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Cache of gold found at WTC Two truckloads retrieved through a tunnel in rubble

BY GREG GITTRICH, THOMAS ZAMBITO, LEO STANDORA / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS /

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Workers at Ground Zero unearthed last night a buried treasure of gold, hidden for weeks under the ruins of the World Trade Center. As a small army of federal agents with shotguns and automatic rifles stood guard, city cops and firefighters packed two Brink's armored trucks with the lode, sources said. The sources said the gold was found in a delivery tunnel under 5 World Trade Center. "They are taking gold out of there right now," one source said last night. "They've brought in extra cops.

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"It wasn't immediately clear how much gold was recovered last night - or exactly how much was buried under the complex after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Toronto-based Bank of Nova Scotia has said its vault under 4 World Trade Center alone held more than \$200 million in gold and silver. Bank spokeswoman Pam Agnew didn't immediately know if any of that gold was found last night. Other companies are believed to have lost untold gold and valuables in the disaster. For the last couple of days, construction workers - directed by the feds - had been clearing a delivery tunnel that runs under the complex. Officials finally got to the gold through that tunnel yesterday, after workers hauled out a 10-wheel truck, several crushed cars and mounds of debris. No bodies were recovered during the operation. As workers inched closer to the gold yesterday, authorities began restricting access to the north side of Ground Zero and FBI and Secret Service agents joined cops and firefighters at the site. "If I tried to go down there, they would have shot me," said a construction worker shooed away from the tunnel. A handful of heavy-machinery operators and other workers, under the watchful eyes of more than 100 armed officers, built and graded a ramp into the delivery tunnel. A small bulldozer knocked down a wall inside the tunnel, and a Brink's armored truck drove in just before sunset. It came out about 7 p.

truck in tunnel

m. with the first load of gold, sources said. A second truck entered the tunnel a short time later and also was loaded with gold before leaving. A handful of construction workers were held over from the day shift, which ends at 7 p.

m., to help. "They sent most of us on our merry way," said one worker.



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