

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1536 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434
CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

August 16, 1963

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

AIR MAIL

Francis Ridge, Chairman
Vincennes NICAP Subcommittee
RR#5, Box 23--
Vincennes, Indiana

Dear Mr. Ridge:

We received Mr. Catt's telegram and look forward to receiving the promised data.

If there is any possibility of it, we would certainly appreciate having a report from Harry Bishop, former Mayor of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. On August 9 he and a friend are supposed to have watched a UFO following a car at low level.

We could use a signed report form from him, including a sketch map of the area of the sighting showing the route number the car was travelling on, the position of the UFO relative to the car, etc.

If you are not able to make a trip to Mt. Vernon, maybe you could locate him by telephone and persuade him to fill out a report form which you would mail to him.

Information today is that the Air Force has "explained" the Illinois sightings as the planet Jupiter, the moon, a fireball, and a refuelling operation! Only good first-hand data will help to rule out these explanations.

Sincerely,

Richard Hall

Richard Hall
Secretary of NICAP

RH:h

CIVILIAN RESEARCH
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
VINCENNES, INDIANA

TELEPHONE:
TUXEDO 2-5501

SUBCOMMITTEE TO:
NICAP
MAJ. D. E. KEYHOE
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

FRANCIS RIDGE
DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN

AUG. 19 1963

OFFICE OF: **DIRECTOR**

INDIANA UNIT NO. 1
National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
RFD 5, BOX 23, - VINCENNES, INDIANA
Phone: 882-5501 - Radio: KHA 0407

Mr. Chauncey Uphoff
Highway 15
Fairfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Uphoff:

We want to thank you very much for letting us interview you and Mr. Hill, Saturday Aug. 10. We realize that even then the thought of filling out another form was very discouraging. That was the reason for the tape recorder. But now, since the Air Force has branded the S. Illinois observers as fools, our evidences to rule out the Air Force conclusions must be documented.

With a completed and signed report (combined with the evidence we already have) we can prove that you saw something other than a jet refueling. This will be released to the radio and the press.

I have enclosed a questionnaire and also a publication from this Unit's Public Relations Staff.

Our HQ was very impressed by your report and your cooperation. We can understand your reluctance to report to just anyone who comes along. Again, thanks a million.

Sincerely,
Francis L. Ridge
Francis L. Ridge
Director

P.S. (We think we have figured out what the object looked like when it was coming toward you).

CIVILIAN RESEARCH
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
VINCENNES, INDIANA

TELEPHONE:
TUXEDO 2-5501

SUBCOMMITTEE TO:
NICAP
MAJ. D. E. KEYHOE
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

FRANCIS RIDGE
DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN

SEP 2 1962

INDIANA UNIT NO. 1

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena

RFD 5, BOX 23, - VINCENNES, INDIANA

Phone: 882-5501 - Radio: KHA 0407

OFFICE OF: **Director**

Headquarters,
National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

We are now in the final stages of our investigations of the S. Illinois reports. We have never before been this busy with the UFO. I have taken my weeks-paid vacation several weeks early in hopes of wrapping up the biggest UFO incident that has ever been reported around here.

We mailed out over 30 questionnaires and have investigated the Keenes (Wayne City chase) Report & Uphoff-Hill Report on-the-spot. We have a taped interview of the Uphoff-Hill report and ~~untaped~~, but certified, interview with Orville Austin. In both cases the witnesses had been interviewed by the USAF, Associated Press, Fate magazine before we got there. The Keenes Report was investigated by another NICAP Subcommittee. They (the witnesses) didn't want any publicity and were reluctant to give us their reports. None of them wanted to fill out a report. After the AP made fools of them we thought that they would fill one out. I mailed NICAP questionnaires and to this date we have still not received word.

I hope that we receive the reports and soon. If we do not receive any from them, we will fill out the forms from what we know and certify them with the signatures of all investigators. We will certify the taped interview & the untaped questioning in writing.

We have received several local reports and one from State Trooper Bonhomme (Illinois, Aug. 7) backing up the Wednesday night Uphoff-Hill report. Several sightings were going on here from around 9:00 P.M. to 11:30 P.M. & 12:45 P.M. on that night. I had a one-way line with spotters in Lawrenceville and Vincennes with two-way radio. My Xmit crystal wouldn't oscillate but I heard the reports.

