



Declassification Authority: NND 57565

AF582471

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| COUNTRY<br>UNITED STATES                                                                               |                                         | REPORT NO.<br>IR-37-53                                     | (LEAVE BLANK)<br>AF582471 |
| SUBJECT<br>FLYOB RPT                                                                                   |                                         |                                                            |                           |
| AREA REPORTED ON<br>Modesto, California                                                                |                                         | FROM (Agency)<br>Hq, 93d Bomb Wing, Castle AFB, California |                           |
| DATE OF REPORT<br>11 September 1953                                                                    | DATE OF INFORMATION<br>3 September 1953 | EVALUATION<br>F-6                                          |                           |
| PREPARED BY (Officer)<br>Major Roy E. Gudith                                                           |                                         | SOURCE<br>Various civilians                                |                           |
| REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)<br>TT 93BW (M), ODCI 5120 |                                         |                                                            |                           |

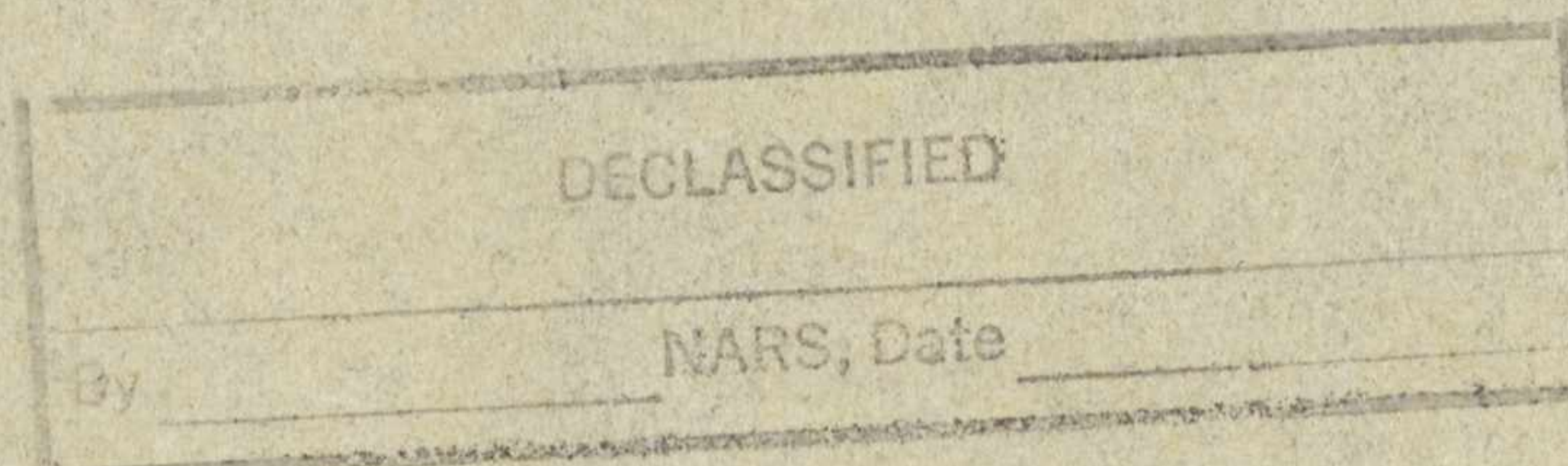
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

Forwarded herewith is a photograph showing an elliptical shaped light. The photo was made at night from the top of a building in Modesto, California. The camera was oriented towards the East and was left unattended for four hours except for opening and closing the shutter. A civil defense ground observer crew noted an aircraft with a landing light on fly the traffic pattern at Modesto Airport several times during the interval that the exposure was made. It is the opinion of the Preparing Officer that the elliptical light on the photo negative is the result of the flash of an aircraft landing light.

*Roy E. Gudith*

ROY E. GUDITH  
Major, USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer

*4R  
400p (1 inc)*



2 / INCL.

1. Photograph (6 cys)
2. Map of Modesto, Calif. showing location of observers (1 cy)

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

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.

UNCLASSIFIED  
(CLASSIFICATION)

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| AF FORM 1-100-1<br>APPROVED FOR RELEASE<br>1953                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | UNCLASSIFIED<br>(CLASSIFICATION)        |  | AF 585471                           |  |
| COUNTRY<br>UNITED STATES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | REPORT NO.<br>IR-31-23                  |  | CLASSIFICATION<br>SECRET            |  |
| AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| SUBJECT<br>FLYORRPT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| AREA REPORTED ON<br>Modesto, California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  | DATE OF INFORMATION<br>3 September 1953 |  | DATE OF REPORT<br>11 September 1953 |  |
| PREPARED BY (O/JWT)<br>Major Roy E. Gudith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | SOURCE<br>Various civilians             |  | EVALUATION<br>F-6                   |  |
| REFERENCES (Control number, division report, etc., as applicable)<br>TT 93BW (M), ODCI 5120                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| SUMMARY (Limit concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. This includes in lower left. Begin text of report on A.T. Form 115-Form 11.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| <p>Forwarded herewith is a photograph showing an elliptical shaped light. The photo was made at night from the top of a building in Modesto, California. The camera was oriented towards the East and was left unattended for four hours except for opening and closing the shutter. A civil defense ground observer crew noted an aircraft with a landing light on fly the traffic pattern at Modesto Airport several times during the interval that the exposure was made. It is the opinion of the Preparing Officer that the elliptical light on the photo negative is the result of the flash of an aircraft landing light.</p> <p><i>Roy E. Gudith</i><br/>ROY E. GUDITH<br/>Major, USAF<br/>Wing Intelligence Officer</p> |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
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| UNCLASSIFIED<br>(CLASSIFICATION)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |
| 10-5000-1 U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950 O-318251                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                                         |  |                                     |  |

