

Engineering Division
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maneuvering or not maneuvering. It is quite possible that it was simply drifting steadily on a relatively straight course, such as would be taken by a lighted weather balloon.

In another of fact, a lighted weather balloon was released by the Range Weather Station within 10 minutes of the time the light was first sighted by the F-4 pilot. It is the opinion of the writer that this lighted balloon easily would have accounted for all of the pilot's observations. (It should be noted that the standard 30 inch and 60 inch weather balloons have a vertical speed of about 200 and 1200 ft./min., respectively.)

General Observation and Summary

In the preceding section the hypothesis has been advanced that most reports of unidentified flying objects have been the result of persons failing to identify familiar phenomena, such as reflections from bright surfaces in the day or lights in a night sky. It is believed that this explanation will account for many of the reports. However, some reports are probably for other explanation.

Notes. The term reports covers a large group of miscellaneous phenomena including air sickness, Stalder's in one's instrument, and partial loss of orientation. The conditions under which some of the observations of flying objects were made were such that they could have produced loss of orientation on the part of an observer. This is especially true for those experiences occurring at night and those in which attempts were made to "stare" the object. Movement is always relative. If the only visible reference is a point of light, and both the observer and the object observed are moving, it would be practically impossible under certain conditions to tell which was moving and which was not, or to separate out the two entities. It is hard enough

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