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saw?" Major Boggs, who was then the chief adjutant officer between Wright Field and the high command in Washington, said to me one day shortly after Project Saucer had presumably become a thing of the past. "It would be different if flying saucers were known to exist. Then we could have collected evidence indicating the degrees of probability that such things were sighted and the reason for their appearance at a given place. But it is impossible to prove, logically and with finality, a double negative—that is, that there are no flying saucers and that people have not seen flying saucers. The best we could do under the circumstances was to deduce, first, from the fact that it had not been proved, that saucers *had* been seen and, second, from the fact that reasonable theories could be advanced to explain away all the reports of seeing them, that probably nobody had seen them at all. The fewer the theoretical explanations and the less plausible they were, the more reason there was for suspecting people *had* seen saucers." The Major shook his head, and continued, "It's a difficult concept to grasp, but so was the job we were tackling."

I asked Major Boggs whether there was any way to account for the epidemic of reports of strange celestial objects. "Of course there is," he replied. "If you look up at the sky long enough, you can almost always make out something there that appears strange. And more people are looking up now than ever before. Kids don't count freight cars any more; they count airplanes. People who were trained in air observation during the war have gone right on observing. Also, the public hasn't forgotten that the atomic bomb was kept secret from it for three years. This time, people want to know what's cooking, so they look up." Major Boggs sighed. "Time was when people used to make a wish if they saw a shooting star. Now they telephone the Air Force."

Major Boggs and I pondered this unromantic age in silence for a moment. Then he returned briskly to the problems that had confronted the investigators. "The one tangible thing we had to work on was the fact that the sky is full of things," he said. "I can't even come close to estimating the number of commercial and military aircraft up there at any given moment. Then, there are more than five hundred outfits of one kind or another that release balloons from time to time. These range from simple weather balloons, no larger than