

UFO SIGHTING
FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS
5 - 7 August 1963

On 6 August 1963 information was received at Wright-Patterson AFB that an Unidentified Flying Object had been observed in Fairfield, Illinois. The information was essentially that carried over the news circuits.

"Ronnie Austin and his girl friend, Phyllis Root, had been to a Drive-in-Movie. Coming home they were chased by a flying saucer as big as an auto, which at times passed in front of them, along side, and at times trailing the car. After taking Miss Root home Ronnie then proceeded to his own home while the Saucer continued it's attack. By this time he was in a state of shock and was given sedatives on the advice of the family doctor. The parents of Ronnie called Harry Lee, the Deputy Sheriff of Fairfield, Illinois, and he proceeded to the farmhouse with Mr George Sexton, village Marshall of Wayne County, to observe the object which was now besieging the farmhouse. Upon arrival the object was identified as the 'evening star' (Jupiter). Two youths watched the object from the Austin farmhouse until it disappeared with the coming of dawn."

Scott AFB was contacted and requested to investigate the sighting under AFR 200-2.

Information received from Scott AFB confirmed that the object besieging the farmhouse was indeed Jupiter. However, since the story was attracting national interest through the news media, and additional sightings were being reported in the area, an investigation team from Wright-Patterson AFB conducted an additional field investigation.

The following information is extracted from this report:

"Ronnie Austin and Phyllis Bruce were driving east on Illinois highway 15 at approximately 0500Z hours on 5 August 1963. At this time Mr Austin noticed a bright object at approximately 40 degrees elevation to the right of his automobile. Observers were traveling in a valley of the road and approximately 30 yards from the Bluford Transformer Sub-Station. Object was next observed at an elevation of 15 degrees while observers were near a Micro-Wave transmitting station. Object now appeared to change course from the right to the left of the car. While observers were still traveling east on highway 15, object appeared in the east at an elevation of approximately 15 degrees. Observers changed direction and were traveling north, the object appearing in the east at an elevation of 30 degrees.

When Mr Austin arrived at Miss Bruce's home he went inside and stayed for about 15 minutes. From Miss Bruce's house, the object appeared in the east at an elevation of 15 degrees. On his way home, Mr Austin 'floor-boarded' the accelerator and drove as fast as his car would go. During

this time, the car sputtered and the radio started to crackle and stopped playing. Almost immediately after it had begun to sputter, the car ran normally again and the radio ceased to crackle. The car was at this time being driven at its maximum speed on a gravel road. Upon reaching home, Mr Austin immediately informed his father of the phenomena he had seen. The object seemed to hover over some trees which were about two hundred yards from the house. At this time the lights in the house were extinguished and the Deputy Sheriff of Fairfield, Illinois was notified. During the excitement, Ronnie Austin momentarily blacked out and was given a sedative to calm his nerves.

Deputy Sheriff Harry Lee of Wayne County, Marshall George Sexton of Wayne City and State Trooper Richard Gidcumb went to the Austin farm to witness the phenomena. The area approaching and surrounding the Austin farm is densely vegetated, and on the night the phenomena was observed a slight haze hung over the area. The three law enforcement officers observed the object for a period of time and Marshall Sexton concluded that the object was the 'evening star'. The officers observed the object for about a half an hour and then left. Ronnie Austin and two of his friends (Gary Karacher and Tom Kissner) watched the object until day break. The object disappeared with the coming of daylight. When the object disappeared, it was at an elevation of 45 degrees and an azimuth of 215 degrees.

Returning to their home station, Marshall Sexton and State Trooper Gidcumb observed an object which appeared to be moving from west to east. The object appeared as a red light with exhaust flames and/or fiery streaks. The object disappeared after approximately four seconds.

On the evening of 7 August 1963 at approximately 0250Z hours, Mr Chauncey Uphoff and Mr Mike Hill observed a bright diamond shaped object in the sky. The object appeared at times to be shaped like a diamond with a tail. The object first appeared in the south and traveled towards the east. Object traversed approximately 50 degrees of the sky in 15 minutes. The object then appeared as two objects and one object traveled from the south-east to the northwest while the other object made a 'U' turn and disappeared.

