

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,400

A windswept beach linked to an epic deception was a hoax that fooled Adolf Hitler himself.

2

00:00:08,400 --> 00:00:17,800

A harrowing hike into the Wyoming wilderness, he knew that he was going to die.

3

00:00:17,800 --> 00:00:21,040

And a nefarious tale of cops turned robbers.

4

00:00:21,040 --> 00:00:27,000

This story speaks to how powerful greed is.

5

00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:32,240

Sometimes the greatest secrets lie in plain sight.

6

00:00:32,240 --> 00:00:41,840

These are the mysteries of the monument.

7

00:00:41,840 --> 00:00:47,280

London, England, winding through the heart of this capital city, is the River Thames.

8

00:00:47,280 --> 00:00:55,520

This waterway, the longest in the land, has witnessed 2,000 years of this city's history.

9

00:00:55,520 --> 00:01:02,320

On its north bank looms an imposing structure that has shaped the course of Britain for centuries.

10

00:01:02,320 --> 00:01:10,240

It stands over 90 feet high, contains 1,100 rooms, and stretches over 8 acres.

11

00:01:10,240 --> 00:01:13,680

These are the houses of parliament.

12

00:01:13,680 --> 00:01:19,760

Today, the stunning complex is the revered seat of the national government.

13

00:01:19,760 --> 00:01:28,080

But this gothic masterpiece once sat at the center of an explosive tale of treachery, lies, and deception.

14

00:01:28,080 --> 00:01:31,680

It was the most audacious plot in England's history.

15

00:01:31,680 --> 00:01:38,640

The consequences were unimaginable.

16

00:01:38,640 --> 00:01:42,080

1604, England.

17

00:01:42,080 --> 00:01:47,040

A Protestant king, James I, sits upon the royal throne.

18

00:01:47,120 --> 00:01:50,000

But his rule is under constant threat.

19

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:55,200

Rebellious Catholics want to restore their own monarch to power.

20

00:01:55,200 --> 00:01:57,520

They didn't want a Protestant king.

21

00:01:57,520 --> 00:02:00,760

They want a Catholic England, and they want it now.

22

00:02:00,760 --> 00:02:05,640

And there's one Englishman who has resolved to change the balance of power.

23

00:02:05,640 --> 00:02:08,160

His name is Guy Fox.

24

00:02:08,160 --> 00:02:14,640

Guy Fox was from Yorkshire. He was a soldier, and he was a devout Catholic.

25

00:02:14,640 --> 00:02:21,920

Over the past decade, the 34-year-old Fox lived in exile and served in Spain's Catholic army.

26

00:02:21,920 --> 00:02:30,080

But now he has returned to England, determined to overthrow his king.

27

00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:35,280

On May 20th, Fox meets with a group of like-minded friends at a London inn.

28

00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:37,760

I've had enough of this king's oppression.

29

00:02:37,840 --> 00:02:45,440

The collaborators devise a dastardly plot to blow up the houses of parliament with the monarch inside.

30

00:02:45,440 --> 00:02:53,200

It'd be something akin to the White House and the Capitol building being blown up in a single instance.

31

00:02:53,200 --> 00:03:00,560

If it succeeds, the brazen scheme could open the door for a Catholic to take the throne.

32

00:03:00,560 --> 00:03:04,640

The plan was to dig a tunnel through the foundations,

33

00:03:04,720 --> 00:03:08,720

stack the tunnel with gunpowder, and then blow the building.

34

00:03:08,720 --> 00:03:15,200

But burrowing through the Mammoth Stone Foundation is easier said than done.

35

00:03:15,200 --> 00:03:18,560

The actual digging was incredibly painstaking.

36

00:03:18,560 --> 00:03:23,600

The foundation wall was about three foot deep, made of concrete.

37

00:03:23,600 --> 00:03:27,040

But then the conspirators get a lucky break.

38

00:03:27,040 --> 00:03:34,480

One night, the diggers in the tunnel are startled by a strange whistling sound coming from above.

39

00:03:35,520 --> 00:03:44,080

Fox goes to investigate and is astonished to discover just above their half-finished passageway is an empty cellar.

40

00:03:44,080 --> 00:03:48,320

It was essentially a vault directly beneath the House of Lords.

41

00:03:48,320 --> 00:03:51,200

They couldn't have had a better space for their gunpowder.

42

00:03:52,240 --> 00:03:54,960

Abandoning the dig, the men change their plan.

43

00:03:55,920 --> 00:04:02,880

Pleaverly posing as merchants looking for storage space, the plotters immediately rent out the vacant cellar.

44

00:04:02,960 --> 00:04:08,240

Then Fox stocks the room with 5,500 pounds of gunpowder.

45

00:04:08,240 --> 00:04:14,720

If that had exploded in the confined area of the House of Lords, the blow would have been

unbelievable.

46

00:04:17,040 --> 00:04:21,920

The rebels learn that King James himself will appear before Parliament on November 5th.

47

00:04:23,040 --> 00:04:26,480

All that's left is to wait for that day and light the fuse.

48

00:04:27,360 --> 00:04:33,600

But little do they know, their careful plan is about to be dealt a fatal blow.

49

00:04:39,040 --> 00:04:41,600

October 26th, 1605.

50

00:04:43,120 --> 00:04:48,880

William Parker, better known as the 4th Lord Montiege, receives an anonymous letter.

51

00:04:48,880 --> 00:04:54,560

Lord Montiege was in the House of Lords and he was a very prominent Catholic.

52

00:04:54,560 --> 00:04:57,680

The mysterious note includes a dire warning.

53

00:04:58,320 --> 00:05:01,920

It warned him not to go to Parliament on the 5th of November.

54

00:05:02,720 --> 00:05:05,920

It said that anyone who did so would receive a terrible blow.

55

00:05:08,000 --> 00:05:12,720

Unsure what to make of the cryptic note, Montiegeel immediately alerts the authorities.

