

AF FORM 112-PART II
APPROVED 1 APR 1958

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FORM NO.		CLASSIFICATION	
112		UNCLASSIFIED	
1. A redoxide balloon of this type has a very light color, described as "off-white" or "cream" colored. At altitude on a clear day, the balloon definitely appears to have a white color.			
2. When released, the balloon is six or eight feet in diameter. It expands as it reaches higher altitudes. When it reaches sufficiently high altitudes, normally, the balloon bursts. At altitude, in the process of expanding, the balloon frequently becomes misshapen, as it does not always expand evenly in all directions.			
3. Frequently, as it ascends, the redoxide balloon has tendency under the balloon is set in motion, so that it sometimes swings and pitches back and forth in a non-linearly sharp and erratic manner. The balloon line-of-sight swings and pitches also. If this happens when the balloon is misshapen, the apparent erratic movements become more varied.			
4. With weather conditions normal agree that on a clear day it is possible to follow visually a redoxide balloon as high as 50,000 feet. Aside from that, it is generally agreed that estimation the altitude or distance of an unfamiliar object of unknown dimensions is extremely difficult.			
5. Meteorological records reveal the following wind conditions prevailed generally throughout the day in the southwestern coastal region of California on 23 June 1952:			
<u>ALTITUDE</u>	<u>WIND DIRECTION</u>	<u>WIND VELOCITY</u>	
4,000 feet	variable	light	
5,000 feet	320 degree	30 knots	
10,000 feet	320 degree	25 knots	
15,000 feet	235 degree	30 knots	
20,000 feet	215 degree	40 knots	
25,000 feet	225 degree	15 knots	
40,000 feet	230 degree	20 knots	
6. The redoxide balloons released from San Diego and near Beach at 0900 hours on 23 June 1952 were probably were blown toward the area of North Air Force Base and appeared over the base in about an hour's time (at about 0900 hours).			
7. A strong possibility exists that additional redoxide balloons were released somewhere southeast of North Air Force Base, perhaps from naval yards engaged in dummy missions off the coast of California. Further investigation of such possibilities by this organization was not feasible.			
8. A second, but definite, possibility exists that a balloon appeared over North Air Force Base on 23 June 1952 after release previously from a station such as a weather ship at sea at a considerable distance from the coast. According to personnel of the 9th Weather Group, balloons customarily failed to burst after reaching high altitudes. In such a case, the balloon may develop a tear; so that it continued to remain aloft for many hours or days, gradually descending and flailing over a distance of hundreds of miles.			
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