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The time to turn, with a 1,500 ft. radius, is 35 seconds. Actually, the turn was not a perfect circle but more of an ellipse, the time would increase to possibly 45 seconds. This is also a discrepancy since the pilot judged the elapsed time to be two and one half minutes. This is not a serious discrepancy, however, as it is known that short intervals are difficult to judge and the pilot did not actually time his maneuvers.

The description of the object could very well be that of a balloon. Observations have shown that a balloon appears to be more oval or dome-shaped than spherical and due to shadows, the bottom appears darker than the top. The talcum powder used in packing the balloon could easily give the appearance of segments such as the panels in a parachute. The oscillations of the object described by the pilot are very similar in period to those of a balloon. The pilot stated that he did not observe anything suspended from the object such as the radar reflector banding beneath the balloon, however, the tower operator was sure that the pilot had noticed the fact that there was something dark beneath the object when he called the tower to describe the object he had seen.

A T-11 was the only aircraft in the area near the time of the sighting. The possibility of the pilot's first seeing the balloon then the T-11 were checked but the T-11 was on an entirely different heading than that of the object, and was out of the immediate area.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

From the data obtained on this sighting, it cannot be definitely concluded that the object sighted by the T-11 pilot was the Redmond balloon released by the Mitchell AFB Weather Station. However, enough of the data on the reported object does correlate with that of the balloon to indicate that there is a possibility that the object observed was a balloon. There are no other reports of persons observing any unusual objects and since the area appeared to be 20 ft. to 30 ft. in diameter and very wooded in appearance at only 200 ft. to 300 ft. altitude over a thickly populated area, it would seem very likely that it would have been seen and reported by someone on the ground.

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