

Big Cache of Firearms Seized; Enough for Small War--T-Men

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KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) —A large cache of firearms, including machine guns and an antitank gun — “enough to create a small war” — has been seized in southeastern Washington, federal agents disclosed Tuesday.

United States Treasury Department agents, culminating a three-year investigation, said the cache included “enough firepower to hold off a small army.”

Almost all automatic weapons are German-made and of World War II vintage, agents said. The haul included 3,000-4,000 rounds of ammunition, including numerous rounds for the 20mm antitank gun.

The investigators did not say for what purpose the cache was assembled.

Acting on a tip from an informant, agents said, they found part of the hoard Feb. 20 in an Air Force-marked box buried in the desert about two miles southwest of Plymouth, near the Oregon border

er along the Columbia River.

The rest of the firearms — neatly wrapped in plastic and sealed in heavy boxes — were seized the same day in a shack near a Kennewick home, an agent in Seattle reported.

Agents said David Craig McDonald, 27, of Richland, Wash., was arrested on a charge of illegally possessing two unregistered machine guns. He was taken before U.S. Commissioner Curtis Ludwig here last Friday and was remanded for a U.S. court hearing in Spokane next Monday.

McDonald, son of former Richland Mayor David McDonald, was arrested the same day the firearms were found and has been held in Richland City jail in lieu of \$15,000 bond.

U.S. Attorney Smithmoore P. Myers in Spokane said the weapons—most of which were field stripped — had been re-assembled in Spokane.