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Ipswich, California

16 May 1953

I. DESCRIPTION

The Ipswich Naval Air Facility at the Naval Ordnance Test Station received a report from one of their civilian employees that three green colored objects were observed at 1000 FT, and disappeared to the northwest striking rapidly. Altitude was estimated to be approximately 20,000 feet while over Ipswich. Objects appeared to be round and ball-balloon-like with struts hanging down. No photographs were taken, sound or method of propulsion was undetermined, and no interception was attempted. Several other civilians at that station also observed these objects.

II. DISCUSSION

This information was taken from a DNR received from the Flight Service Center at March AFB. Many details are lacking. The description as given by this one civilian fits that of three upper air research balloons (Navy Disk) tied together. More information will be available when the OAF Form 112 is received. Also, Project Blue Book requires the plate for all Navy Disk type balloons released in that area. The Project Blue Book evaluation of possibly upper air research balloons can be substantiated or cannot be substantiated upon receipt of the balloon plate.

III. CONCLUSION

Probably balloons (Navy Disk).

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