



British couple leave ageing mother-in-law in ferry port 糊塗夫妻渡輪出遊 丈母娘鎖岸上車內

A British man and his wife **unwittingly** left his ageing mother-in-law in a Dover ferry port car park and only realized half way across to France, police said last week.

The pair urgently called Port of Dover police after realizing they had abandoned the elderly woman sitting in their vehicle in a multi-story car park, while they headed off on a day trip across the Channel.

"On March 22 in the morning, a couple made a phone call to police regarding an elderly mother who had been left in their car in the multi-story car park at the port," said a police spokesman.

"Officers went to the vehicle, found the lady and took care of her, giving her a drink and making sure she was safe, until approximately four hours later when they returned."

British media said the old lady, believed to be in her 70s, gave the couple "a piece of her mind" when they finally returned on the next ferry back from Calais.

"We all know about mothers-in-law and what a nightmare they can be but this guy took it to the limit," a police source told the *Daily Mirror*, which said the couple were in their 40s

and from Merseyside in northwest England.

"He'll never live this down and he'll be getting it in the ear from now until the end of time. It was a nightmare for the old dear."

The **incident** was mentioned in the Port of Dover police's monthly report for March.

"And finally, an unusual telephone request," it said, noting how the couple admitted "that they had forgotten that their elderly mother was still in their car that they had parked in the multi-story car park ahead of their day trip."

"Officers located the vehicle and ensured the safety and **welfare** of the elderly lady until her 'grown-up' children returned several hours later," it said. (AFP)

苟女方上週表示，一對糊塗英國夫妻搭渡輪前往法國，不慎將年邁的丈母娘鎖在多佛爾港停車場，直到渡輪開到半路才恍然大悟。

這對搭渡輪橫越英吉利海峽到法國一日遊的夫妻，發現把老母忘在立體停車場的車內後，急忙打電話到多佛爾港警局。

警局發言人說：「一對夫妻於三月二十二日上午來電，說他們年邁的母親被鎖在立體停車場的車內。」

「警員到停車場，找到了老太太，並給予妥善照顧，他們給她水喝，確定她平安無事。那對夫妻大約四小時後才回來。」

英國媒體報導，糊塗夫妻從法國加萊搭乘下一個船班返回時，這位七旬老母跟他們表達強烈不滿。

一名警員向英國《每日鏡報》透露：「我們都了解丈母娘的問題，她們是場惡夢，但這傢伙實在太過分了。」報導指出，這對夫婦四十多歲，來自英國西北部的默西塞德郡。

「他不可能忘掉這件事，而且會被唸一輩子。這實在太折騰那位老太太了。」

這起事件紀錄在多佛爾港警局三月份的報告中。

報告中寫著「最後，有一通奇怪的報案電話」，還註記者那對夫婦坦承「在搭渡輪展開一日遊前，把年邁老母給忘在立體停車場的車內」。

報告中還說：「警員找到車子，確定老太太平安，並照顧她好幾個小時，直到『大孩子們』回來。」 (法新社/翻譯：吳岱瑛)

A SeaFrance ferry is docked at the port of Calais, France, on April 3, 2010. PHOTO: EPA

四月三日，一艘SeaFrance公司的渡輪停在法國加萊港。 照片：歐新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **unwittingly** /ʌn'wɪtɪŋli/ adv.

糊裏糊塗地 (hu2 li3 hu2 tu2 de5)

例：An intern unwittingly deleted the results of the survey. (一位實習生糊裏糊塗地把調查結果給刪除。)

2. **incident** /'ɪnsɪdənt/ n.

事件 (sh4 jian4)

例：The demonstrations went ahead without any violent incidents. (示威進行時並未發生任何暴力事件。)

3. **welfare** /'wel,fə/ n.

幸福 (xing4 fu2), 福利 (fu2 li4)

例：My most important priority is the welfare of the residents. (我的要務就是住戶的福利。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

a piece of your mind 直言表達不滿

If you give someone a **piece of your mind**, you tell them exactly what you think. According to the article, the old lady gave the couple a **piece of her mind** when they returned from France.

Example: "When I found out he'd lost my book, I really gave Des a **piece of my mind**."

如果你給某人「a piece of your mind」，就代表你把心中的話完全說給對方聽。上文中提到，那對夫妻從法國回來後，老太太便對他們表達強烈不滿。

例如：「當我發現德斯弄丟我的書後，我直接對他表示不滿。」