UNDERWORLD GANGS THAT LITERALLY MOVED UNDERGROUND, AS WE LOOK AT HOW AND WHY CRIMINAL NETWORKS MIGRATED OUT OF SIGHT AND INTO BUNKERS AND TUNNELS UNDER OUR STREETS, THE CRIMES THEY CONCEALED AND THE OPERATIONS THAT BROUGHT THEM DOWN.

Sizzle: <https://vimeo.com/498061884/029662937e>

THE SERIES



ALL OVER THE WORLD, CRIME IS MOVING UNDERGROUND TO ESCAPE THE LAW.

Stolen goods are hidden, people are trafficked, multi-million pound drug empires created and notorious crime lords hidden in structures that have been built and in some cases architecturally designed in a world beneath our streets.

Drug farms, cocaine smuggling submarines, dark web cyber bunkers, prison breaks and bank heists, this series features an incredible variety of criminal activity that has moved underground.

Each episode grants viewers privileged access to some of the world's most elaborate underground crime networks, the criminals who used and built them, the crimes they concealed, and the investigators who unearthed them.

Exclusive footage of the tunnels and bunkers, expert and witness **interviews**, **CGI graphics** and **dramatic reconstruction** are interwoven to reveal the story of how and why these mysterious underground spaces were built, the incredible crimes they witnessed and how the police finally unearthed them.

THE FORMAT



Each Episode is set in a **different major underground tunnel or bunker** and tells the story of the audacious crime that it hosted, **how it was built and operated** and the **police investigation** that finally revealed it.

Unique interviews with the **original investigators and witnesses**, from the **former criminals** to the **builders**, drive the narrative as they reveal every exciting twist and turn of these incredible feats of **engineering and the crimes** that went on within them. These are filmed in a specially designed bunker set to create atmosphere.

The story is illustrated by specially shot footage of the bunkers & tunnels as they exist today, amazing archive, high quality reconstruction, GVs, and CGI graphics

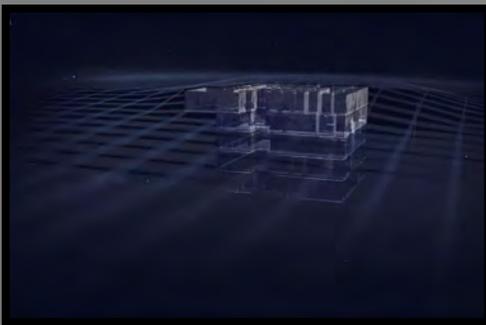
THE FORMAT



Each episode opens with the crime that is taking place. Archive footage, CCTV, and police raid footage will establish the crime, the audacity of the gangs involved, and the success they had before the police were aware of their underground activity.

Interviews with police officers and witnesses to the crime featured illustrate how the police were baffled by the case for so long. How were these criminal networks quite literally getting away with murder, robbery, and trafficking under the noses of law enforcement?

THE FORMAT



Using our specially created **cross-section graphics** we can see for the first time the structures created underground that has housed the underworld gang and get a **sense of the success** of the crimes above ground.

Our **core team of architects and structural engineers** takes us through the design and creation of these incredible structures. Their expertise creates real insight for the audience into the work involved in building these underworld criminal lairs and how they were unable to remain undetected for so long.

THE FORMAT



Interviews with police officers from the actual case illustrate the **first signs** officers had that there could be something happening underground. What happened to **move their attention** to the bunkers, tunnels, and underground villages where the crime was flourishing?

Specially shot interviews with witnesses and gang members reveal **what went wrong** for these underground criminals. Were they complacent, did they make a terrible mistake and lead the police to them costing them their freedom?

Using **police footage** and **CCTV** (where available) we see first-hand the **police raid** on the underground gang and see what was hidden in this secret world beneath our feet. The criminals involved, their subsequent trials, and the aftermath for the underworld are explored through archive and interviews.

THE VISUALS

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF THE CRIME

Each episode opens with archive footage of the crime and GVs of the location, overlaid with soundbites from our specially shot interviews with criminologists, ex-cons and engineers, teasing the unusual nature of the case. Throughout the episode we will draw on archive footage including CCTV and newsreel to tell the story as it unfolded.

