

For release            By Major A.H. Thiessen  
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War balloons! Ordinary balloons with spherical bag inflated with hydrogen are commonly used for practise flights. These travel well, but care must be taken not to give them an initial twist or they will keep on twirling indefinitely. The observational war balloon is sausage-shape or streamlined because in a high wind the spherical ones are unmanageable. Observation balloons are captive, and may be flown as high as 6000 feet. Held to the ground by a cable containing telephone wires, communication thus becomes an easy matter. In case the cable breaks the crew handles the balloon as a free one, using ballast and valving gas until a suitable landing can be made.

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