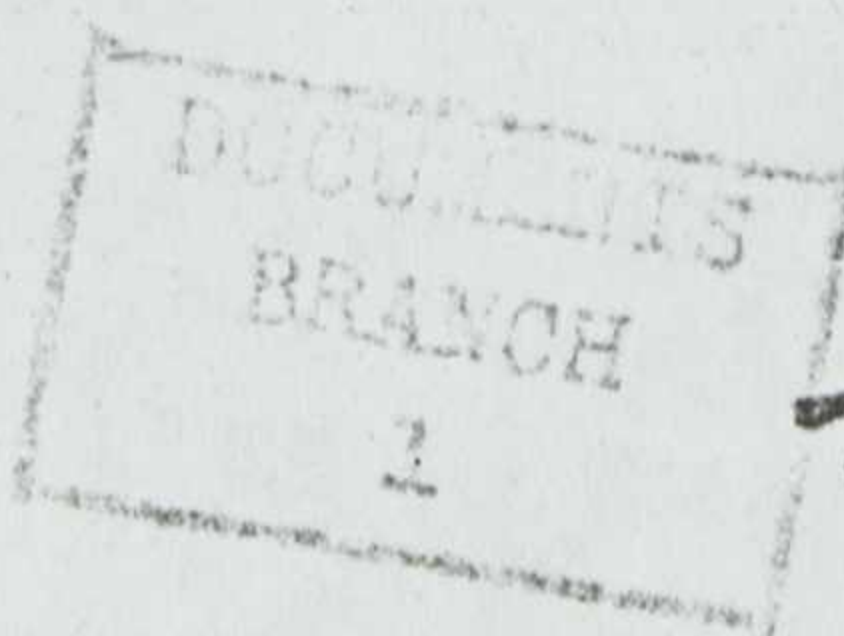




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COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK) AF 480 825
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOB RPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Canandaigua Lake, Gannett Hill, New York	FROM (Agency) Wing Training and Operations Sampson AFB, N.Y.	
DATE OF REPORT 6 February 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 29 November 1952	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) DONALD L. MYERS, LT., USAF	SOURCE Letter from [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. This report contains information of the sighting of "Flares" in the vicinity of Canandaigua Lake from the peak of Gannett Hill.

[REDACTED] Rochester 9, New York, and [REDACTED] Rochester, New York visually sighted flares at 1700 hours, 23 November 1952.

3. [REDACTED] stated in letter form the observation of what appeared to be flares. Visibility was poor due to light rain, no stars were visible. An outline of South Hill on the east side of Canandaigua Lake could be seen. Above South Hill, slightly northeast of Canandaigua Lake (directly toward Sampson AFB or north of Sampson, a distance of approximately 25 miles) four stationary extremely bright white lights were sighted. Each light would last only a few seconds then disappear and be replaced by light displaced laterally and vertically. There were never more than four visible at once and never less than one.

4. [REDACTED] explained that the observation may have been caused by an optical illusion due to refraction of light rays, however as each bright white light disappeared the after image was a cluster of six or seven red lights which faded immediately like a vision persistency phenomena. Observing from arms length (26 inches) each cluster appeared to be a 3/64 inch diameter circle. An actual circle of lights appearing so big at 25 miles (approximate distance from Sampson AFB) would be tremendous. From arm's length these lights were vertically displaced up to two inches, which would indicate altitude. There was no apparent diffusion of light or reflection on clouds.

5. [REDACTED] estimated to have seen over one-thousand lights appear and disappear before he and Mr. [REDACTED] departed Gannett Hill. Upon descending no lights were seen. Upon ascending another hill near Canandaigua, New York, nothing unusual was seen.

