

Man Buys UXO At Garage Sale

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Benson, North Carolina A Civil War-era memorabilia collector reportedly emailed a company specializing in civil war collectables to get an appraisal on an unusual item he had purchased about 2 years earlier at a local garage sale. The man described the item to the appraiser as a Civil war-era cannonball that was "bigger than a bowling ball, but smaller than a basketball".

Concerned that the cannonball was live, the appraiser provided the man the phone number for the EOD unit stationed at Fort Bragg. EOD reportedly talked to the collector over the phone and arranged for the local county bomb squad to investigate the item. The bomb squad responded and identified the item as a 60-pound Civil War-era cannonball. However, they were unable to positively identify if the item was a solid shot or if it contained black powder due to its size, thick casing, and age.

The collector told the bomb squad that he purchased the item at a yard sale and had it sitting around the house for the past two years. The man agreed to let the bomb disposal crew take possession of the cannonball for disposal. The bomb disposal crew took the item to a remote location, placed it in a hole 3-feet deep with several small C4 explosive charges around it. Sandbags were used to reduce the fragmentation and blast from the disposal shot.

The size of the explosion and resulting crater indicated that the item was indeed live. The appraiser believed the cannonball was most likely captured from a Civil War era ship called a "revenue cutter" while trying to deliver supplies to Fort Sumter in South Carolina. The bomb disposal crew allowed the man to keep the remaining pieces of frag from the cannonball (shown in the image below).