I request that, for a complete & thorough report, you wait until our investigations are completed. If for some reason you need data sooner, let us know.

Sincerely,

Francis L. Ridge
Francis L. Ridge
Chairman

FR/UFOI/DC

CIVILIAN RESEARCH
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS
VINCENNES, INDIANA

TELEPHONE:
TUXEDO 2-5501

SUBCOMMITTEE TO:
NICAP
MAJ. D. E. KEYHOE
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

FRANCIS RIDGE
DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN

SEP. 26 1963

OFFICE OF: **Director**

INDIANA UNIT NO. 1

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
RFD 5, BOX 23, - VINCENNES, INDIANA
Phone: 882-5501 - Radio: KHA 0407

National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hall:

Enclosed is our report on the Southern Illinois UFO sightings. We investigated the Fairfield Report on August 10th (on-the-spot) & the Wayne City Report on August 12th (on-the-spot). The rest of the reports were investigated by use of U.S. mail. The majority of the latter reports were not received.

We have enclosed press accounts (Wayne County Press) of both cases and a tape recording of the Fairfield Report. This was made at the Fairfield Police station. We would like to have the original copy of this tape back. There is no need to rush, however.

We have sent a package of stamps to the proper NICAP unit to help out. We are very much interested in the documented evidence to congress. Will the NICAP investigation teams receive a copy of the "digest"? I think it could help a great deal. I am aware of the dangers, however, of releasing this report to anyone not connected with congress. We wouldn't want to mess up the chance of congress getting these men to testify. The names in the report, in the hands of the Air Force, could ruin the chance for hearings.

Our supply of NICAP questionnaires has dwindled down to nothing. We would appreciate receiving a supply. We have printed some questionnaires for our use. These will be for our records. NICAP will receive the NICAP questionnaire, signed by the witnesses and/or certified by NICAP Investigators.

Sincerely,

Francis L. Ridge

Francis L. Ridge
Director,
Research & Investigation

FR/UFOI/DC

P.S. (Did you receive our check for renewing of membership ?)

REPORT

- 1) Fairfield Report. Written report certified by three NICAP UFO Investigators. Tape recording. Press accounts.
- 2) Wayne City Report. Written report certified by two NICAP UFO Investigators. Press account.
- 3) Report at Mt. Vernon by Harry Bishop was not received.
- 4) Report from Flora State Police was received. This was one report of many by State Police. The only one we were able to get was Trooper Harley Bonham's. Occurred at Effingham, Illinois on the 7th Aug (same night as Fairfield Report). Object similar in some respects but not as spectacular. Full report to be sent in later.
- 5) Report from Wheatland, Indiana, Aug 21st. Young boys apparently saw two meteors and were previously stimulated by press reports.
- 6) Report from Indianapolis, not received. Occurred several days before Fairfield report.
- 7) Report from Bridgeport, Illinois, Aug 7. Not received.
- 8) Report from Vincennes, Indiana, Aug 7. Not received.
- 9) Reports from S. Illinois, other witnesses. Not received.
- 10) Reports from Evansville. One received. Identified as planet Jupiter (witness saw same object next night).
- 11) Report from French Lick, Indiana received. Occurred Aug 7. Nothing spectacular...meteorlike but yet unusual.
- 12) Report from Ragsdale. Not good report. Occurred ?????
- 13) Several new reports have occurred. Under investigation.

STATEMENT

Wayne County Press accused us of misrepresentation in the Aug 12 edition. We called Fairfield on Saturday, Aug 10th and went down that evening. They had expected Army Intelligence as early as Thursday, Aug 8th. This was a mistake on their part. When the Asst Director made the call he clearly defined (in brief) who we were and that we would be down. They were expecting only one other group---Army Intelligence.

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

ON AERIAL PHENOMENA

TELEPHONE: NORTH 7-9434
CABLE ADDRESS:
SKYLIGHT

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
September 30, 1963

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES:
1836 CONNECTICUT AVE., N. W.

