

LES ECUREUILS IRON MASS: One of two pieces of metal found near the shore of the St. Lawrence River, near the town of Les Ecureuils, about 20 miles up-river from Quebec City, Canada. Although there is no direct link between this metal and UFOs, circumstantial evidence indicates this possibility, and the metal is very much a part of the UFO literature.

According to some reports, the metal is believed to have arrived in the St. Lawrence River after a "sonic boom" rocked the area around Quebec City on June 12, 1960, and a fiery object fell out of the sky and split into two parts before striking the river. However, local residents deny this occurred.¹ The smaller piece, weighing about 800 lbs., was carted away and sold as scrap in Quebec City. Nothing more is known of this piece.

Both pieces were found on shale flats with no sign of impact craters. The local resident who found them (a part-time beachcomber) insists they were not there the previous week, and that he was very familiar with that particular area of the river.

The larger piece, known as Les Ecureuils Iron Mass, was about 70½" x 54", and 24" at the centre;² was shaped somewhat like an oblong inverted mushroom, weighed about 3,000 lbs. and showed evidence of melting and crushing. At the top centre of the object were the remains of two "pipes" of obvious fabrication. One was about 6" in diameter with a 2" bore; the other was about 2" in diameter with a 1½" bore. The main material was so hard it defied cutting by hacksaw. Small samples have been broken off with great effort using a large crowbar and a heavy sledgehammer. The overall mass is almost non-magnetic and consists of layers of metal. A powdery substance has also been found between the layers. There is no record available of this substance having been analyzed.

This metal was removed by the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment (CARDE) nearby, where it was tested and the conclusion reached that it was foundry slag. However, a report from CARDE stated that "a small electronic potting can was imbedded