Subsequent to the field investigation additional confirmation of suspected a/c in the vicinity was needed. Indianapolis Center was contacted for flights to the West. St Louis center was contacted for low altitude flights and Kansas City for high altitude cross over from Indianapolis. This information was requested to determine the suspected a/c in Chauncey Uphoff sighting. TWA 287 was enroute from Evansville to St Louis at 0151Z. Eastern Airlines flight 565 over Evansville at 0213Z, over Centralia at 0227Z. These were the only jet a/c at upper altitudes being carried at the time. A call was made to Little Rock Arkansas (Controller for Sandy Spot Refueling Area). Information received revealed that the 55BW was using the area on the nights of the 6,7,9,13,14,16 from 0200Z-0500Z. It was determined that the Uphoff sighting was a misinterpretation of the jets refueling.

Call made to Ft Campbell, Ky. PFC Lattimore (Operations) checked records to assure that restricted area was not in use. Call to Ft Campbell, Ky revealed that the base is no longer in use. This ruled out possibility of munitions or

flares being the cause of the sighting of Mr Gidcumb and Geo Saxton and left the remaining possibility of their sighting as a meteor.

None of the other reported sightings were investigated.

The following points were considered to be the most pertinent in evaluation of the Ronnie Austin portion of the Fairfield sightings: (a) The exact route that Ronnie and Phyllis took was retraced at a corresponding time. The moon was in the position of the UFO at the time of the initial sighting. Subsequent observations revealed that Jupiter was always in the reported position of the object. (b) The turning of the road accounts for the alleged changes in position of the object. (c) At no time did Phyllis see the object as described by Ronnie. (d) Marshall Sexton identified the object as the Evening Star. (e) Two youths continued to watch the object for the remainder of the night, the object always being in the position of Jupiter and disappearing with dawn.

It is concluded that Mr Ronnie Austin first saw the moon through a slight haze while driving in the valley of the road by the Bluford Transformer Sub-Station. Mr Austin continued to see the moon at the top of the valley near the Micro-Wave station; however, at this time his attention was diverted to the left of his car and he focused his attention on Jupiter. He continued to see Jupiter for the rest of the evening. Marshall Sexton's conclusion that what Mr Austin saw was the "evening star" (Jupiter) was correct.

The sighting reported by Marshall Sexton and State Trooper Gidcumb was a meteor of the fireball class.

The sighting reported by Mr Uphoff and Mr Hill was an air-to-air refueling operation which took place over southern Illinois.

AUGUST 1-10 1963 SIGHTINGS

(20 OCT 64)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Aug	Syracuse, New York	Craig	Insufficient Data
2	Barthold, Kentucky	Young	Other (Object attached to Test 1/3)
2	Camp Springs, Virginia	Andriacsek - Wood	Astro (Star/Planet)
3	Caguen, Maine	Morrisett	Insufficient Data
4	Fahai, Afghanistan	Military	Astro (Meteor)
4-5	Waver, New Hampshire	Claves	Astro (Meteor)
5	San Antonio, Texas	Palmer	Balloon
5	Halville AS, Labrador	GD & Air <u>RADAR</u>	Balloon
5	West Haven, Connecticut	Renzoni	A/C
5-6	Akron, Ohio	Combs - Brooker	A/C
5-7	Fairfield, Illinois (Folder) <i>separate folder</i>	Austin	1. Moon 2. Jupiter 3. A/C (Refueling Opr) 4. Astro (Meteor)
7	Huskallonge Lake, Michigan	Uphoff	A/C
7	Camp Kapitachouane, P.Q., Canada	Sheriff - Marshall	A/C
7	Chicago, Illinois	Bukowski	A/C w/Advertising Bar
7-8	Dayton, Ohio	Beebe	Astro (Jupiter/Arcturus)
8	Chicago, Illinois	Lawrence	Insufficient Data
8	Florida	Roth	Astro (Farholla)
9	Superior, Wisconsin	Bendix	Balloon
9	Huskallonge Lake, Michigan	Vogel	A/C
9	Chicago, Illinois	Johnston	A/C w/Advertising Bar
10	Fairfield, Illinois	Bukowski	Other (Misinterpretation of conventional object)
10	Elkiaki, Alaska	Stucko	A/C
Aug	Easton, Massachusetts	Hagen	Astro (Meteor)
		Meining	
		Carroll	