56

00:05:15,120 --> 00:05:18,400

On November 4th, the Kings Guards search Parliament.

57

00:05:20,400 --> 00:05:24,240

And just before midnight, in a cellar beneath the House of Lords,

58

00:05:24,240 --> 00:05:26,080

they find the traitor Guy Fox.

59

00:05:31,200 --> 00:05:35,040

Fox were seized and they discovered 36 barrels of gunpowder.

60

00:05:38,320 --> 00:05:42,320

The plot to blow up Parliament and kill the King has been foiled.

61

00:05:43,440 --> 00:05:47,280

As for the anonymous letter writer who unwittingly saved the government,

62

00:05:47,280 --> 00:05:50,640

it is believed that he was one of Fox co-conspirators,

63

00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:53,040

who happened to be related to Lord Montiegal.

64

00:05:54,880 --> 00:05:59,440

Authorities arrest and for two days brutally torture Guy Fox.

65

00:06:01,600 --> 00:06:04,400

Finally, he gives up the names of his accomplices.

66

00:06:05,040 --> 00:06:09,600

In short order, they are arrested and along with Fox, executed.

67

00:06:12,480 --> 00:06:16,080

The doomed conspiracy comes to be known as the gunpowder plot.

68

00:06:17,200 --> 00:06:21,200

And to commemorate its failure, every year on November 5th,

69

00:06:21,200 --> 00:06:26,560

Guy Fox Night is celebrated across the United Kingdom with bonfires and fireworks.

70

00:06:30,400 --> 00:06:36,080

Today, this iconic London landmark still harbors the memory of a treasonous plot

71

00:06:36,080 --> 00:06:39,360

that almost killed a King and overturned his government.

72

00:06:42,320 --> 00:06:46,080

Reno, Nevada bills itself as the biggest little city in the world.

73

00:06:46,640 --> 00:06:51,760

And perhaps its greatest attraction is the glitz and glamour of its thriving gaming industry.

74

00:06:52,480 --> 00:06:59,200

Every year, throngs of tourists spend more than \$600 million in the hopes of striking it rich.

75

00:07:01,520 --> 00:07:06,400

But away from the neon glow of the casinos is the century old Mountain View cemetery.

76

00:07:06,960 --> 00:07:14,240

Here, amidst the tombstones stands an imposing memorial that tells a bizarre tale of power and politics.

77

00:07:16,400 --> 00:07:18,720

This monument is 15 feet in height.

78

00:07:19,440 --> 00:07:22,400

It's cold to the touch, made of marble.

79

00:07:23,120 --> 00:07:28,320

And it has a beautiful base relief of one of Nevada's shrewdest politicians.

80

00:07:28,960 --> 00:07:34,880

This is the grave of Keith Pittman, who held his seat in the U.S. Senate for 27 years.

81

00:07:36,640 --> 00:07:42,320

But according to curator, Sheryl Lynn Hayzorn, the Senator's years of devoted service

82

00:07:42,400 --> 00:07:45,840

are overshadowed by a strange and grisly rumor.

83

00:07:46,480 --> 00:07:51,280

It's a shocking tale of a famous life, infamous death and possible fraud.

84

00:07:55,520 --> 00:07:57,920

Reno, autumn 1940.

85

00:07:59,280 --> 00:08:05,200

It's election season and the Democratic Party is fighting to hold on to its majority in the U.S. Senate.

86

00:08:06,160 --> 00:08:13,760

And locked in one of the country's most contentious races is Nevada's Democratic Senator, Keith Pittman.

87

00:08:14,720 --> 00:08:21,920

Pittman lived in brief politics. He really was a dynamic individual and he was very persistent.

88

00:08:22,480 --> 00:08:25,120

He wouldn't stop until he got what he needed.

89

00:08:26,800 --> 00:08:29,760

Pittman is an incumbent veteran of the U.S. Senate.

90

00:08:31,200 --> 00:08:34,640

But he faces a formidable opponent in his Republican challenger.

91

00:08:35,280 --> 00:08:36,400

Attorney Sam Platt.

92

00:08:38,960 --> 00:08:42,240

It was really important for the Democrats to retain this seat.

93

00:08:42,800 --> 00:08:48,560

So Pittman went from place to place around the state to meet with his supporters.

94

00:08:51,440 --> 00:08:55,600

On November 4th, after a rigorous final day of campaigning,

95

00:08:55,600 --> 00:09:01,040

the Senator retires to Reno's Riverside Hotel for some drinks with his most trusted aides.

96

00:09:01,200 --> 00:09:05,280

The next morning, Nevada's voters go to the ballot boxes.

97

00:09:05,280 --> 00:09:08,800

And as the results are tallied, the winner is revealed.

98

00:09:10,320 --> 00:09:12,800

Senator Pittman wins by over 10,000 votes.

99

00:09:14,160 --> 00:09:17,760

That night, the Democratic Party celebrates their victory.

100

00:09:17,760 --> 00:09:20,320

But the Senator is strangely absent.

101

00:09:21,760 --> 00:09:25,120

Once Pittman doesn't arrive to his acceptance speech party,

102

00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:29,120

the press and the public start to question, where is Pittman?

103

00:09:29,120 --> 00:09:30,320

Why wasn't he there?

104

00:09:30,320 --> 00:09:33,920

When a reporter pushes for details on Pittman's whereabouts,

105

00:09:33,920 --> 00:09:35,920

When will the Senator be arriving?

106

00:09:35,920 --> 00:09:40,320

Once staffer explains, the worn out Senator simply needed a break.

107

00:09:40,320 --> 00:09:42,240

The Senator is exhausted.

108

00:09:42,240 --> 00:09:47,200

The aide then makes an off the cuff remark that will later come back to haunt them.

109

00:09:47,200 --> 00:09:49,760

We're keeping him on ice.

110

00:09:53,440 --> 00:09:56,480

Over the next few days, the victorious politician

111

00:09:56,800 --> 00:09:58,000

is nowhere to be seen.

