

“The Secret Safari”

A 52 minute documentary on the secret and successful missions which carried tons of military hardware to South Africa under the seats of tourists on an overland truck between the years 1986 and 1993.

SYNOPSIS

“The Secret Safari” (52 mins) tells a story of one of the most successful and audacious projects in the armed fight against Apartheid in South Africa .

In the early 1980’s the ANC hatched a plan that took about three years to perfect but which ultimately influenced the future of South Africa forever. Between 1986 and 1993 a company called **Africa Hinterland** operated a business taking tourists on overland sight-seeing trips which crossed the border into South Africa. Unbeknown to the tourists, under the seats of the Bedford truck were secret compartments housing military arms and explosives destined for the frontline of the underground military struggle against the notorious Apartheid system. 30 mission were completed and 70 tons of hardware was smuggled across the border. This amounted to around 90% of arms that found their way into South Africa during the critical final years of Aaprtheid.

“The Secret Safari” is a tale of courage, cunning and deception. It is a story of the drivers, whose unselfish actions influenced a society far removed from their own. It is the story of the cadres who unpacked, distributed, and used the weapons, risking exposure and imprisonment in South Africa’s jails. It is a story of the tourists who unwittingly took part in these clandestine activities.

The film is also a record of a recent period in South Africa’s violent history - in particular that of The African National Congress (ANC) which under Nelson Mandela’s leadership was involved in on-going and often open warfare with South African security forces. It is alleged that some of the ANC’s former soldiers are still using these weapons in illegal activities - in bank heists and robberies.

This film is not a straight historical account. It raises profound moral issues. Central to this is how far ordinary citizens go in support of their

beliefs, and how an underground army can conduct a 'just' war whilst adhering to international conventions.