* Classified Cases

ADDITIONAL SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	OBSERVER
Aug	Hickletown, New York	Spencer News	Soderstrom - Stevens
Aug	Madawaska, Maine	Saucer News	Two Boys
Aug	Wishlodon, England	FSR	Briggs
1	Malahill, England	FSR	Dunn - Cope
1	London, England	FSR	Multiple
1	Osney, England	FSR	Cateleto
2	East Rutherford, N.J.	IAFA	Kouba - Jenkins
5	Salem, Massachusetts	Fowler	Buhler
5	Chicago, Illinois	IAFA	Matthews
6	Edinburg, Scotland	FSR	Brown
7	Bilston, England	FSR	Jones
7	Centralia, Illinois	Newspaper	Bryant
8-9	Mount Vernon, Illinois	Newspaper	Bishop - Trammell

1 - 10 AUGUST 1963 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
8480	Aug. Plainview, New York		INSUFFICIENT DATA
8481	Aug. Easton, Massachusetts		Astro (METEOR)
8482	Aug. Syracuse, New York		INSUFFICIENT DATA
8483	2 Morehead, Kentucky		Other (OBJECT ATTACHED TO TEST AIRCRAFT)
8484	2 Camp Springs, Virginia	Multiple	Astro (STAR PLANET)
8485	3 Gagnon, Maine		INSUFFICIENT DATA
8486	4 Kubal, Afghanistan	Military	Astro (METEOR)
8487	4-5 Warner, New Hampshire		Astro (METEOR)
8488	5 San Antonio, Texas		BALLOON
8489	5 Melville AS, Labrador	Military	BALLOON
8490	5 West Haven, Connecticut	Multiple	AIRCRAFT
8491	5-6 Akron, Ohio	Multiple	AIRCRAFT
8492	5-7 Fairfield, Illinois	Multiple	1. Astro (MOON)
8504	separate Folder)		2. Astro (JUPITER)
			3. AIRCRAFT
			4. Astro (METEOR)
8493	7 Muskallonge Lake, Michigan		AIRCRAFT
8494	7 Camp Kapitchouane, P. Q., Canada		AIRCRAFT
8495	7 Chicago, Illinois		AIRCRAFT
8496	7-8 Dayton, Ohio		Astro (JUPITER ARCTURUS)
8497	9 Chicago, Illinois		INSUFFICIENT DATA
8498	9 Florida		Astro (PARHELIA)
8499	9 Superior, Wisconsin		BALLOON
8500	9 Muskallonge Lake, Michigan		AIRCRAFT
8501	10 Chicago, Illinois		AIRCRAFT
8502	10 Fairfield, Illinois		Other (MISINTERPRETATION OF CONVENTIONAL OBJECT)
			AIRCRAFT

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Aug	Universe	Science News Ltr	
Aug	Middletown, N. Y.	News Clipping	
Aug	Mexico, N. Y.	(Ltr)	
Aug	Wimbledon, England	News Clipping	
Aug	Madawaska, Maine	" "	
Aug	Waterloo, N. Y.	(Ltr)	
1	Blacksburgh, Va.	News Clipping	
1	Walsall, England	" "	
1	London, England	" "	
1	Oxhey, England	" "	
2	East Rutherford, N. J.	" "	
5	Mexico	" "	
5	Salem, Mass	" "	
5	Chicago, Ill.	" "	
6	Edinburgh, Scotland	" "	
7	Bilston, England	" "	
7	Centralia, Ill	" "	
8-9	Mt. Vernon, N. Y.	" "	