112

00:09:59,120 --> 00:10:04,720

Then on November 10th, just five days after his election, there is shocking news.

113

00:10:04,720 --> 00:10:10,080

68 year old, Keith Pittman has succumbed to a fatal heart attack.

114

00:10:11,120 --> 00:10:14,720

His unexpected passing leaves his constituents stunned.

115

00:10:15,360 --> 00:10:19,200

It also means that a seat in the U.S. Senate is now vacant.

116

00:10:20,320 --> 00:10:25,200

Due to Pittman's untimely death, state protocol allowed the government to be held in the Senate.

117

00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:29,680

State protocol allowed the governor to appoint a successor for Senator Pittman.

118

00:10:29,680 --> 00:10:33,200

A fellow Democrat is appointed to serve out Pittman's term,

119

00:10:33,200 --> 00:10:36,560

allowing the party to maintain its majority in the U.S. Senate.

120

00:10:37,840 --> 00:10:42,320

Yet the events surrounding Pittman's death may not be what they seem.

121

00:10:45,040 --> 00:10:49,520

More than two decades later, a sensational expose is published,

122

00:10:49,520 --> 00:10:52,480

revealing stunning allegations about his demise.

123

00:10:53,440 --> 00:10:55,920

The book is called The Green Felt Jungle.

124

00:10:56,720 --> 00:11:02,800

Its unnamed sources allege that Pittman actually died before the 1940 election.

125

00:11:05,600 --> 00:11:11,280

The claim stems from the bizarre comment made by one of the Senator's aides at his victory party.

126

00:11:12,080 --> 00:11:13,680

We're keeping him on ice.

127

00:11:14,720 --> 00:11:17,600

As well as his strange absence following the election.

128

00:11:18,000 --> 00:11:25,120

The writer claims that Pittman's staff puts his body in a bathtub full of ice,

129

00:11:25,760 --> 00:11:28,560

preserving his body until after the election.

130

00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:35,760

According to the book, Pittman's body stayed on ice until his death was officially announced,

131

00:11:35,760 --> 00:11:38,000

almost a week after the votes came in.

132

00:11:39,040 --> 00:11:44,640

People are questioning whether or not Pittman was even alive by the time the election results came in.

133

00:11:45,280 --> 00:11:46,800

Did they elect a dead man?

134

00:11:47,840 --> 00:11:56,480

It's the 1970s in Nevada.

135

00:11:56,480 --> 00:12:01,360

For years, a bizarre rumor has been circulating about former Democratic Senator

136

00:12:01,360 --> 00:12:05,920

Keith Pittman. During a run for reelection, the statesman is said to have suddenly died.

137

00:12:06,480 --> 00:12:12,400

But to avoid losing the election, his colleagues reportedly preserved his corpse in an ice-filled

138

00:12:12,400 --> 00:12:17,520

bathtub for several days and then only announced the death once their candidate had won.

139

00:12:18,160 --> 00:12:20,960

So did Nevada voters elect a dead man?

140

00:12:23,440 --> 00:12:31,280

In 1977, a young historian named Guy Rocha lands a rare position working for the state archives.

141

00:12:32,800 --> 00:12:38,800

With access to decades of Nevada history, he investigates a story that has long fascinated him,

142

00:12:39,520 --> 00:12:41,600

that of Senator Keith Pittman's death.

143

00:12:42,560 --> 00:12:48,080

Guy dug up the death certificate and discovers the name of Pittman's personal physician.

144

00:12:49,040 --> 00:12:52,640

The historian tracks down Pittman's now retired doctor,

145

00:12:52,640 --> 00:12:56,080

who agrees to go on record about the senator's final hours.

146

00:12:57,680 --> 00:13:02,000

According to the physician, on the eve of the 1940 election,

147

00:13:02,000 --> 00:13:05,360

he was frantically summoned to Reno's Riverside Hotel.

148

00:13:05,920 --> 00:13:10,240

After a night of revelry, Senator Pittman had collapsed.

149

00:13:12,240 --> 00:13:18,880

The physician examines Pittman and realizes that he's had a major heart attack and that he's literally dying.

150

00:13:20,240 --> 00:13:25,360

Worried the news would upset the election, Democratic operatives played off Pittman's

151

00:13:25,360 --> 00:13:31,120

fatal condition as mere fatigue. Then they crossed their fingers and willed the senator

152

00:13:31,120 --> 00:13:39,680

to stay alive until the polls closed. Miraculously, the fading politician clung to life for another five days.

153

00:13:41,280 --> 00:13:47,920

The doctor's story proves once and for all that in 1940, Nevadans did not elect a dead man.

154

00:13:48,560 --> 00:13:51,200

They did, however, elect one who was dying.

155

00:13:52,400 --> 00:13:57,840

As to the Democrats keeping the secret of a dying man being on the ballot at that point,

156

00:13:57,840 --> 00:14:01,440

was it true politics or election fraud? Who's to say?

157

00:14:03,200 --> 00:14:06,640

Today, this memorial at the Mountain View Cemetery in Reno

158

00:14:07,440 --> 00:14:14,160

marks a respected leader whose impressive political life was eclipsed by the mystery surrounding his death.

159

00:14:17,920 --> 00:14:25,760

Medford, Massachusetts. In 1775, Paul Revere crossed the Mystic River here during his patriotic ride.

160

00:14:28,560 --> 00:14:33,200

But just a few blocks from the waterfront is a contraption that speaks to a less

161

00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:39,440

distinguished chapter from Medford's past. It's about a foot wide and a foot tunnel. On the left hand

162

00:14:39,440 --> 00:14:45,600

side, there's one key lock for access and etched on it in white lettering, or the words, for night deposits.

163

00:14:48,160 --> 00:14:56,240

According to tour guide Mark Linehan, this antique night deposit box was once involved in a tale of greed,

164

00:14:56,880 --> 00:15:02,800

fevery, and betrayal. This is a story of how a group of corrupt individuals

165

00:15:03,440 --> 00:15:07,680

committed one of the largest bank robberies in United States history.

