

fell in the location where it was found, because there was no crater or splattered material in the vicinity. The tidal flats at this point are solid rock. An analysis by CARDE revealed that the metal is an alloy with high manganese content. CARDIE personnel who are familiar with foundry operations, consider it to be a normal product of a foundry consisting of slag with semi-molten scrap imbedded. Their investigation did not reveal any electronic components."

Despite the findings of CARDE, an element of doubt exists as to whether these are completely accurate. Although they considered the object to be of terrestrial origin, laboratory experiments on the metal carried out by the late Wilbert B. Smith and co-workers, resulted in a number of unusual reactions not consistent with the normal behaviour of terrestrial metal. This was most evident when a small piece of the metal was heated with an acetylene torch which caused it to blossom into a miniature white cloud with extremely bright sparks in it - a sort of A-bomb in miniature. WBS concluded that the magnesium went exothermic, reduced the ferrite in the spinnal crystal structure, formed the cloud and left the iron free to burn with O_2 in the air. He warned that anyone attempting to heat a larger chunk of the metal might very well fry himself! He also considered that the intense heating should have burned the object worse than it did and he therefore reached the conclusion that it could not have been a blast furnace product. Further experiments revealed that some parts of the metal could not stand too much heat, thus limiting the possibilities as to why such a manufactured item came to grief. In testing the metal with the acetylene torch, it was noted that the resulting sphere, with its intensely brilliant shower of sparks, burned until nothing remained - no residue or slag, as is common with earth metals.

CARDE suggested that the metal may have been slag from a foundry brought to the area via an ice floe. The facts of the case, however, do not bear this out. The nearest mills are many miles from Les Ecoreils - and it was the month of June! The material is not a common foundry product, and even if it had been, one wonders why the foundry would waste 3,000 pounds of metal!

More Mysteries. How the metal arrived at Les Ecoreils remains the biggest mystery of all. The maximum depth of water at high tide and the closely-spaced boulders along the shipping channel would seem to rule out any possibility of arrival by boat or raft. Had it fallen from the sky, the noise would have been earth-shaking. Even a small meteorite sounds like a rushing freight train.