- 2
1. Photograph (6 cys)
  2. Map of Modesto, Calif. showing location of observers (1 cy)



# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| FROM (Agency)<br>Wing Intelligence<br>Castle AF Base, California | REPORT NO.<br>IR-37-53 | PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|

1. The preparing officer in company with an OSI agent and a Castle AF Base PIO representative drove to Modesto, California on 8 September 1953 to view a photograph showing an unidentified elliptical shaped light.

2. The reason given for taking the picture was that Mr. [redacted] newspaper photographer, and Mr. [redacted] a reporter for the same paper saw a yellowish white light at 1945PDT 3 September 1953. The light seemed to be about 10 degrees above the horizon in the direction of Modesto Airport. They said it appeared to remain stationary as they drove a distance of about one mile East where it vanished from view. They believed it was an aircraft with landing light on flying the upwind leg at Modesto Airport. Nevertheless, [redacted] took his camera to the newspaper building and set it up on the roof in the direction he believed he had seen the light. He left his camera unattended with the shutter open for about four hours. He developed the film on 8 September 1953. When he noticed the elliptical light and could not explain it, he called Castle AF Base.

a. The following are the details surrounding the unexplained elliptical light on the negative:

- (1) Description: One elliptical shaped light in a nearly horizontal attitude.
- (2) Time and Date: Sometime between the hours of 2020 to 0015PDT, 3 September 1953.
- (3) Manner of Observation: Exposure was made with a Speed Graphic camera set on f22 and unattended except for opening and closing the shutter.
- (4) Location of Observer: The camera was located on top of the Modesto Bee Newspaper Building, about 40 feet above the street, and oriented East. The geographic location is 37°38½'N - 121°00'W. The elliptical light is approximately at 10 degrees elevation and on a bearing of 90 degrees.
- (5) Identifying Information of Observers: There is no estimate of the reliability of the sighting since the camera was unattended. Photographer ROGERS is an ex-First Lieutenant USAF Navigator.
- (6) Weather and Winds: The sky was clear, slight haze near the horizon, and wind 12 knots from 335 degrees.
- (7) Activity or Condition Which Might Account for the Sighting: See item (10).
- (8) Physical Evidence: Photograph made by Castle AFB Photo Lab from the negative loaned by the newspaper. Submitted as Inclosure 1.
- (9) Interception: None.
- (10) Air Traffic in Area: Civil defense ground observers on duty during the time exposure noted what they believed was a small aircraft with landing light on flying the traffic pattern at Modesto Airport between 2215 and 2230PDT, 3 September 1953.

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## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| FROM (Agency)<br>Wing Intelligence<br>Castle AF Base, California | REPORT NO.<br><i>IR-37-53</i> | PAGE<br>3 | OF<br>3 | PAGES |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|

3. Comments of Preparing Officer: It is the opinion of the preparing officer that the elliptical light in the photograph is the flash of a landing light of an aircraft flying in the vicinity of Modesto Airport. This conclusion is based on statements of observers and the coincidence of the northwest orientation of the runway and its location. The runway was  $4\frac{1}{2}$  NM from the observers and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  NM from the camera. See map, Inclosure 2.

DECLASSIFIED  
By *USAF*  
*W.A.L.*  
NARS, Date *7/31/78*  
*4/12/79*

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From

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5 USC 552 (b)(6) & (7)(C)

Authority

5/14/79

Date

WG Lewis  
NNGR

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA FORM 7117 (2-72)

Declassification Authority: NND 57565

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Sec'y of State

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Authority

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12/13/78

Date

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## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| FROM (Agency)<br>Wing Intelligence<br>Castle AF Base, California | REPORT NO.<br>IR-37-53 | PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES |
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1. The preparing officer in company with an OSI agent and a Castle AF Base PIO representative drove to Modesto, California on 8 September 1953 to view a photograph showing an unidentified elliptical shaped light.

2. The reason given for taking the picture was that Mr. Charles ROGERS, Modesto Bee newspaper photographer, and Mr. Jack CROSE, a reporter for the same paper saw a yellowish white light at 1945PDT 3 September 1953. The light seemed to be about 10 degrees above the horizon in the direction of Modesto Airport. They said it appeared to remain stationary as they drove a distance of about one mile East where it vanished from view. They believed it was an aircraft with landing light on flying the upwind leg at Modesto Airport. Nevertheless, ROGERS took his camera to the newspaper building and set it up on the roof in the direction he believed he had seen the light. He left his camera unattended with the shutter open for about four hours. He developed the film on 8 September 1953. When he noticed the elliptical light and could not explain it, he called Castle AF Base.

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- (7) Activity or Condition Which Might Account for the Sighting: See item (10).
- (8) Physical Evidence: Photograph made by Castle AFB Photo Lab from the negative loaned by the newspaper. Submitted as Inclosure 1.
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