166

00:15:10,720 --> 00:15:18,320

1979, Medford. This quaint Massachusetts town appears to be the picture of law and order,

167

00:15:19,280 --> 00:15:25,440

but its citizens have no idea their community harbors a gang of crooks hidden in plain sight.

168

00:15:26,800 --> 00:15:33,600

On the police force. There was a group of pretty greedy and very corrupt cops running around Medford.

169

00:15:34,560 --> 00:15:41,200

Among them are Captain Gerald Clemente, Sergeant Joe Bangs, and Lieutenant Tommy Doherty.

170

00:15:42,080 --> 00:15:46,960

Since the mid-70s, the three have used their positions on the force to line their pockets.

171

00:15:47,840 --> 00:15:54,480

We're talking about card games, prostitution, drugs. But after years of small time hustles,

172

00:15:54,480 --> 00:16:02,720

the crooked cops are dreaming of something bigger, a bank heist, and that November they hung

173

00:16:02,720 --> 00:16:10,480

in on the perfect hit. Doherty suggests that they hit the depositors trust company in Medford.

174

00:16:11,680 --> 00:16:16,880

If they were able to break into this bank, they would never have to work another day in their lives.

175

00:16:18,480 --> 00:16:22,800

But slipping past the building's heavy duty alarm system and into the vault,

176

00:16:22,800 --> 00:16:28,960

calls for a seasoned bank robber. So the rotten threesome recruit a career criminal to help them,

177

00:16:29,600 --> 00:16:36,560

an ex-con named Bucky Barrett. Security guard, that's who the browns. Bucky Barrett have just

178

00:16:36,560 --> 00:16:42,960

the skill set they need to break into the bank. To get to the vault, the crooks decide to break

179

00:16:42,960 --> 00:16:49,200

into a less secure neighboring shop and then blast through the connecting wall with sticks of dynamite.

180

00:16:50,160 --> 00:16:54,480

They now feel ready to pull off the perfect foolproof heist.

181

00:16:55,520 --> 00:17:01,440

The gang chooses to strike Memorial Day weekend when all the businesses downtown are closed.

182

00:17:05,920 --> 00:17:12,320

As planned, in the wee hours of Sunday, May 25th, the men steal into the shop next to the

183

00:17:12,320 --> 00:17:15,680

depositors trust and set off the explosives.

184

00:17:22,800 --> 00:17:28,400

Explosion is deafening and they are sure that they're going to be caught.

185

00:17:29,120 --> 00:17:33,440

But Memorial Day weekend, there's no one around and it is unreported.

186

00:17:34,560 --> 00:17:41,280

The blast has blown clear through the wall. So the men squeeze in through this hole into the vault.

187

00:17:42,320 --> 00:17:49,920

They find gold, jewelry. They're looking at about \$25 million worth of valuables.

188

00:17:53,120 --> 00:17:58,960

The crew makes a pact to lay low and not raise suspicion. The worst thing for them to do at

189

00:17:58,960 --> 00:18:04,640

this point is to start flashing around a lot of money. They all agree we need to take it easy.

190

00:18:04,640 --> 00:18:10,160

No big purchases, no showing off, nothing that will draw attention to ourselves.

191

00:18:11,040 --> 00:18:15,040

But little do they know, temptation will push them to the brink.

192

00:18:20,960 --> 00:18:27,360

It's the early 80s in Medford, Massachusetts. A gang of corrupt cops have pulled off a bank

193

00:18:27,360 --> 00:18:34,240

heist to the tune of \$25 million. The crooks assume they've gotten away with the perfect crime,

194

00:18:34,960 --> 00:18:36,080

but they're wrong.

195

00:18:36,720 --> 00:18:42,080

Four years after the depositors trust bank robbery, authorities are struggling to keep the trail

196

00:18:42,080 --> 00:18:47,040

from going cold. There's nothing physically linking the men to this crime, so the police

197

00:18:47,040 --> 00:18:54,720

have nothing to go on. But a bizarre coincidence is about to blow the case wide open. On the night

198

00:18:54,720 --> 00:19:01,120

of October 16th, Medford police are alerted to a shooting in a local home. They're surprised to

199

00:19:01,280 --> 00:19:07,280

learn that both the shooter and the victim are cops themselves. It seems that Tommy Doherty

200

00:19:07,840 --> 00:19:14,160

has shot Joe Bangs. And when police arrive on the scene and search the premises,

201

00:19:14,160 --> 00:19:22,720

they make a discovery that leaves them speechless. In the trunk of Bangs car, they find jewelry.

202

00:19:23,680 --> 00:19:28,320

Shocked and suspicious, police interrogate the wounded Bangs about the jewels,

203

00:19:28,320 --> 00:19:34,080

and he delivers a bombshell. Bangs tells them that it's part of the stolen haul

204

00:19:34,080 --> 00:19:42,240

from the depositors trust company. Bangs is arrested. For the corrupt crew, the jig is finally up.

205

00:19:44,720 --> 00:19:49,280

In exchange for full immunity for his crimes, Bangs rats out his own body.

206

00:19:49,280 --> 00:19:57,280

Clemente, Doherty, and Barrett. But why were co-conspirators Bangs and Doherty involved in a shootout?

207

00:19:59,280 --> 00:20:05,760

It seems that despite their pact to lay low, Joe Bangs and Tommy Doherty couldn't resist the lure of the

208

00:20:05,760 --> 00:20:12,400

high life. Over the years, both men developed insatiable cocaine habits and began dealing the

209

00:20:12,400 --> 00:20:17,520

illegal drug for extra cash. The gang is now in the hands of the gang.

210

00:20:17,520 --> 00:20:29,760

But the illegal trade soured their relations. During a cocaine-fueled argument, things turned violent.

211

00:20:32,720 --> 00:20:39,920

Doherty shoots him at almost point blank range. After going to trial, both Clemente and Doherty

212

00:20:39,920 --> 00:20:46,080

are sentenced to lengthy prison terms. But Barrett, the career criminal, never faces justice.

