

HORISONT

European preppers

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Tagline:

The fear of natural disasters and hostile invasion makes ordinary europeans prepare for the worst. They collect food and learn how to handle weapons. Some of them are worried about Russia's military aggression.

Intro

Lotta

We have been in peace time for so long, that we don't really understand what war is like.

Jim

The cold war between America and Russia may be gone, but there can be a new cold war between North Korea and Europe. China and Europe... Iran and America.. Who knows..

Meet Lotta & Gustav

Småland, Sweden

Moon:

I'm in Sweden to learn more about why ordinary citizens prepare for crisis and war.

It is big in the States. About four million americans are apart of this movement.

No one knows the numbers in Europe, but on the internet there is a lot of prepper networks and survival groups.

Moon: I'm on my way to Lotta Dalenius. She is what you call a prepper.

Lotta: My name is Lotta Dalenius, i'm 47 years old, I have three kids, three boys and I have worked as a special nurse, now I work as a work environment inspector.

Lotta

I prepare for different things. From small things like power cut and on the other end of the scale, war. We hope that never happens of course.

Cucumbers, cucumbers...

Different pasta, you can survive on that.

Instant coffee.

In her twenties Lotta served in the navy - and she is now a healthcare instructor in the Swedish Home Guard.

Lotta:

The world doesn't look like it did 20 years ago when the Cold War ended. Now things are happening again which many need to pay more attention to. So, I try to teach my boys how to take care of them self. It's very simple.

Gustav, 14 år: I know what it means, you prepare for the worst, you make sure you have a stash of food for weeks, so you can survive if a crisis or war comes.

Sb Lotta: Storm lighter! Radio!

Sb Moon: So, you run it like this (manual power)

(football field)

Moon: What are you most afraid of?

Gustav: Natural disasters, which happens. And war!

I'm not staying here if that happens, I don't think it's gonna happen any time soon, but there's a risk.

Lotta: Besides hunting you can use this for communicating with your neighbours and people in your local area.

Lotta has been preparing for five years.

There are different scenarios you can plan for. From small things like water and electricity cuts to bigger things like national crisis or serious social challenges like we see in Sweden at the moment. You have to be prepared. Also for terror attacks and hostile takeover of our country.

There is tension between Sweden and Russia.

Recently, in Februar, a russian fighter flew dangerously close to a Swedish fighter over Scandinavian airspace, without any explanation.

Sync Peter Hultqvist, swedish minister of defense: It is a provocation to fly in our air space. We can not accept that.

Lotta:

I grew up in the 80'ies with the Cold War, and I remember when the Wall fell in Berlin. And Russia and the Sovjet Union, and USA, and how that was. They were testing nuclear weapons. So, I think I have a different mindset compared to my children. They don't think about things like that.

Last year the Russian Navy and Army completed an enormous military drill with 300.000 soldiers close to Sweden.

Incidents that worry Lotta.

Lotta: Vi prater också om der kommer nån og angriber Sverige, altså krig, væbnet angreb eller om vi går op i beredskab.

Last year the Swedish Contingencies agency gave out this brochure to every single Swedish household.

SB: "Der var jo en del da den her kom ud.. Åh bliver der krig? Nej! Det handler om, at vi må forberede os. Det behøver ikke være krig, det kan være en krise også.

Meet the CZURYLLO family

Olsztyn, Polen

Piotr: My name is Piotr Czuryło, I am 53 years old.

SB This is my kingdom, this is where I grew up.

I have been writing one of the biggest blogs in Poland, together with foundation Polish Preppers Network for 15 years now.

Piotr i bilen:

95% of the population wouldn't know at all, how to behave in a crisis situation.

Piotr Czuryllo sells surveillance cameras and other safety equipment.

(arrives at the office)

Piotr: My biggest fear is the war, military conflict.

He is also worried about what Russia might be up to.

Especially since the invasion of Crimea.

(East Crimea, 2014)

Piotr: Ukraine is our close neighbour, and the moment the war broke out there, that is something every Polish person has in his mind that it's possible.

Nobody in Europe knows better than Polish people, this feeling, the sense of such events. So you could feel instantly, how people in Poland got scared by this situation.

(the garage)

Moon: This is where you keep your gear?

Piotr: Too much?

Moon: Haha.. you tell me..

(trying Piotrs helmet)

Moon: Is it big, cos I have a big head.

Piotr: It's big. My head is big too (Jeg har også et stort hoved!)

Moon: How strong is it? Can it take a bullet?

Piotr: Of course! It's bulletproof.

Moon: Most people have like.. Not 20 knives...!

Piotr: I'm preparing for the things that can surprise me. Things that can be a threat to me, my family. As everyday life shows, there are thousands of accidents, fires, floodings every day.

SB Piotr... and then helikopter comes!

(starts packing for the shooting range)

Since the invasion of Crimea Piotr has seen a bigger interest for the prepper movement.

Piotr: My website, my forum on the internet, which is visited every month by thousands or several thousands of people, at that time, had over 120.000 visitors.

