

Arrests Made in UXO Heritage Site Theft Ring

Posted At : September 30, 2014 4:02 AM | Posted By : Admin

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Newport Pagnell, England A 37-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of stealing from protected heritage sites after police recovered WWI and WWII munitions from his home. The arrest, which was the third such arrest in a week, came in connection with an ongoing investigation of UXO items being removed from heritage sites such as battlefields in the United Kingdom and abroad.

Early reports indicate that thieves have been removing the artifacts from sites in France and Belgium and returning them to the UK. The danger involved in excavating the munitions and transporting them is not only an issue for the thieves, but for the communities in which they are traveling with the UXO as well.

Often items are removed as collectibles, but there is a black-market for the items. Controlled explosions were carried out at the semi-detached home, which had been sealed off by police during their search.