213

00:20:46,800 --> 00:20:53,200

Months before Bangs gave him up, Barrett went missing. It's believed he was killed by a fellow mobster.

214

00:20:55,760 --> 00:21:00,800

It's a scandalous end to one of the bleakest chapters in the annals of law enforcement.

215

00:21:01,440 --> 00:21:07,680

This story resonates today because it speaks to how powerful greed is.

216

00:21:09,520 --> 00:21:15,280

Today, this bank deposit box in Medford is nearly all that remains of the depositors trust.

217

00:21:16,000 --> 00:21:20,240

The sight of an audacious crime plotted by a gang of crooked cops.

218

00:21:23,280 --> 00:21:30,640

Normandy, France, with spectacular cliffs, a 360-mile coastline, and vibrant meadows.

219

00:21:31,200 --> 00:21:36,640

It's no wonder this stunning countryside captured the imagination of impressionist painters.

220

00:21:39,040 --> 00:21:44,640

Each year, a million visitors descend upon the area, where a legendary stretch of land

221

00:21:44,640 --> 00:21:47,280

endures as a symbol of a haunting event.

222

00:21:50,640 --> 00:21:57,840

It's about five miles long. It's covered in sand and shingle. You've got cliffs at either end,

223

00:21:57,840 --> 00:22:02,240

and you have a very strong sense that something important and that something very sad happened here.

224

00:22:03,280 --> 00:22:04,800

This is Omaha Beach.

225

00:22:07,600 --> 00:22:10,320

And as historian Joshua Levine reveals,

226

00:22:10,800 --> 00:22:16,160

this lonely experience was at the center of an incredible tale of trickery that changed the

227

00:22:16,160 --> 00:22:22,320

course of the Second World War. This was the greatest hoax of the war. It was a hoax that fooled

228

00:22:22,320 --> 00:22:35,440

Adolf Hitler himself. 1943, Europe. As World War II enters its fourth year,

229

00:22:36,400 --> 00:22:42,640

much of the continent remains under German rule. But now, the furor's spies have news that his

230

00:22:42,640 --> 00:22:52,240

empire could be under threat. Allied forces are reportedly preparing a massive assault on

Nazi-occupied France.

231

00:22:54,240 --> 00:22:58,160

The news that the Allies really needed was to be able to land successfully in France.

232

00:22:58,960 --> 00:23:02,000

But where the attack might take place is unknown.

233

00:23:02,240 --> 00:23:10,480

So the Nazis set out to gather this vital intelligence by contacting their top spy in England.

234

00:23:12,240 --> 00:23:15,200

His name is Juan Pujol Garcia.

235

00:23:15,200 --> 00:23:20,400

Juan Pujol was a very ordinary looking man. He was losing his hair. He wasn't particularly tall.

236

00:23:20,400 --> 00:23:24,000

You wouldn't have marked him out as being particularly distinctive.

237

00:23:24,000 --> 00:23:30,720

Born in Spain, the 31-year-old secret agent pledged his allegiance to Hitler soon after the start of the war.

238

00:23:31,360 --> 00:23:38,080

Pujol has proved himself over the last couple of years to be loyal and to provide information of an

239

00:23:38,080 --> 00:23:45,040

absolutely unparalleled quality. No one was more trusted to deliver the location of the Allied attack than Juan Pujol.

240

00:23:47,760 --> 00:23:54,320

In short order, Pujol confirms that preparations for an Allied invasion are indeed underway in

241

00:23:54,400 --> 00:24:02,880

Southeast England. And the intended target seems to be the coastal region of the Pado Calais in Northern France.

242

00:24:03,920 --> 00:24:10,320

The Pado Calais is the obvious place to invade. It's the area of France which is closest to England.

243

00:24:11,040 --> 00:24:16,400

Following up on Pujol's intelligence, German reconnaissance planes are sent to survey the

244

00:24:16,400 --> 00:24:20,880

city of Dover, which lies directly across the English Channel from the Pada Calais.

245

00:24:21,600 --> 00:24:24,960

There, Nazi scouts corroborate Pujol's reports.

246

00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:31,280

There's a seeing landing craft. There's seeing tanks. What we have is a picture of this buildup

247

00:24:31,840 --> 00:24:38,640

of an enormous army in Southeast England. In response, Hitler moves thousands of troops

248

00:24:38,640 --> 00:24:42,240

from the surrounding regions to build up his defenses in Calais.

249

00:24:42,880 --> 00:24:49,680

Hitler, by turning these divisions around, is putting other areas of great danger.

250

00:24:49,680 --> 00:24:54,320

On the other hand, he's protecting the Pada Calais and that, after all, is where the bigger

251

00:24:54,320 --> 00:25:01,120

invasion is coming. But what the German dictator doesn't realize is that he's just made a fatal

252

00:25:01,120 --> 00:25:05,760

mistake, one that will ultimately seal the fate of the Third Reich.

253

00:25:11,200 --> 00:25:18,800

It's June 1944, Nazi occupied France. Hitler and his army are bracing for an Allied invasion,

254

00:25:18,800 --> 00:25:23,040

working off information provided by their spy, Juan Pujol Garcia.

255

00:25:23,680 --> 00:25:27,920

They have committed the majority of their troops to the northern beaches of Calais,

256

00:25:28,560 --> 00:25:31,840

but Hitler is about to get a big surprise.

257

00:25:34,160 --> 00:25:40,400

In anticipation of a massive Allied assault, 19 divisions of the German army stand along the

258

00:25:40,400 --> 00:25:47,520

coast of Calais. So the Germans are waiting. They have all these troops there. They wait.

259

00:25:49,200 --> 00:25:52,320

And they wait. But the attack doesn't come.

260

00:25:54,720 --> 00:26:01,520

But 200 miles to the southwest, a small Nazi brigade in Normandy witnesses a formidable sight.