Piotr: *It means, that everyone was thinking what next, how it can look. If this conflict may escalate. If the Russians decided to attack Ukraine, Poland may be next!*

His wife Cludia and their children are also prepared.

Meet JIM SHERRIT

Edzell, Skotland

(Walking towards the bunker)

My name is Jim Sherrit, i'm 49 from Brechin, Scotland. I'm a landscape operative with the council. I have a passion for all things cold war and nuclear bunkers.

And I have my own nuclear bunker.

Click!

That's better. Proper light.

(the blast o'meter)

If the bomb went off, the blast wave travels through the gap in the pipe all the way down here and works the brass bell that's inside. That'll tell ya how powerful the blast is above ground.

For almost nine years now, Jim Sherrit has been leasing the nuclear bunker of the county for price of one pound a year.

Jim: When I opened for the first time in 20 years the water was just level with the grater and no more, so the bunker has never actually flooded over 20 years.

Moon: Isn't it a bit extreme to have your own private nuclear bunker?

Jim: I don't ever want to use it as a nuclear bunker, but it's there if I ever need it.

So you can say it's extreme, it's extreme if I was living down here waiting for the end of the world, I'm not waiting for the end of the world, but this is my hobby and I loooove it!

Jim has fixed all the original equipment, so everything is working again.

If you went up about halfway you've got serious problems above ground.

Moon: So, that's when you stay down here? What about here then?

Jim: You might not be coming out of here, but that's life!

Being down here is a like time travel back to the Cold War.

This is a geiger counter.. This goes all the way up, you can extend the rod and this will go all the way up till the end?? Above ground. If you'd have radiation it would pass through the plastic tubing and on here and send the signal all the way down into the geiger counter on the desk there.

(Moon trying the bed)

Jim: It can take my weight, trust me.

Moon: Not bad. Not bad at all! (Udmærket)

Jim: Very comfortable

Jim: This is where you can stop the world and step off, you have no internet, you've no mobile phone signal, you're completely shut off from the world.

You can take stock of things and think things through.

MARIABERGET bunker

Västerås, Sweden

Moon:

I have arrived in the Swedish city, Västerås, Here Brandon Wade will take me to see Mariaberget. It's a very big bunker with enough space for 3.500 people.

Brandon Wade:

This was build from 1952 to 1958 just after the Second World War, because of the Cold War. It was build to protect people against air strikes and bombings.

INFO

Sweden has 65.000 bunkers in total.

Enough to protect 7 out of 10 Swedes, if necessary.

Mariaberget is the size of two football fields.

Brandon: So this is to prevent moist.

Here's the staircase I talked about.

Moon:

In case of an emergency the citizens of Västerås will come running down these stairs.

Brandon:

Then people are gonna run down here from these big stairs. They are wide, so a lot of people will be able to move fast every minute.

The first people to reach the bunker gets a spot, if the alarm go off.

There are a total of 1.154 bunkers in the city of Västerås.

These iron doors will protect the bunker from gas attacks.

(knock knock)

B: These are solid, yea?

Moon: These are solid, yes!

B: Here you see a part of the mountain. It's built into the mountain.

B: Here we have a good map of how the Mariaberget bunker is designed.

Brandon: During the Cold War nuclear weapons were tested, so we would have to live down here, and like you see we would need a gymnastics hall for sports.

Moon: Quite impressive to build a gymnastics hall 30 meters below the ground!

Sweden is not a member of Nato and therefore have no pact with the other Nato countries in case of a hostile invasion.

Moon: Do you see a growing interest for bunkers?

Brandon: Let me put it this way; It's the first thing people ask me about. Where is my nearest bunker. Ever since we started debating our home defence and we have this unstable political development, people are getting more interested. So, yea!

For years Mariaberget was used for sport clubs and cultural events, men the fire department closed it down in 2009.

Moon:

This is in okay condition. It can easily be shined up.

And the bunker has been locked ever since.

The Swedish Commission of Defence is recommending that the government spends 325 million swedish kroner every year - for the next five years - to bring all the bunkers up to speed.

Brandon Wade:

We live in a world where Russia is trying to influence the american presidential election, and disrupt democracy. And that is something many Swedes are worried about. But also a homeland threat from islamic environments and white supremacist groups. There is evidence that Russia is trying to use these groups as weapons.

GUSTAV on the shooting range

Småland, Sweden

SB Lotta: Should we start here?

SB Instructor: We can go left...

Gustav is about to use a hunting shotgun for the first time.

Instructor: Let's see.. You ready? Yes.

You think you will shoot better than your mom?

No.

Instructor: Now the gun is safe.

So let's do what we did before. Lean forward on your left foot...

When I say pang, just press the trigger.

Dove!

Cheek close.. There it is!

Dove!

Pang!

Paw!!

Greatt!!

Well done.

Instructor: He's a fast learner.

Lotta: He's a fast learner!

Gustav

It's cool, exciting and interesting!

Moon: You were quite good at it.