6. Further details concerning above information were unknown to source.

1 INCL.

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1cy (1 incl)

APPROVED:

Reginald L. Anderson
for FRANK M. MADSEN JR., Lt. Col., USAF
Chief, Wing Training & Operations *maj*

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
USAF MEMO 9/3/78
D/W Lewis Date 9/13/78
AKA

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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TRUE COPY

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FLARES
SAMPSON AIR BASE
SAMPSON, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

It would please me very much if you would tell me if a very large number of Flares were dropped near Sampson, Sunday evening, November 23, 1952. Here is why:

On that evening at 5 pm, the writer, [REDACTED], Rochester 9, N. Y., and [REDACTED] stopped deer hunting with bow and arrow and came out of the woods on the highest peak of Gannett Hill, west of Canandaigua Lake.

No stars were visible. It was raining lightly and visibility was poor, but we could see the outline of South Hill on the East side of Canandaigua Lake. Above South Hill were four extremely bright white lights. By compass they were slightly north of east, or directly toward Sampson, or even north of Sampson.

They looked like bright flares but did not appear to descend or move at all while lighted. Each light would last only a few seconds and disappear to be replaced soon afterwards by another light displaced laterally and vertically. There were never more than 4 visible at once and never less than 1.

But other things about them did not resemble flares. It may have been an optical illusion due to refraction of light rays, but as each bright white light disappeared, the after image, which faded immediately like a vision persistency phenomena, was not a single red light but a cluster of 6 or 7 red lights. Each cluster appeared like a 3/64 inch diameter circle at arm's length, say 26 inches away. An actual circle of lights were displaced vertically up to 2 inches at arm's length, which would be a big difference in altitude at 25 miles to Sampson, for flares to be dropped. Also there was no apparent diffusion of light or reflection on clouds as you expect to see from flares.

I would estimate that we observed over a thousand lights come and go before we left Gannett Hill. On descending we could not see the lights. On ascending another hill near Canandaigua, we could see nothing unusual.

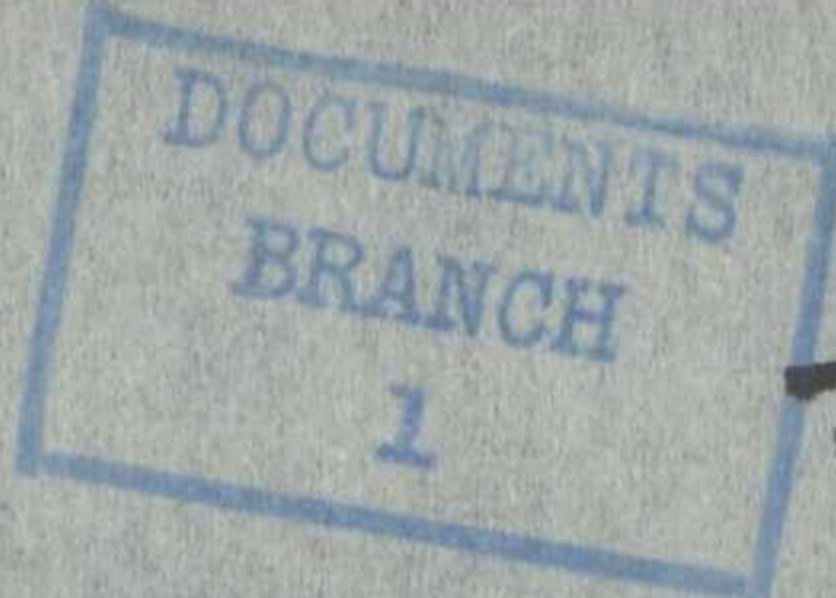
Please advise if we were watching normal phenomena, because we have other impressions obtained from the study which are useless and embarrassing to relate, if we were viewing a mere scattering of flares.