261

00:26:05,200 --> 00:26:10,320

Emerging from the Misty Ocean are more than 160,000 Allied troops.

262

00:26:10,320 --> 00:26:17,440

So how could the Nazis have made such a grave miscalculation?

263

00:26:18,400 --> 00:26:24,400

What happened to the anticipated Calais attack? What the Germans don't know is that they've

264

00:26:24,400 --> 00:26:30,400

just been duped by none other than Juan Pujol Garcia, their most trusted secret agent.

265

00:26:31,760 --> 00:26:36,400

Juan Pujol presented himself as somebody who wanted to do all he could for the Nazi cause.

266

00:26:36,400 --> 00:26:41,520

But he wasn't. He was a double agent working for the British.

267

00:26:44,080 --> 00:26:47,840

Pujol grew to despise fascism during the Spanish Civil War.

268

00:26:48,960 --> 00:26:54,240

So when the Nazis rose to power, he vowed to do whatever he could to bring them down.

269

00:26:55,040 --> 00:26:59,600

And for the past two and a half years, he has been working with the British to deceive the Germans.

270

00:27:00,400 --> 00:27:06,240

The British code named him Garbo as a result of his acting talent. He was as good as Greta Garbo.

271

00:27:07,280 --> 00:27:12,240

And the culmination of Pujol's efforts is the Allied invasion of Normandy.

272

00:27:14,160 --> 00:27:20,480

He sent all these messages about this massive army which is ready to invade the Patec Alley.

273

00:27:21,680 --> 00:27:25,200

But the information was all intended to deceive the Nazis.

274

00:27:27,440 --> 00:27:32,640

To fool German air reconnaissance teams and back up Garbo's phony reports,

275

00:27:32,720 --> 00:27:38,880

the Allies even installed a fake army directly across from Calais in southeast England.

276

00:27:38,880 --> 00:27:46,720

So what you had was inflatable tanks. You had dummy landing craft made out of wood and metal frames,

277

00:27:46,720 --> 00:27:50,240

which looked from a distance as though they were absolutely real.

278

00:27:50,240 --> 00:27:53,680

These were all things that were intended to fool any Germans who were watching.

279

00:27:56,480 --> 00:27:59,760

Hitler's troops in Normandy are desperately outnumbered.

280

00:28:00,400 --> 00:28:07,440

This hoax, along with Juan Pujol's spy craft, has laid the groundwork for a successful surprise attack.

281

00:28:08,160 --> 00:28:11,360

The invasion in Normandy was the turning point of the war.

282

00:28:12,240 --> 00:28:19,520

This was D-Day. It was the moment when the Germans were truly on the defensive and the Allies were on the offensive.

283

00:28:22,800 --> 00:28:27,440

In the weeks that follow, Allied forces take control of France and then Germany.

284

00:28:28,400 --> 00:28:34,400

And on May 8, 1945, the Nazi army surrenders, ending the war in Europe.

285

00:28:38,560 --> 00:28:45,600

Today, Omaha Beach endures as a powerful memorial to all those who helped pull off this momentous campaign.

286

00:28:46,480 --> 00:28:52,240

From the brave soldiers who stormed the shore to the masterful spy who first set the trap.

287

00:28:58,080 --> 00:28:59,360

Charlotte, North Carolina.

288

00:29:00,240 --> 00:29:06,000

The towering financial institutions that dot the city skyline have given rise to a nickname,

289

00:29:06,800 --> 00:29:07,440

Banktown.

290

00:29:09,600 --> 00:29:15,840

But in the shadow of these modern skyscrapers is a monument that harkens back to the region's colonial past.

291

00:29:17,360 --> 00:29:22,240

The statue's 14 feet tall, 3,000 pounds of solid gray bronze,

292

00:29:23,200 --> 00:29:27,200

shows a revolutionary or era figure riding with determination.

293

00:29:28,240 --> 00:29:32,720

This is a tribute to a little-known patriot named Captain James Jack.

294

00:29:33,360 --> 00:29:35,360

And according to author Scott Seifer,

295

00:29:36,160 --> 00:29:41,040

this larger-than-life monument stands at the center of a revolutionary controversy.

296

00:29:43,520 --> 00:29:47,680

The sculpture represents an episode that could have rewritten American history.

297

00:29:52,560 --> 00:29:55,520

1819, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

298

00:29:57,120 --> 00:30:03,280

Physician Joseph McNitt Alexander is the proud descendant of one of the state's founding fathers,

299

00:30:03,840 --> 00:30:05,440

John McNitt Alexander.

300

00:30:06,160 --> 00:30:11,840

John McNitt Alexander had been very well known, very well respected for his leadership in the local

community.

301

00:30:14,000 --> 00:30:19,680

One night, Joseph is sorting through his late father's papers when he comes across something intriguing.

302

00:30:20,640 --> 00:30:26,000

Notes that suggest his father and his father's peers, not Thomas Jefferson,

303

00:30:26,000 --> 00:30:28,160

drafted the Declaration of Independence.

304

00:30:29,040 --> 00:30:33,200

And not in 1776, but a full year earlier.

305

00:30:34,160 --> 00:30:37,600

Some of the language in it is very similar to Jefferson's document.

306

00:30:40,160 --> 00:30:41,520

Joseph is stunned.

307

00:30:42,320 --> 00:30:47,200

If what he's reading is true, the North Carolinians who authored this document

308

00:30:47,280 --> 00:30:49,680

are the nation's true founding fathers.

309

00:30:52,240 --> 00:30:57,680

So Dr. Alexander publishes it in the local newspaper and then other newspapers pick up the story.

310

00:30:59,280 --> 00:31:04,240

Yet while citizens in North Carolina celebrate the news, not everyone is pleased.

311

00:31:05,440 --> 00:31:09,440

Soon, reports of these claims reach Thomas Jefferson himself.

312

00:31:10,000 --> 00:31:13,840

And upon hearing the story, the former president is enraged.