HIGH QUALITY RECONSTRUCTION

Interviews and archive will be intercut with dramatic reconstruction of the events bringing the viewer along on the journey of the crime, the investigation, the discovery of the tunnel and final raids and arrests. Contemporary footage from the time will also help set the scene.

EXPERT AND WITNESS INTERVIEWS

Interviews with police officers, investigators, criminals, and witnesses in our specially created set bring the story to life. This includes our returning faces across the series, who draw on their experience in the field of investigation or engineering to provide expert insight, as well as the criminals, witnesses and detectives directly involved in the crime.

SPECIALLY SHOT FOOTAGE

Each episode features specially shot footage of the tunnels, bunkers and locations as they exist today. This gives a sense of reality, and helps to comprehend the complexity and scale of these operations.

THE VISUALS



CROSS-SECTION REVEAL

While the police are tackling the crimes occurring above the surface, we reveal the bunker or labyrinth beneath: A cross section of the street, town or countryside drops down into the underground network below.

Interviews with engineers, geologist and architects explain the complexity of the structure and it's significance

CGI GRAPHICS

Specially commissioned cross section CGI imagery allow us to explain the size and scale of the underground structure. Stylish graphics pan down from shots above ground to the hidden world created below.



SERIES EXPERTS

Expert interviews with **engineers, architects, criminologists and scientists** provides the backbone of each episode as their expertise brings each story to life and a new insight not only into the crime and why it happened but also to the incredible feats of engineering that were created and hidden beneath our feet. In each episode we meet the **witnesses, police and criminals** directly involved in the story.



DANNY FORSTER:
ARCHITECT & TV HOST



PAUL THOMAS:
TUNNELS ENGINEER



MISHA GLENNY:
EXPERT ON ORGANISED
CRIME



DR GRACE ROBINSON:
CRIMINOLOGIST

EPISODE 1:

ITALIAN MAFIA BOSSES ON THE RUN

In 2017 Italian police made international news with the **arrest of a leading underworld figure** from the country's most notorious **mafia**, the 'Ndrangheta. Santo Vottari is the **head of a criminal family** who were responsible for the brutal murders of countless people while he presided over a gang war that began in 1991.

In 2006 he went on the run and **disappeared from sight** leaving the police unable to bring him to justice for the crimes he committed. However, a decade later this all changed when Vottari was found hidden away in an elaborate bunker underneath a house in Southern Italy.

Through interviews with the police, gang members, and experts and using police archive we explore the incredible phenomenon of an Italian **underworld that has been built underneath our feet** and has allowed one of Europe's most powerful gangs to flourish out of sight of the law.

EPISODE 1:

ITALIAN MAFIA BOSSES ON THE RUN

The 'Ndrangheta are based in small rural villages of Southern Italy but they control a huge criminal empire and are the **biggest cocaine smugglers in Europe**. For the top 'Ndrangheta bosses going on the run isn't an option – not if they want to keep control of their empires. So instead they go underground and simply keep running their criminal enterprises from the tunnels, bunkers, and in some cases **whole villages built beneath their houses**.

Law enforcement has created an elite unit, the **Cacciatori**, to track and find the gangs who live underground. They have been incredibly successful at locating gang leaders and their underground worlds hidden behind trapdoors, staircases, manholes and even a pizza oven. Since their formation in 1991, the unit has found **400 bunkers** and brought **300 gang members** to justice.

EPISODE 1:

ITALIAN MAFIA BOSSES ON THE RUN

Alongside the case of Vottari, this episode will explore other **finds by the Cacciatori** and look at how both the police and the criminals are **changing tactics** to try and outwit each other. Capturing a gang lord is undoubtedly a huge success for the police but one of the biggest finds by the Cacciatori is the **underground bunker network** that was created underneath a village in Calabria. Described by investigators as works of **superior engineering** this underground network was built without a single villager informing the authorities – such is the power of the ‘Ndrangheta.

From the entrance behind a trap door, through a tunnel, and into an expansive underground bunker network, the gang members could move freely from underground house to house. Each bunker was kitted out with kitchens, lounges, and bedrooms, and everything you would need to be able to exist underground for some time. These bunkers hid the mafia members for **months, sometimes years** at a time.

