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AF606265

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COUNTRY ALASKA	REPORT NO. IR 5004-42-53	(LEAVE BLANK) AF606265
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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Light Observed West of Gambell		
AREA REPORTED ON Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska	FROM (Agency) 5004th Air Intelligence Sv Sq APO 942, c/o PM, Seattle, Wash.	
DATE OF REPORT 8 Dec 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 1 Dec 1953	EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOHN V. WRIGHT, Capt, USAF	SOURCE Clifford Iknokinok	
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.)

This report contains information on a light seen by an observer at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska (63°50'N - 171°36'W), 011110Z December 1953. Light was observed on a true heading of 283° from Gambell.

While no definite conclusion can be reached as to the origin of the light, a possibility exists that it could have come from an unidentified ship operating in or near U. S. Territorial Waters.



APPROVED:

William H. Greenhalgh
WILLIAM H. GREENHALGH, JR
Major, USAF
Commander

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INCL.
Map showing
Observation

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES

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I. This report contains information on a light seen by an observer at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska (63°50'N - 171°36'W), 011110Z December 1953. Light was observed on a true heading of 283° from Gambell.

II. SOURCE:

Name - CLIFFORD IKNOKINOK

Age - 26

Race - Eskimo

Education - 8th Grade Completed

Military Service - Member of Gambell Unit, Alaska National Guard for three (3) years, 9 months, promoted to Sgt 1 Jan 1953. Source presently Squad Leader with Gambell Guard Unit.

Civilian Employment - Employed by CAA at Gambell from July 1942 thru April 1949. Present occupation -- hunter.

WILLIAM W. CALDWELL and RODERICK M. MOORE, members of Flight 'A', 5004th AISS, and stationed at Gambell, have known source for the past eight months. They have found source to be trustworthy and honest and they have confidence in his judgement.

III. REPORT ON OBSERVATION:

Source states that approximately 1110Z, 1 December 53 he saw a light on the horizon West of Gambell. Source was standing in front of the Gambell School (elev. approx. 25 ft. above sea level) when he observed the light. Source said he thought the light was about 10 inches in diameter. Later he said that a circular object 5½ inches in diameter, held at arms length, would cover the light. Source stated that the light did not move and determined this by sighting along the flag pole at the school. Source saw no reflection or beam of light and the color of the light was similar to a flashlight. Source stated the light was not bright, nor was it very dim. At 1115Z the light disappeared as though someone had turned it off.

Source observed the light without the aid of binoculars. Source would not make an estimate as to distance of light from Gambell.

IV. WEATHER:

Wind - NE at approx. 20 MPH

Visibility - Approx. 20 miles

Ceiling - Approx. 2000 ft.

The night was very dark. There was slush ice West of Gambell but no heavy ice was in the area. The ocean was calm.

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V. COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

WILLIAM W. CALDWELL, member of Flight A, 5004th AISS, at Gambell, used a Lenseatic Compass to determine the true bearing of the light observed. He also made a check of the village to see if other natives had observed the light but none had seen the light.

Source is apparently in error when he says a disk $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter would cover the light. A light measured in this manner would appear much larger than his first estimate of the light size.

No land exists within a considerable distance of Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska on a bearing of 283° true, thus removing the possibility of a land based light. From the information available no conclusion can be reached as to the origin of the light or its type.

A possibility exists that the light came from a ship at sea, identity of which is unknown.

John V. Wright
JOHN V. WRIGHT
Captain, USAF
Preparing Officer

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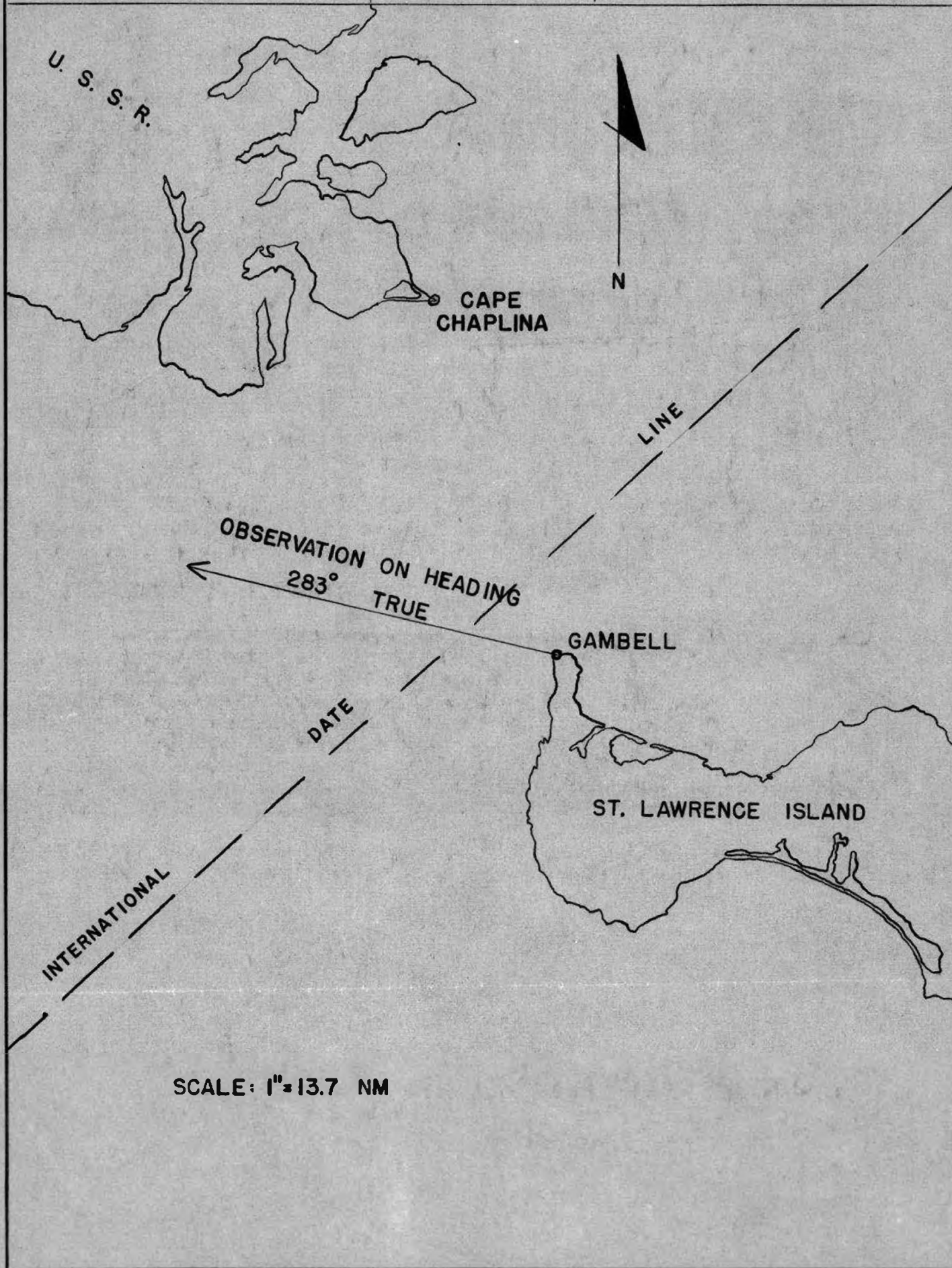
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