Yours very truly,

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

/s/ [REDACTED]

Donald L. Myers
DONALD L. MYERS, 2d Lt., USAF
AO 2231652



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(CLASSIFICATION)

3

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. AF 480 825	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOB RPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Canandaigua Lake, Gannett Hill, New York		FROM (Agency) Wing Training and Operations Sampson AFB, N.Y.
DATE OF REPORT 6 February 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 29 November 1952	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) DONALD L. MYERS, LT., USAF		SOURCE Letter from Harold B. Smith
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. This report contains information of the sighting of "Flares" in the vicinity of Canandaigua Lake from the peak of Gannett Hill.
2. Harold B. Smith, 640 Melville St., Rochester 9, New York, and Carl Finsterwalder, 124 Devonshire Court, Rochester, New York visually sighted flares at 1700 hours, 23 November 1952.
3. Mr. Smith stated in letter form the observation of what appeared to be flares. Visibility was poor due to light rain, no stars were visible. An outline of South Hill on the east side of Canandaigua Lake could be seen. Above South Hill, slightly northeast of Canandaigua Lake (directly toward Sampson AFB or north of Sampson, a distance of approximately 25 miles) four stationary extremely bright white lights were sighted. Each light would last only a few seconds then disappear and be replaced by light displaced laterally and vertically. There were never more than four visible at once and never less than one.
4. Mr. Smith explained that the observation may have been caused by an optical illusion due to refraction of light rays, however as each bright white light disappeared the after image was a cluster of six or seven red lights which faded immediately like a vision persistency phenomena. Observing from arms length (26 inches) each cluster appeared to be a 3/64 inch diameter circle. An actual circle of lights appearing so big at 25 miles (approximate distance from Sampson AFB) would be tremendous. From arm's length these lights were vertically displaced up to two inches, which would indicate altitude. There was no apparent diffusion of light or reflection on clouds.
5. Mr. Smith estimated to have seen over one-thousand lights appear and disappear before he and Mr. Finsterwalder departed Gannett Hill. Upon descending no lights were seen. Upon ascending another hill near Canandaigua, New York, nothing unusual was seen.
6. Further details concerning above information were unknown to source.

INCLS.

APPROVED:

Reginald L. Andersen
for **FRANK M. MADSEN JR., Lt. Col., USAF**
Chief, Wing Training & Operations *moj*

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)
USAF MEMO 2/31/28
By *W Lewis* Date *7/13/28*
AKC

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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(CLASSIFICATION)

~~RESTRICTED~~
TRUE COPY

HAROLD B. SMITH
640 Melville Street
Rochester 9, New York
November 29, 1952

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FLARES
SAMPSON AIR BASE
SAMPSON, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

It would please me very much if you would tell me if a very large number of Flares were dropped near Sampson, Sunday evening, November 23, 1952. Here is why:

On that evening at 5 pm, the writer, Harold B. Smith, 640 Melville St., Rochester 9, N. Y., and Carl Finsterwalder, 124 Devonshire Court, stopped deer hunting with bow and arrow and came out of the woods on the highest peak of Gannett Hill, west of Canandaigua Lake.

No stars were visible. It was raining lightly and visibility was poor, but we could see the outline of South Hill on the East side of Canandaigua Lake. Above South Hill were four extremely bright white lights. By compass they were slightly north of east, or directly toward Sampson, or even north of Sampson.

They looked like bright flares but did not appear to descend or move at all while lighted. Each light would last only a few seconds and disappear to be replaced soon afterwards by another light displaced laterally and vertically. There were never more than 4 visible at once and never less than 1.

But other things about them did not resemble flares. It may have been an optical illusion due to refraction of light rays, but as each bright white light disappeared, the after image, which faded immediately like a vision persistency phenomena, was not a single red light but a cluster of 6 or 7 red lights. Each cluster appeared like a 3/64 inch diameter circle at arm's length, say 26 inches away. An actual circle of lights were displaced vertically up to 2 inches at arm's length, which would be a big difference in altitude at 25 miles to Sampson, for flares to be dropped. Also there was no apparent diffusion of light or reflection on clouds as you expect to see from flares.

I would estimate that we observed over a thousand lights come and go before we left Gannett Hill. On descending we could not see the lights. On ascending another hill near Canandaigua, we could see nothing unusual.

Please advise if we were watching normal phenomena, because we have other impressions obtained from the study which are useless and embarrassing to relate, if we were viewing a mere scattering of flares.

Yours very truly,

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

/s/ Harold B. Smith

AF480825

Incl #1

Donald L. Myers
DONALD L. MYERS, 2d Lt., USAF
AO 2231652

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