This episode explores the **inventive ways these bunkers have been hidden** and the **impressive architecture** and engineering skills required to create them. Who is responsible for the design of these structures and how are **hundreds of them built** without anyone knowing? Our experts take us through these incredible untold stories as members of the elite Cacciatori show us the **underground empires of Europe’s cocaine kings**.

EPISODE 1:

ITALIAN MAFIA BOSSES ON THE RUN

ARCHIVE

Using amazing archive footage of police raids on the underground bunkers and tunnels throughout the episode we will illustrate the size of the problem this underground crime network has become.

MODERN VISUALS

Interviews with core experts and key contributors are specially shot in our bunker set, or on location at the real hideouts, to create a modern feel for each episode. We film in Calabria to show the incredible mafia network and the area they operated in. Where needed, high-quality reconstruction is filmed to complement this. Specially created blueprint graphics show the incredible planning, building, and engineering work that has created the tunnels and underground bunkers that are being discovered in large numbers by the Italian police.

CONTRIBUTORS

Mafia historian John Dickie has had first-hand experience of the N'drangheta and has been into several of the underground bunkers that have been discovered by Italian special forces. Anti-mafia investigators Nicola Gratteri and Antonio Ingroin have spent years bringing members of the N'drangheta to justice and are dedicated to continuing to locate their underground bunkers.

EPISODE 2:

CYBERCRIMINAL BUNKER

In 2013, a Dutchman known as 'Xennt' bought a huge **5-story military bunker** in the small German town of Trarbach, which later became home to the **dark web**.

Xennt promised authorities he would create jobs for locals with his tech company, but instead moved in "**CyberBunker**" – a bulletproof host for **gangs, spammers** and **dealers**; allowing criminals to communicate and store data without fear of police surveillance of their crimes.

Using **detailed diagrams and graphics** of the elaborate layout, this episode looks into the story of how the venue became host to such dark activities.

The story of the eccentric born dutchman is explained by journalist, Ed Caesar, who talks us through how Xennt's love for computers led him to purchase his first underground bunker in a former NATO site in 1995.

EPISODE 2:

CYBERCRIMINAL BUNKER



The company CyberBunker reportedly brought in about \$1 MILLION PER YEAR until a fire broke out in the bunker exposing an **MDMA laboratory** on top of the web servers.

The business then relocated to the five-story bunker in Traben-Tarbach and continued to offer a host to a variety of criminal activities.

Steve Linford, chief executive of Spamhaus, a company aimed at fighting spammers and cybercrime, talks of the feud that arose between CyberBunker and the non-profit organisation. This included an **'unprecedented' cyberattack** from Xennt's company on Spamhaus that interfered with and slowed down the internet for global services such as Netflix.

EPISODE 2:

CYBERCRIMINAL BUNKER

The investigation into CyberBunker was ongoing for a number of years and included a **sophisticated undercover operation** with officers working at the bunker as labourers/gardeners. Eventually in 2019, **600 police officers** on ground and in the air, raided the bunker, reportedly seizing over **200 servers**.

Discovering a new **plot-twist** to the case, investigators arrest a 'Mr Green' or the 'penguin' believed to be the real boss of the criminal organisation that took the business underground.

Now, a year after police raided the cold-war bunker, expert Adam Anderson explains how cybercrime continues to flourish and threaten security.

EPISODE 3:

MEXICO'S DRUG SMUGGLING TUNNELS

In 2020, American officials discovered the **LONGEST EVER SMUGGLING TUNNEL**, running from Tijuana, Mexico to San Diego, California. Despite 15 tunnels being discovered on the Mexican border since 2006, none of them quite compare to this.

Measuring **1.3KM IN LENGTH** and a depth of **70 FEET BELOW GROUND**, the tunnel is fitted with a **lift, rail track, drainage and ventilation system**.

It is believed this tunnel has been used to move all kinds of contraband across the border including narcotics and people.

In this episode, we use **graphics** and the help of tunnel **engineers** to gain a more in-depth understanding of the **masterplan** behind an elaborate tunnel of such gargantuan size.

EPISODE 3:

MEXICO'S DRUG SMUGGLING TUNNELS

Although, an arrest is yet to be made, investigations are concentrating on the **Sinaloa Cartel** acting in this area on the border. The cartel is an organised crime group operating under the infamous drug lord, **El Chapo**.

