

Text 1:

Gotcha! Undercover Operations Revealed

Following the conviction last week of two notorious London criminals, details have emerged of the undercover police operation that led to their arrest.

- 5 Tom Jones (32) and Neil Parkin (29) were both sentenced to 15 years in prison for playing their violent part in a criminal gang that operated out of a West End pub.



- 10 Jones, known in the gang as 'The Machine' because of the way he approached his violent actions, was found guilty of several counts of grievous bodily harm, robbery and supplying a Class A drug.

Parkin, who had only been in the gang for 16 months, was jailed after stabbing a pregnant woman during a raid on a Post Office in Luton. He also faced drug offences and further counts of violence. Both men denied the charges but were convicted by a jury at Plymouth Crown Court.

- 15 This week, as both men began their sentences at different prisons, we discovered the extraordinary lengths that an undercover police officer went to in order to expose details of the gang's drug operation and plans for a robbery.

Detective Jordan Haley infiltrated the gang after securing a job at the Crown and Dragon pub in west London, where the gang based their criminal operations.

In an exclusive interview, Det Haley shared details of his remarkable two-year undercover programme.

- 20 "I was acting, really. I assumed a false name and got a job working at the pub where they often met up. They were there nearly every day and hired a private room in the back of the pub.

"I started off serving them drinks, but when I gained their trust I was asked to deliver messages to people waiting for them in the bar. I'd then carry messages back to Parkin and Jones and started to piece together details of how their drug dealing worked.

- 25 "I was never really scared, funnily enough. These were very dangerous people, but I was on their side and they never suspected that I was undercover. I proved myself to them and they soon gave me small jobs delivering drugs to other pubs in London, where they would be sold. Then I'd bring the money back to Parkin, who was always the one to handle the cash."

When Det Haley discovered plans for the Post Office raid, he asked to be involved.

- 30 “At first, they were surprised I wanted to be in on the raid, but I demanded I get my fair share of the money and they saw how serious I was. So, I became their getaway driver.”

But the driver was never needed.

- 35 A massive police operation at the Post Office led to the arrest of Parkin and Jones. But the arrests came at a cost when a pregnant woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was stabbed by Parkin once he became aware of the police presence. Although the woman survived, her baby suffered complications and has since been born with a string of respiratory and heart problems.

“I wish I could have done something to help that woman,” admits Det Haley, who was sitting in the getaway car at the time of the raid. “I saw her go into the Post Office and I really wanted to warn her, but I had a job to do.

- 40 “Getting an arrest and breaking up the operations of this terrible organisation was the priority for me. I had spent two whole years working on it and I couldn’t blow it at the last minute.”

It was a good result for Det Haley, but it came at a cost.

- 45 “I got so totally immersed in the culture of that gang that it became really difficult returning to normal work after it. I became a different person, mixed with different people and distanced all my old friends so that they didn’t get involved or blow my cover.”

But the biggest impact for Det Haley came when the arrests were made.

“From that point, as soon as they discovered what I had been doing, I had to assume yet another identity. I’ve been given a new name, relocated to a different part of the country and started work in a different police force.

- 50 “I’m not sure I’d get involved in another undercover operation. It’s an incredibly rewarding thing to do if it all works out. But I’ve got a girlfriend now and I want to start a family. That’s not something you can do when you’re living a lie with criminals.”