MAJOR DONALD E. KEYHOE
USMC (RET.) DIRECTOR

Francis L. Ridge, Chairman
Indiana Unit#1 NICAP Subcommittee
RFD#5, Box 23
Vincennes, Indiana

Dear Mr. Ridge:

Thank you for the tape and reports on your investigation of the southern Illinois sightings. The enclosed material is very helpful, including the newspapers. We had written to the Wayne County Press for copies, but got no answer. We will return the tape as you requested.

Your reports are well done, but of course would have been stronger if you obtained signed statements. Under the circumstances, arriving late, you did well to obtain so much information from Mr. Austin. On the reported radioactivity, however, it still would be desirable to obtain a signed statement from either Mr. Austin, or Ronnie, or both. We had tentatively concluded that the Jupiter illusion accounted for at least part of the sighting, but how much was open to question. The strongest evidence to refute it as complete explanation is Ronnie's statement that as he fled the UFO, it crossed the road from one section of the sky to another. Could you furnish a map of the roads he was driving on when this occurred? The point is to try to determine whether twists and turns in the road could have accounted for Jupiter seeming to move, and change position.

The tape is interesting, though the speakers are not identified. One of them sounds like a colorful and salty character. The informal discussion is sometimes a good technique, and tells the listener quite a bit about the type of person the witness is. The "kite" report is greatly strengthened as a result of your investigation. Apparently this could have been a Saturn-shaped UFO, which looks diamond-shaped from any angle when it is a little distant. But if it was as big as stated (hand at arm's ~~length~~ not covering it) the Saturn-shape should have been seen clearly.

Thanks for explaining the mix-up with police. It sounds like a misunderstanding on their part and no fault of yours. But this sort of thing is exactly why we insist Subcommittee members identify themselves fully and request voluntary cooperation.

I am sending a supply of questionnaires under separate cover. The NICAP Report will be sent when completed, probably November.

A privately-supported fact-finding body serving the national public interest
Sincerely,
Richard Hall
Secretary of NICAP

April 20, 1976

Dear Mr. Ridge:

The sighting report (Case No. 35) that occurred in August 1963 near Wayne City, Ill. has been received, along with a Special Evidence Report (Form EM360). Thank you for sending these reports.

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK
103 OLDTOWNE ROAD
SEGUIN, TX 78155

CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
2623 RIDGE AVE. - EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

J. ALLEN HYNEK, DIRECTOR
PROFESSOR OF ASTRONOMY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

June-July, 1976

Dear Researcher,

Please accept our sincere thanks for forwarding us a copy of your sighting investigation report. We realize the time and effort involved in investigating, and regret that we are unable to respond with a personal letter. While our heavy workload and small staff necessitates the use of a form letter, this allows us time to give each report individual attention.

As you may know, the Center operates a toll-free telephone number which is used by police and other official agencies in transmitting sighting reports from the public and from their own personnel. This reporting network has allowed us immediate reaction capability, as well as helped the field investigator to establish good relations with their local law enforcement agencies. We will be happy to furnish you with directives to give to your local police, if you feel they do not have these. If the Center receives a report from your area which demands investigation, we will contact you. We see this as a form of inter-organization cooperation, and means in no way to conflict with any affiliation you may have with any UFO organization.

We are pleased to receive copies of investigations, all of which are to be entered into our computer data bank, UFOCAT, which is accessible to all researchers. Persons pursuing a particular line of research may write for details about obtaining listings of cases with certain characteristics. Please state the information desired and you will be notified as to its availability and cost of printout. For this, and other correspondence, please use our office address: 924 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, 60202.

The main purpose of this letter is to assure you that your report was received. It may be, that in the coming weeks, we'll find it necessary to write again. If the Center can be of any help to you as you continue to investigate UFO sightings, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

J. Allen Hynek
J. Allen Hynek

THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING CASE(S):

Date	<u>Aug 4, 1963</u>	Location	<u>Nr. Wayne City, IL</u>	Witness	<u>Austin</u>
Date	<u>March 26, 1976</u>	Location	<u>Mt. Vernon, IN</u>	Witness	<u>DETECTOR SYSTEM</u>
Date	<u> </u>	Location	<u> </u>	Witness	<u> </u>

Sorry for our delay in acknowledgement!