We hear from a **criminologist** who helps us understand how criminal organisations are structured and employed, and sheds light on the role of Felipe de Jesus Corona-Verbera, a **professional architect employed by El Chapo** over 50 years ago. He was hired to mastermind the design of numerous smuggling tunnels by creating a system of pulley carts to transport the narcotics across the border.

On the run for 13 years, Corona-Verbera was eventually found guilty in 2020 for his crucial part played in the cartel smuggling tunnels.

EPISODE 3:

MEXICO'S DRUG SMUGGLING TUNNELS

Using **footage of the entrance and tunnel itself**, the episode takes a look at the discovery of this sophisticated tunnel, **through the eyes of Acting Special Agent** Cardell Morant, in charge of homeland security. Alongside Joe Garcia, he explains the similarities between this tunnel and those before it and how smuggling across borders has become the enemy for law enforcement in recent decades.

EPISODE 4:

BRITAIN'S LARGEST DRUG FARM



Beneath the picturesque town of Bradford-on-Avon, lies a disused mine, spanning 10-acres. In 2018 it was discovered as one of the **largest drug farms in Britain**.

Detective Superintendent Rick Hatton explains the scale of the **UK drug trade** and how gangs have expanded from cities and into quiet country towns, bringing crime and violence. We meet the explorers who discovered the quarry and hear from inspector Nick Moran who reveals how the farm was able to exist for years undetected.

We visit other cases, including a **drugs tunnel** found in 2019 under a London theatre; and in 2020 when a joint British and Spanish force shut down a Lincolnshire farm, with **4 shipping containers containing drugs, stolen vehicles, horses, llamas, and even toxic waste**.

EPISODE 5:

COLUMBIA'S NARCO SUBMARINES

In June 2019, US coastguards successfully stopped a submarine packed with over **\$300 million worth of cocaine** entering the country. This incredible case highlighted the growing problem caused by Narco-subs, and the **arms race** law enforcement find themselves in with cartel drug lords.

Through interviews with the coastguard, narcotics experts, and gang members and the amazing footage of the capture, we explore this incredible case and look at the **science and technology** needed to create a narco-sub.

This case may sound unbelievable but submarines are not new to the world of drug trafficking. They have in fact been in use since the **1970s** as a way to move huge amounts of narcotics from the Caribbean to the USA. The cartel evolved them to become fully submerged, and so avoid detection on radar systems. Author Jay Bergan examines the history of the Columbian-USA drug route, including the use of other methods such as light aircraft, and **why the cartels went subsurface**. Naval expert, Laurance McCabe, explains how Russian engineers helped the cartel develop sophisticated navigation and anti-radar systems.

We examine the recently found submarine worth an estimated **\$1.5 million!** Other cases include 150 office strong operation that discovered a submarine in the Ecuadorian jungle in 2019, and even the cocaine submarine seized off the coast of Spain in 2019 – a testament to the **adoption of the strategy by international gangs**.

EPISODE 6:

SPAIN'S UNDERGROUND CIGARETTE FACTORY

After absconding prison in 2018, a British fugitive was found by Spanish police in an underground, **gang-run cigarette factory**.

Detective Steve Tracey reveals the enormity of the illegal tobacco trade in Europe, and the significance of these factories. We also follow the **hunt for the British fugitive** that ended in the underground lair.

Complete with living quarters, machinery capable of producing **3,500 cigarettes an hour**, and a weekly profit of £500k, we explore the factory within its maze of tunnels and the **toxic conditions** workers were found living in.

Members of 'Operation Hannibal' guide us through the investigation, before we find the Irish cigarette bunker, with a daily production of up to **1 million cigarettes!**

EPISODE 7:

BRAZILIAN CARTEL PRISON BREAK

In 2020, almost **80 members of a Brazilian cartel** tunneled their way out of a Paraguay prison.

Paraguayan police and DEA agents tell us about the severity of Brazilian cartels, the range of crimes committed, and the efforts to lock these criminals away.

Justice Minister Cecilia Perez explains how the authorities had known about the cartel's prison break and photo evidence shows **cells filled with 200 bags of dirt**.

However, the cartel had paid off 32 prison officials including the jail warden, with \$80k, meaning the government were unable to prevent the plot.

