FIELDS OF CONFLICT

What motivates collectors of battlefield relic material?











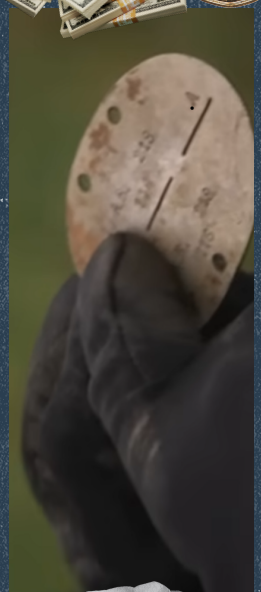


THE DARK MOTIVATION



The Exploitation of War Time Heritage: The Impact of Illicit Treasure Hunting and Metal Detection Excavations

Illicit treasure hunting and metal detecting excavations are exploiting war time heritage, creating a market that attracts military collectors and antiquarians. Unfortunately, this has led to little regard for the formal processes of archaeology and damage to sites and artifacts. As a result, these items have become highly valued and can fetch significant monetary gain.





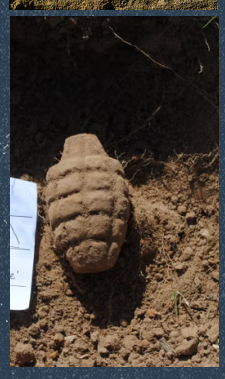
THE GREY MOTIVATION

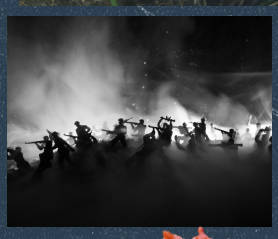


Metal Detecting and Dark Toursim

Metal detector hobbyists with an interest in former military sites may not be aware of the scholarly and scientific approach to archaeology. Rather, they are drawn to the thrill of discovering items in the ground and the sense of adventure that comes with it, rather than for financial gain. Similarly, the concept of "Dark Tourism" has transformed previous areas of conflict into destinations of interest for those who intentionally visit locations that represent death and suffering. "Treasure hunting tourism" for battlefield relics adds an experiential dimension to exploring within a liminal space that is distinct from the everyday world.













THE WHITE MOTIVATION

Contemporary archaeoligical collecting



The study of battlefields and the acquisition of historical artifacts is a field that has undergone significant changes over time. Archaeological perspectives have played a vital role in categorizing and understanding these sites through the lenses of site and landscape. The traditional approach of narrating historical battlefield conflicts and displaying collections has evolved to encompass not just the event but also archaeologies of ritual, place, and people. By combining different approaches to conflict, researchers today can derive insights on how people, space, and environment interacted in the past and present, as noted by Carman (1999). These battlefields are not merely sites where activities took place, but are also spaces of performance that hold a multitude of memories.









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Images

Addicted to bleeps.,We dig a WW2 Bunker and find LOADS of relics! (Battlefield Recovery., [online February 2024]