

MORE ON OTTAWA'S MYSTERIOUS "CHUNK"

Could it be that a true story, like an old soldier, never dies? If so, those who believe that Ottawa's "mysterious chunk of hardware" is indeed from outer space, as theorized in previous issues, can take heart. For here is a story that, in the opinion of some of our readers, must not die — nor will we let it unless finally and beyond all doubt the rumors surrounding it are proved false.

For those of our new readers who have no idea what we are talking about, we will reintroduce the story briefly and ask the indulgence of those who have read it before. This was the opening passage in issue no. 3:

A story appeared in a Quebec newspaper in 1960 which said that early one June morning of that year a thunderous noise rocked the area around Quebec City. At the same time, according to the story, two fiery objects plunged down from an altitude of about 2,000 feet. Both fell into the St. Lawrence River at a recoverable distance from shore near the small town of Les Ecureils.

Although investigation uncovered no one who had heard the noise or seen the objects fall, the story took a strange turn when a local resident, who supplemented his income by beachcombing, did find two unusual pieces of metal in the area. One weighed 800 pounds and the other 3,000 pounds, in round figures, and their presence there was unexplained. The beachcomber sold the smaller piece for scrap. The larger one was recovered and examined by the Canadian Arsenal and Developments Establishment (which decided it was foundry waste) and later taken to Ottawa.

Thus was born the tale of what became known as Ottawa's "mysterious chunk of hardware."

The late Wilbert B. Smith, who was in charge of Canada's UFO research program when all this occurred, disagreed with the CARDE findings and became certain the metal was of extraterrestrial origin. He claimed firmly it had been "in space a long time before it came to

earth; we can tell that by the micrometeorites embedded in its surface."

On the other hand the Condon committee, in its UFO investigations for the U.S. government, took the same view as CARDE.

Although the Condon committee was criticized in many quarters, it was after all set up to examine subjects just like this and so was probably sufficient by itself to end rumors about the Ottawa metal. But even confirmed ufologists came up with evidence that tended to dispel any idea that the Chunk had a mysterious origin.

One that wrote us after we took up the story was Earl J. Neff of Cleveland, Ohio, who devotes his full time to lecturing and researching on the UFO phenomenon. There is no doubt whatever about Neff's complete belief in his subject, and his point of view is perhaps best described by this news report of his reaction to the Condon committee's work as a whole:

"It was a whitewash," claims Earl Neff, the indisputable grand guru of outer space in Cleveland who quit a paying job three years ago so he could devote full time to UFO study.

"The truth," says Neff, "is that the Government knows there have been visitations from outer space and the Condon Report was an effort to suppress the truth from the public."

But Neff's convictions did not prevent him from including in the material he generously sent us a report on the Ottawa metal which agreed in essence with the Condon committee's opinion. Prepared by a professional firm which examined pieces of the metal at Neff's request, the report ended by saying:

Based on the above investigation, the unknown material is concluded to be a sample of high-alloy steel containing a high proportion of the element Man-