We explore the corruption epidemic in South American authorities, as well as the 2015 **tunnel escape of El Chapo**.

EPISODE 8:

THE PARISIAN CATACOMBS



Built in Roman times, the Catacombs of Paris span **300km**. While once used to store 6 million corpses, the system has since been occupied by illegal groups, known as **'dark tourists'** and has become a hotspot for crime as **Parisian gangs** have taken their networks underground.

In August 2017, thieves stole wine purportedly worth more than **250,000 euros**, after burrowing into a private cellar from the catacombs 20 meters below Paris. More than **300 bottles of vintage Grand Cru wine** were carried out through the underground network.

The catacombs are legally off limits to the public at night and only a short section of a little over 1m/2km in length is open to the public in the day with a guide, but authorities have long **turned a blind eye** to so-called cataphiles, who have identified secret entrances, typically former sewer holes.

We speak to detectives in the **'Cata-Cops'** who detail the state of crime in Paris and reveal the **legal loopholes** that make the tunnels so attractive to criminals. The catacombs have hosted **illegal raves**, the selling of **underground artwork**, and the **production of narcotics**. Historians and architects tell us the elaborate system of tunnels and why they were built, while graphics visualise the enormous scale of the 300km network.

EPISODE 9:

THE MOLE IN THE WALL GANG

In the North of England, a subterranean criminal gang spent several years digging incredibly complex tunnels under the city in an attempt to **steal cash machines**.

Detective Superintendent Mark Toker guides us through Manchester's **organised crime groups**. The workmen that discovered the first 40ft tunnel take us back in time to the scene of the crime, before we follow police detectives in the **hunt for the gang** right up to their capture in 2016. Structural engineers explain the complexity of these huge tunnels and how they were created.

Police reveal the recent **spike in underground cases across the UK**, with Cardiff, Coventry and London all reporting similar criminal activity.

EPISODE 10:

THE BRAZILIAN BANK ROBBERY



In 2005, a gang in Fortaleza, Brazil pulled off one of **South America's greatest ever bank robberies**, known as The Banco Central burglary. They built a 256ft underground tunnel over three months, tunnelled up through concrete to access the vault and stole approximately **\$70million**. Most of the 3.5 tonnes of Brazilian notes have never been recovered to this day.

The story is full of twists and turns including associated **kidnappings**, a planned **airplane escape** before their arrest, and the mysterious **death of the 'mastermind'** behind the robbery. The gang were able to succeed with the robbery due to their cover story that they were running a landscape gardening company at a nearby rented property and even created logos for this cover business on their pick-up truck. Eighteen suspects linked to the event **remain at large today**.

Defence lawyer, Marcio Marcio talks us through the dark events that unfolded following the robbery, including his involvement in meeting and reasoning with the kidnapers of his clients. We also hear from journalists on the crime team from Fortaleza's O Povo newspaper, which won the Brazilian equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize for its investigative work on the Central Bank story.

ABOUT EMPORIUM PRODUCTIONS

Emporium Productions was set up in 2015 by award-winning Executive Producer and Commissioning Editor, Emma Read and leading UK independent television production company, Hat Trick. Emporium Productions specialises in access driven popular factual programming, documentaries and reality. As a company, Emporium believes that collaboration is the key to achieving outstanding creative results.

Emporium has made several ground breaking and acclaimed access series and documentaries: 5 seasons of global hit Inside The World's Toughest Prisons for Netflix, a world first exclusive access series Inside The Freemasons for Sky, Talking Animals Tales from the Zoo with the world's first conservation zoo, lifestyle series Rich House Poor House and Rich Holiday Poor Holiday, Why Do Men Earn More Than Women? And Secrets Of Your Supermarket Food for Channel 5 in the UK and 2 seasons of WW2 Treasure Hunters for History. We have also made specials for Smithsonian: Volcanoes: Dual Destruction and Nepal Quake: Terror on Everest and Harry and Meghan Royal Rebels for Lifetime. We have produced over 40 hours of crime documentaries, Murderers And Their Mothers, Click For Murder and Donal MacIntyre's Murder Files for CBS and Netflix. We are currently in production on programming for Channel 4, Channel 5 and Netflix.