

"RIVER MONSTERS WITH BOMBS...MODERN ARCHAEOLOGY WITH THE MAN BEHIND THE HURT LOCKER"



THE WEAPON HUNTER

searching and destroying history's worst weapons

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10 x 60' + 120' SPECIAL

The world is littered with weapons from as far back as mankind has fought wars.

Some of these have left behind a deadly legacy.

Ever since the American Civil War huge amounts of explosive shells, bombs, grenades and mines have plagued our planet- on land and sea. Experts call these lethal leftover weapons "explosive remnants of war".

The problem is very real, and growing. As bombs get older the outer casing starts to corrode, while the explosive within becomes more unstable. But to cope with a growing global population, construction on past battlefields has become a necessary condition of modern life.

The only solution is to identify and dispose of these archaeological remains. That's the job of Chris Hunter, a British army bomb disposal expert and the key advisor behind *The Hurt Locker*.

Each week a new emergency arises for Chris to investigate. This could be a construction site in Japan that has discovered an unexploded bomb from WWII; a trove of deadly artillery shells from the American Civil War; or a minefield that needs clearing in the Balkans.

Chris explores the history of an individual battlefield and war, and the technology of the unexploded remains. He meets local people whose lives are at constant risk, and brings his expertise into helping the search. Then, in the tense finale, he destroys these lethal weapons to ensure a brighter future for the local community.



CHRIS HUNTER

Author, broadcaster and go-to guy for bomb expertise to governments around the world, Major Chris Hunter QGM had 'the world's most dangerous job, in the world's most dangerous place'. As the British Army's most experienced counter-terrorist bomb disposal specialist in Iraq, he risked his life on a daily basis. He was so effective at defusing these crude devices that the jihadis put a price on his head.

Chris joined the British Army at sixteen and later served with a number of specialist counter terrorism units. During his career he was deployed to a number of operational theatres, including The Balkans, Northern Ireland, Colombia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He finished his military career serving the UK government's COBRA emergency response committee during the 7/7 terrorist attacks in London.

Since then Chris has published two acclaimed memoirs- *Extreme Risk* and *Eight Lives Down*- and been a regular TV contributor and guest speaker. He has also founded of a private counter-IED consultancy for governments around the world, based in London.

EPISODE ELEMENTS

THE THREAT

Using drama reconstruction and CGI, Chris introduces the war and the individual historic event featured within the episode.

TRAVELOGUE

We follow Chris as he travels by air, land and sea to the featured location in the world; he explores the local culture and meets some of the key contributors who will be helping him search and destroy the weapons.

TECHNOLOGY

Chris shows us examples of the weapons he's looking for, explains how they work and demonstrates their incredible power. Chris also demonstrates some of the technology disposal experts use to detect explosives.

ANECDOTE

With the aid of drama reconstruction and archive, Chris relives some of his most terrifying encounters with high explosive.

JEOPARDY & ACTUALITY

A major 'A' story per episode as we follow Chris and local bomb disposal teams as they respond to the latest emergency in the area. 'B' stories could also be explored as we look at the activities bomb disposal experts face every week of their working lives.



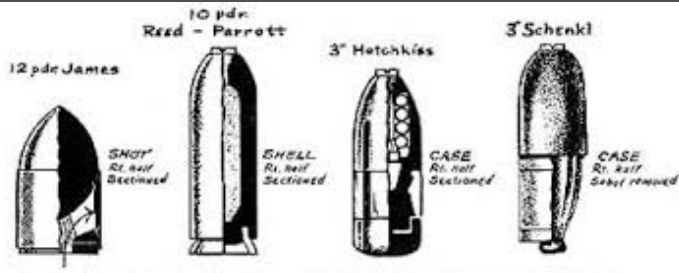
ACCESS

Key to The Weapon Hunter will be exploiting Chris Hunter's extensive contact list. As a popular member of the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), Chris will be able to unlock doors to governmental organizations around the world. Elsewhere charities like the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Halo Trust are keen on broadcasting their brave work to a wider audience.

EPISODES

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR- A LESSON FROM HISTORY

In February 2008 Civil War collector Sam White paid for his enthusiasm for relic hunting with his life. In a leafy suburb of Richmond VA White accidentally detonated a 140 year old cannonball from a nearby battlefield. Chris Hunter travels to Virginia and explores the obsessive world of Civil War collecting, helping local police destroy a hoard of deadly artillery shells.



