

Les Écureuils (Canada) iron mass. This incident involves one of two pieces of metal found near the shore of the St. Lawrence River, near the town of Les Écureuils, about twenty miles upriver from Quebec City, Quebec, 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. The smaller piece, weighing about 800 pounds, 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 the Les Écureuils iron mass, was about 70½ by 54 inches, and 24 inches at the center, was shaped somewhat like an oblong inverted mushroom, weighed about 3,000 pounds, and showed evidence of melting and crushing. At the top center of the object were the remains of two "pipes" of obvious fabrication. One was about 6 inches in diameter with a 2-inch bore; the other was about 2 inches in diameter with a 1½-inch bore. The main material was so hard it defied cutting by hacksaw. Small samples were broken off with great effort by using a large crowbar and a heavy sledgehammer. The overall mass is almost nonmagnetic 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 near one of the outer edges. By scratching away the potting plastic, it was possible to identify an electronic component which appeared to be a transistor."

Another strange aspect of the metal was that a very large number of inclusions covered its surface and microphotography indicated that these were possibly micrometeorites, which would imply the metal had been in space for some time.

Learning that this metal had now been discarded in the CARDE garbage dump, two members of the Ottawa FLYING SAUCER Club retrieved it in 1961 and brought it to Ottawa, where it rested for a number of years on the lawn of the residence of W. B. SMITH from where it was later moved a few miles out of town to the residence of another club member. When a small sample of the metal was heated with a torch, it blossomed into a miniature white cloud with bright sparks in it.

A number of pieces of this metal have been analyzed in various laboratories over the years with inconclusive results due to the lack of agreement among the laboratory reports. Not only does the element content differ considerably from one report to another, but the conclusions drawn vary quite considerably. For example, two reports state that the metal underwent heavy impact that caused the different planes to slip. Another report concluded, contrary to other reports, that the metal does not correspond to any known commercial manganese steel and suggested the possibility of an unknown element.

At McGill University in Montreal, a professor who analyzed the metal, but with limited equipment, stated that he was "disturbed" at the results and recommended further testing in a better-equipped laboratory.

The Mines Branch of the Canadian Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources found in 1971 that the mass consists of two major components, one magnetic and one nonmagnetic. The former was a 0.02 percent