

Yaldham Manor,
Kemsing,
Kent.

27th February, 1961.

Dear Mr. Smith,

You posted me on December 9th a small parcel, described as a metal sample, to the Review office address, where it arrived towards the end of the month and was delivered to ~~you~~ me.

There was no explanatory letter from you and, while waiting for some word, I took the precaution of having the sample tested for radioactivity - with negative result. This was really quite unnecessary, because I was sure you would not have sent anything radio-active through the post, but it gave me the opportunity to lay on this service which might be useful in future.

Still being without word from you, I concluded that you probably wished to have the sample tested. There were two pieces of similar-looking metal in the parcel and I gave the smaller to a friend who shares the same interests and has had a varied career: during the war he was in Military Intelligence and, for a time, concerned with examination of metal fragments of enemy weapons; more recently, he became a scientific adviser to our Foreign Office; now, he is independently in business as a Chemical Engineering and Metallurgical Consultant. The larger of the two pieces I turned over to a neighbour and friend who is a Director of the Rio Tinto Mining Company, privately informing him of my speculations on its possible origin. His firm, which has mines in Canada and elsewhere is doubtless known to you and you will realise that they are fully able to analyse metal. Yesterday, the sample was returned to me after analysis, together with the original memorandum dated February 24th, reporting the analysis to my friend the Director as follows:

"The specimen you gave to Mr. Lethbridge for identification has been analysed and it contains 85.12% Iron, 12.95% Manganese, 0.63% Silicon and approximately 1% Carbon. This analysis corresponds with the typical Hatfield high manganese steel such as is used for grinding machinery, junction rails, etc. It would appear that this is a splash blister of such steel. Iron meteorites always contain an appreciable amount of nickel. This specimen has been tested for that element, which was found only in minor trace quantities."

I am entirely satisfied that this is a truthful analysis and, further, that I would have been given the analysis even had results been remarkable. Indeed, my friend and I discussed this possibility beforehand and I indicated that the Review might, in certain circumstances, wish to publish only a summary or conclusion and to attached security to any detailed analysis results which might, in the present stage of world development, be something that ought to be submitted to one's own Government rather than to the international public at large.

I have not yet received the report of the analysis of the smaller portion from my friend the Metallurgical Consultant, but I will let you know if it is significantly different from the Rio Tinto analysis.

Unfortunately, I have no personal knowledge or training in metallurgy and I could not guess whether it is likely that Manganese steel such as is used for grinding machinery on earth, could be part of a flying saucer. It might well be so, but there is nothing distinctive in the analysis which would, by itself, offer any sort of proof.

/... P.T.O.