THE VIETNAM WAR- LIFE AND DEATH IN LAOS

Per capita, Laos is the most bombed country on Earth. 80 million bombs out of the 270m that were dropped remain live; a quarter of all villages are affected; 40% of the 100 or so annual victims are children. Chris helps the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) with their tireless work and sees firsthand the devastating impact of The Vietnam War.



WORLD WAR TWO- BOMB GRAVEYARDS OF THE BALTIC

Dotted around the coast of Denmark and Germany are estimated to be 1.6 million metric tons of bombs – including some containing mustard gas and phosgene. A few of these sites are down to error- such as the bombs that missed the Nazi's top secret rocket laboratory at Peenemunde in 1943. But most of these deadly undersea dumps occurred when the Allies ordered the Germans to dispose of their munitions at sea after the war had ended.

WORLD WAR ONE- THE LEGACY OF YPRES

Nearly a century after the guns fell silent, World War One still casts a long shadow along its old battle lines. As recently as March 2014 two Belgian workers were killed when a buried shell went off in Ypres, a town already synonymous with tragedy. Chris visits the men and women from the Belgian army tasked with trying to prevent more people from succumbing to one of the worst wars in history.



COLOMBIA- RAINFOREST MINEFIELDS

For the last 50 years armed rebels like FARC have been making Improvised Explosive Devices or IEDs to protect their territory and bases. Chris returns to a country where he defused IEDs back in 2004 to help the government reclaim new parts of their stricken country.



THE BALKAN WAR- BOMBS IN BOSNIA

Around 4% of land in Bosnia Herzegovina is contaminated with mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), a legacy of the Cold War and the bloody disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Chris was a British soldier at the time of the conflict and this will be an emotional journey for Chris as he revisits some of the worst battles of this long and tragic conflict.

IRAQ- 3 WARS AND COUNTING

War with Iran in the 1980s and two subsequent invasions by the Allies have left a country broken by conflict and seeded with every imaginable bomb, mine and shell. In the shadow of the latest battle against IS, Chris revisits some of his most haunting encounters with high explosive – and finds much work left to be done.

MOZAMBIQUE'S CIVIL WAR- HELL IN PARADISE

30 years of civil war has left a brutal inheritance for one of the most beautiful and poorest nations on the planet. Both sides laid thousands of landmines to protect their possessions, and while the north of the country has been cleared thanks to anti-mine trust HALO, work in the south is ongoing.





WW2- JAPAN: LAND OF THE FALLEN BOMBS

There are around 1,500 bomb discoveries every year in Japan- roughly 4 a day. In Okinawa, where the fighting was fiercest, an estimated 3,000 tons of UXO litters the shoreline, with around 60 years of work left for bomb disposal experts. On April 3rd 2013 an anti-aircraft shell brought Tokyo to a halt as it lay meters from a busy subway station. Chris pays a visit to Japan and waits for another terrifying discovery.



THE KOREAN WAR- THE DEADLY DIVIDE

Separating North and South Korea is the Demilitarized Zone or DMZ, one of the most heavily mined areas in the world. Torrential rain often sweeps away these mines, posing a significant threat to civilians living in the DMZ's shadow. Chris works with the Korean and US military as they respond to fresh emergencies.



THE COLD WAR- BROKEN ARROWS (120' SPECIAL)

Staggeringly there are around 50 nuclear missiles missing around the world. Chris travels across land and sea to find out more about the most worrying losses: from a crashed B-52 in Greenland, a Soviet nuclear submarine resting at the bottom of the sea, Ukrainian nuclear suitcase bombs, and a live nuclear bomb deep in a North Carolina swamp. Chris also demonstrates with a mock-up bomb how he would defuse a nuclear missile – should the need arise...



SERIES ORIGINATOR- Will Aspinall

Will is an experienced British factual producer / director with credits for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Discovery. Recent projects include *Cybercrimes with Ben Hammersley* (BBC) and *Strip the City* (Science).

WAREHOUSE 51 PRODUCTIONS

Warehouse 51 Productions houses, funds and nurtures production talent in the UK, producing the highest quality factual and factual entertainment formats. Recent credits include *AREA 51: The CIA's Secret Files* (Nat Geo).

We are in a unique position- a production house where top talent from writers, producers and directors can get their ideas made and financed.

With his 30 years of experience in production, production finance and distribution, together with international broadcaster relationships, Carl Hall (Managing Director) gets the best films made. W51P has bases in London's Soho and a main production unit in Whiteladies Road Bristol.