313

00:31:14,640 --> 00:31:19,760

People are saying Thomas Jefferson plagiarized from the Mechler Declaration of Independence.

314

00:31:19,760 --> 00:31:22,320

But Jefferson's response is that it's not true.

315

00:31:22,320 --> 00:31:25,040

Look, I've never heard of this. Nobody I know has ever heard of this.

316

00:31:28,960 --> 00:31:35,280

Still, many North Carolinians remain convinced their own statesmen authored the landmark document.

317

00:31:35,840 --> 00:31:39,840

So the state legislature decides to prove it once and for all.

318

00:31:44,720 --> 00:31:49,200

It's 1819 in North Carolina.

319

00:31:49,760 --> 00:31:55,280

It's been more than 40 years since the American colonies broke with Great Britain and formed a new

nation.

320

00:31:55,920 --> 00:32:01,920

And Thomas Jefferson has gone down in history as the author of the famous Declaration of Independence.

321

00:32:01,920 --> 00:32:03,840

But are the history books right?

322

00:32:06,640 --> 00:32:10,160

Many North Carolinians believe that their fellow statesmen,

323

00:32:10,160 --> 00:32:13,120

not Thomas Jefferson, penned the famous document.

324

00:32:14,240 --> 00:32:17,920

State legislators launched a special commission to find out the truth.

325

00:32:18,960 --> 00:32:22,960

And they soon unearth evidence they claim confirms the story.

326

00:32:22,960 --> 00:32:26,080

The eyewitness account of one Captain James Jack.

327

00:32:27,680 --> 00:32:31,520

The story Jack tells begins 55 years earlier.

328

00:32:32,960 --> 00:32:36,480

April, 1775, Lexington, Massachusetts.

329

00:32:37,520 --> 00:32:40,960

British troops fire the first shots of the American Revolution.

330

00:32:41,920 --> 00:32:47,680

When word of the attack reaches North Carolina, a group of angry colonists leaps into action.

331

00:32:48,560 --> 00:32:54,000

So what they do is they adopt a series of measures to declare the county independent of Great Britain.

332

00:32:54,000 --> 00:32:57,360

They dissolved all political connection with the mother country.

333

00:32:59,120 --> 00:33:07,600

On May 20th, 1775, Captain Jack watches as 26 North Carolinians sign this rebellious document.

334

00:33:08,400 --> 00:33:12,000

The paper is described as the Mechelmer Declaration of Independence.

335

00:33:13,520 --> 00:33:16,960

Eager to recruit other colonies to join their campaign,

336

00:33:16,960 --> 00:33:22,080

the group decides to deliver the resolution to Philadelphia, home of the Continental Congress.

337

00:33:22,800 --> 00:33:27,520

The man tapped for the job is the then 44-year-old James Jack himself.

338

00:33:30,720 --> 00:33:35,680

Captain Jack carefully packs the document and rides North at breakneck speed.

339

00:33:36,640 --> 00:33:39,840

Jack is undertaking a very perilous mission because if he's caught,

340

00:33:39,840 --> 00:33:43,360

he would be hanged by any British or loyal officers who found him.

341

00:33:44,720 --> 00:33:51,040

The Captain reaches Philadelphia in June, shortly after the arrival of Virginia delegate Thomas Jefferson.

342

00:33:52,000 --> 00:33:55,680

According to Captain Jack, he delivers the declaration to the Congress.

343

00:33:56,400 --> 00:33:58,720

But its message falls on deaf ears.

344

00:33:59,760 --> 00:34:05,040

Far from breaking with England, the Continental Congress is presently considering reconciliation.

345

00:34:05,680 --> 00:34:07,280

So they're not in favor of it.

346

00:34:07,280 --> 00:34:09,840

They say, we find this very premature.

347

00:34:09,840 --> 00:34:11,840

Thanks, but no thanks. And they send Jack home.

348

00:34:12,880 --> 00:34:17,680

A heavy hearted James Jack returns to North Carolina with the disappointing news.

349

00:34:20,720 --> 00:34:27,120

But one year later, Thomas Jefferson authors his own version of the Declaration of Independence.

350

00:34:27,840 --> 00:34:33,520

More than two centuries after its signing, the question of whether Jefferson plagiarized the

351

00:34:33,520 --> 00:34:36,560

Declaration of Independence may never be answered.

352

00:34:37,120 --> 00:34:43,040

But for North Carolinians, the day the Mecklenburg Declaration was signed is cause for celebration.

353

00:34:43,920 --> 00:34:49,040

They put the date May 20th, 1735 on the state flag. They put it on the state seal.

354

00:34:52,240 --> 00:34:55,040

And this statue in Charlotte, North Carolina,

355

00:34:55,040 --> 00:35:02,160

embodies the patriotic spirit that guided America's forefathers along the Rocky Road to independence.

356

00:35:06,480 --> 00:35:11,520

Yellowstone National Park spans three states and 3,500 square miles.

357

00:35:12,960 --> 00:35:18,320

Near its north entrance stands a landmark that also speaks to its geologic origins.

358

00:35:18,960 --> 00:35:27,120

It's a high plateau that averages about 8,000 feet above sea level. It is made of sandstones and shales.

359

00:35:27,120 --> 00:35:29,520

It's kind of like this little castle in the sky.

360

00:35:30,640 --> 00:35:37,760

This is Mount Everts. As park historian Lee Whittlesey can attest, this peak is named for a

361

00:35:37,760 --> 00:35:43,440

settler whose struggle with the elements led to the formation of America's first national park.

362

00:35:44,160 --> 00:35:47,440

It's an important part of the history of the United States.

363

00:35:47,920 --> 00:35:52,160

It's an epic tale of one man's desperate fight to survive.

364

00:35:56,880 --> 00:36:00,880

August 17th, 1870, the Montana Territory.

365

00:36:02,320 --> 00:36:06,160

The American West is a vast and largely uncharted land.

366

00:36:07,200 --> 00:36:12,640

There weren't many tales of incredible geographic and geologic wonders.

