

Superfuels Super Engine

The story begins in the late sixties and progresses to the current day. An investigator is hired to find out what happened to a Superfuels company engineering team.

Ralph didn't get a long well with most people. Although incredibly intelligent he preferred to work in the background doing menial labour. A breakthrough moment for Ralph occurred when working as a box boy at Superfuels. He befriended one of the engineers who after a short time realized that Ralph knew a lot about engines and chemistry. Ralph had learned the stuff on his own without the benefit of higher education. Ralph got hired as a part-time associate engineer. He couldn't work full time because of his disposition towards people. Superfuels had several engineering teams doing what the company was founded for, to develop a super-fuel. Along with the super-fuel a super-engine was developed for testing. The goal was to develop super-fuel for ordinary combustion engines. An engineering team spent too much time developing the super-engine which wasn't really the company's goal. Senior management threatened to shut down the engineering team if they didn't get back on track. The team developed a super-fuel for a super-engine which was deemed not within the company's goals. The super-fuel was a non-product since it could only be used by the super-engine.

"I don't know what to say about what we did over the last two years." The engineer said tears welling up in his eyes. "We may have killed ten thousand or more people, if not today, then sometime in the future in a horrible manner. What are we going to do about it?" He asked his team members. The engineer had discovered they had seriously polluted the local water supply.

Six members of a Superfuels engineering team were all found dead on the same day, apparently a group suicide. They were responsible for developing the world's most powerful internal combustion engine. The engine is missing and all engineering documentation on it was destroyed.

The engine itself was amazing. The core of the engine was only about the size of a water-bottle, and put out as much as 10 thousand horsepower. It had diamond capped pistons. The engine was small, light-weight and extremely powerful. Perfect for aerospace use. It was incorporated into an award winning speedboat as a testbed for the engine.

The diamond capped pistons were discovered accidentally when burning fuel at high temperature and pressure. The combustion of fuel combined with the engines working to generate diamond residue on the piston cap. When cleaning a proto-type engine an engineer discovered that some of the residue was in the form of tiny diamonds.

What made the engine so powerful was micro bursts of nuclear fission were occurring during the burning of fuel. The whole engine had to be heated to the melting point of tin, as it used a liquid tin formula for the fuel.

It was discovered after a number of speedboat races that the engine was highly polluting. It left radioactive tin waste in the river. This would affect the health of hundreds of thousands of local residents for thousands of years to come.

Given that the engine was so revolutionary, the engineers feared that someone would attempt to make use of it regardless of the environmental impact. They decided that the engine and all documentation should be destroyed and all knowledge of the engine, including what they themselves knew should go missing.

The Superfuels team left behind subtle clues. As residue built up on the piston heads, it was hacksawed off. The piston heads were about 1cm in diameter. The resulting piece which was hacked off looked like a tarnished penny with little diamonds embedded in it. One of the guys thought it looked like some sort of medal and attached a coloured band to them. Being pleased with themselves they shared the little medallions amongst themselves. Each time they cleaned the engine they managed to make several hundred dollars worth of medallions which they smuggled out of the research facility. It was a rainy day fund for some members of the team.