Gustav: Thank you.

Moon:

Would you like to go hunting like your mom one day?

Gustav

I can join, but not shoot any animals, not yet at least. Maybe when I get older.

Instructor: Hand.. push it forward. And down here.

Gustav: The hardest part was to take aim.

Gustav: He told me "breathe easy and focus"

Instructor: This is you, so very good job!

Lotta

My parents are not around any more, they died 20 years ago, so for many years I haven't had the reassurance of my parents. So I want my children to feel a reassurance with me as their parent, that I will be there for them if anything happens.

Poland

NATASHA at home, CLAUDIA at the shooting range

SB: On no, no batteries. O, okay.

Natasha: By being a prepper I like the fact, if something happens we are prepared.

I mostly worry about that something would happen and we might have to leave our house.

SB Claudia: When we come back we will go shoot arrows together.

Natasha: Okay.

Piotr and his wife Cludia are going to the shooting range.

They don't want to bring the kids. It's too dangerous.

Natasha and her six year old brother Petyr, have learned how to use a bow and arrow.

Sb Piotr: Hello.. I have arrow!

Sb Natasha Put the blue one outside.

Shooting range

Sb: paw paw paw!

Moon: Could you ever imagine a situation where you had to use a gun like this?

Claudia: I'm sure if it goes to the situation that I have to protect my kids, I would not hesitate.

Since I'm prepared I would be more calm. I would not panic.. I hope so.

And I hope I would never have to try it.

The garden

Moon: Under that one? Yes

N: Stand like that..like this? Yes, put your fingers like this.. Bottom of the arrow like this..

Moon: Two fingers? Ahh.. I was like this before.. Just like this?

N: Yes

Shooting range

(paw paw paw)

Moon: How do you find the line between preparing your kids ..and not scaring them?

Claudia: What we are doing with the kids is a good way for spending time and learning them to survive through games and through fun like going to the forest, getting to know the nature. I think we have fun with them, so we don't try to scare them with something is gonna happen. We just treat it as a good way to spend time with family.

The garden

Moon : If you woke up one morning and something happened maybe a natural disaster. What would you do?

Natasha Czuryllo, 14 år

Natasha: Firstly I would wake up the others so we could start escaping together.

It would be my mom and dad - and my brother, my brother and I sleep in the same room, so it wouldn't be a problem.

We take the most important things and we escape.

Shooting range

Moon: Would you like them to know how to handle an automatic weapon?

Claudia: When they grow up - for sure. Responsible of course. We should also teach them the responsibility and show them how dangerous it is.

SB Piotr: The nice colour..

(Paw paw)

SB Piotr: .. the nice colour nails.. Haha.

Scotland

If you can adapt, it doesn't all go horribly wrong.

Edzell, Scotland

Jim: You watch the news every night, there's bombings in Syria, there's oiltankers being seized by Iran because that stretch is the water that controls middle east. This is sorta form of a life insurance you got it, but you don't wanna cash it in, because you know what that means.. hahaha!

SB Jim: The kids don't know what a cassette player is.. haha

SB Even original 1980's music!

It's difficult for Jim to convince his children's generation that there still is a nuclear threat.

Jim: This generation is not prepared for when things go wrong.

If something goes horribly wrong what do they do? Where do they go? It's a generation that know nothing other than digital information technological highway, than the actual concept of how do I survive without the internet! I'd be quite scary!

The bunker is meant for three persons. But Jim will not hesitate to bring his wife and five children with him under ground.

Jim: That's who you look out for. Your nearest and dearest. Who cares about cars, property, I mean, these are nice distractions in a perfect world,

SB: These are one size fits all!

But if it comes to a crunch you've got to think about those around you. And that's a fundamental cruncher.

(suit up)

If you can adapt in life, if you can make the best of a bad situation, then you gonna be okay. Adaptability is a big thing

Keep your head no matter what goes wrong, keep calm, carry on, get the job done. If you can keep your head, you don't lose a plot, it doesn't all go horribly wrong. One step at a time.

(surface)

Sweden

The one who laughs last, laughs the longest

Lotta: I hope we'll get a nice sunset.

Gustav: That's possible.

Let's hope so

SB So! (pulls the break)

SB Lotta: Who loves these kinda things?

Gustav: Insects!

Lotta: Yes, all insects.. So many!

Lotta:

We have a lot of social problems, and the politicians are not really trying to handle it in any way. A lot of citizens feel an unrest and this unrest doesn't reach all the way up to the decision makers. I think we are going to see bad things in Sweden.

SB Lotta: Let's see if we can find some music.. Yes.. perfect, nice.

Lotta Dalenius keep contact to other preppers in Sweden.

She is convinced that more people will follow, if the social challenges in Sweden continues.

Moon: What do you say to people who finds it comical that you are prepping?

Lotta: Laughs best, who laughs last..

People would be like "o, I don't know what to do!" Ah, let them laugh.

I'm no crazy, I just make sure I have a little extra gear at home, which can come in handy.

The End