367

00:36:12,960 --> 00:36:19,200

As the U.S. expands westward, there's a demand to map every square foot of land.

368

00:36:20,080 --> 00:36:24,960

And one group of men is about to do just that. The Washburn Expedition.

369

00:36:25,840 --> 00:36:33,360

The Washburn Expedition consisted of 19 men, 40 horses, and a dog. And they were headed south

370

00:36:33,360 --> 00:36:41,280

to explore the Yellowstone River. From the city of Helena, the crew plans to trek 200 miles southeast

371

00:36:41,280 --> 00:36:47,440

to the source of the river in the Wyoming Territory. Among this team of professional

372

00:36:47,440 --> 00:36:54,400

surveyors and army scouts is an unlikely explorer, an unemployed accountant named Truman Everts.

373

00:36:55,200 --> 00:37:02,320

Truman Everts, the oldest member of the group, age 54, nearsighted, not in good physical shape.

374

00:37:02,320 --> 00:37:09,840

Everts had no wilderness training for him. The expedition was kind of a between jobs vacation.

375

00:37:09,840 --> 00:37:14,240

The first three weeks of the expedition pass uneventfully.

376

00:37:16,080 --> 00:37:21,760

But when the men reach the northern Wyoming woods on September 9th, their good fortune ends.

377

00:37:22,800 --> 00:37:26,320

The Washburn Party was hacking through a dense forest.

378

00:37:27,840 --> 00:37:30,400

And Everts became separated from the rest of the party.

379

00:37:32,720 --> 00:37:38,400

Everts decides his best bet for rejoining the group is to study the ground for hoof prints.

380

00:37:39,360 --> 00:37:47,120

He dismounts from his horse and walked into the forest looking down to see their tracks.

381

00:37:49,120 --> 00:37:53,760

But suddenly something spooks the horse and it takes off into the underbrush.

382

00:37:56,480 --> 00:38:04,240

His heart sank because he realized that in the saddlebag tied to the horse were his gun,

383

00:38:04,240 --> 00:38:08,880

his coat, his food gone.

384

00:38:12,080 --> 00:38:18,000

Besides the clothes on his back, Everts now has nothing but a pair of opera glasses to protect him.

385

00:38:19,120 --> 00:38:27,680

It hit him. I'm lost. I have no food. I'm scared. One false move and he could be dead.

386

00:38:28,160 --> 00:38:38,480

It's 1870 in the Wyoming territory. 54 year old explorer Truman Everts

387

00:38:39,040 --> 00:38:44,080

has become separated from the rest of his expedition and is lost in uncharted wilderness.

388

00:38:45,280 --> 00:38:51,120

He has no horse, no food and no idea how he'll escape this deadly predicament.

389

00:38:52,080 --> 00:39:00,400

Everts knows that if he is going to make it, his first priority must be to find food.

390

00:39:00,400 --> 00:39:07,120

Everts didn't have a gun anymore. He had to focus his attention on finding plants and roots.

391

00:39:07,120 --> 00:39:10,240

The problem was he didn't know which were poisonous and which were safe.

392

00:39:11,360 --> 00:39:14,720

Eventually he yanks a spiky plant out of the ground.

393

00:39:16,640 --> 00:39:17,760

And he washed it off.

394

00:39:21,360 --> 00:39:27,280

And it was palatable. He could eat it. To his great relief, the root Everts has found is thistle,

395

00:39:27,920 --> 00:39:33,200

a pulpy fibrous vegetable. It was a delicious meal for a starving man.

396

00:39:34,800 --> 00:39:41,040

But as the days pass and the temperature drops, he realizes that food alone will not keep him alive.

397

00:39:41,840 --> 00:39:49,200

What Everts needs is a way to make a fire. Suddenly it hits him. He had his opera glasses.

398

00:39:49,840 --> 00:39:56,560

He could easily pop out the eyepiece and focus it using the sunlight to create fire.

399

00:39:57,680 --> 00:40:02,720

After several unsuccessful attempts, the dry wood finally begins to smolder.

400

00:40:04,080 --> 00:40:09,040

He was just overjoyed. I have fire. I can survive.

401

00:40:10,160 --> 00:40:16,880

But his high spirits don't last long. Winter is approaching. If Everts can't make it back

402

00:40:16,880 --> 00:40:24,320

to his party soon, his days will be numbered. He was hungry and cold and malnourished and weak and

403

00:40:24,320 --> 00:40:33,680

tired. He wanted to give up. Too feeble to walk. He resorts to crawling on his hands and knees

404

00:40:33,680 --> 00:40:41,520

in search of help. At that point he knew that he was going to die. But then just when he's on the

405

00:40:41,520 --> 00:40:48,880

brink of total collapse, he hears the sounds of human voices. Everts uses the last of his strength

406

00:40:48,880 --> 00:40:56,480

to drag his battered body toward the sound. Finally, he reaches a clearing and there he sees the figure

407

00:40:56,480 --> 00:41:06,080

of a man. Truman? Is that you Truman? A man said, we have come to rescue you. You're alive. After nearly

408

00:41:06,080 --> 00:41:11,360

40 days in the punishing Wyoming wilderness, Truman Everts is saved.

409

00:41:14,480 --> 00:41:20,720

The accountant returns to a quiet life in Montana. The following year, his incredible story is

410

00:41:20,720 --> 00:41:26,720

published in a national magazine. And this tale sparks an effort to preserve the wonders of the

411

00:41:26,720 --> 00:41:34,800

magical wilderness surrounding Yellowstone River. In 1872, it becomes America's first national park.

412

00:41:36,640 --> 00:41:44,720

And today, this 8,000-foot mountain is named Mount Everts after the man who survived in its deadly

413

00:41:44,720 --> 00:41:54,080

shadow. From an explosive plot to an unlikely pioneer, crooked cops to a missing senator,

414

00:41:55,280 --> 00:42:00,320

I'm Don Wildman and these are the Mysteries at the Monument.

