

2467
19 miles up-

Aug 23rd. '57.

America- First official Air Force pictures of the highest balloon ascent ever made. The United States doctor, Major David Simons, has his gear adjusted for his adventure into the unknown. ☺

Fitted with a special helmet for this pioneering mission, the Major aimed to spend a 32 hour period at 100,000 feet above the earth- that is 19 miles high!

Fixed to the plastic sphere is an ~~aluminium~~ aluminium gondola- pressurised and air-conditioned to withstand the effects of such a tremendous height.

Up she goes- and from the miniature space laboratory he carries, Major Simons keeps constant radio contact with the ground.

One of his main interests is to check his own reactions, at a height of five times greater than most aircraft fly.

The 19 mile climb took two hours. Journeying towards the mysteries of outer space.

Reporting back, Major Simons said he could even distinguish the curvature of the earth from the unknown frontier.