

## Abe Lincoln's Army in the Sky



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### Thaddeus Lowe in his balloon the *Intrepid*

The Civil War took place in America. It took place between 1861 and 1865. It was a war between the states. The war was over slavery. The states in the South wanted slaves. The states in the North did not. The North and South fought each other.

Abraham Lincoln was president in the North. He lived in the White House. He lived in Washington, DC. He wanted to end slavery. He wanted to end the Civil War.

Thaddeus Lowe went to President Lincoln with an idea. His idea was to use hot air balloons to help the North win the war. You can go high up in the sky in a balloon. You can see far in a balloon. You can see for 25 miles in every direction. When you are high

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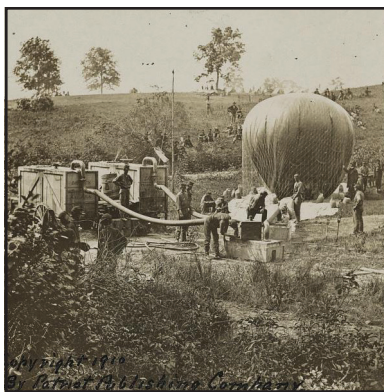
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up, you can see what the enemy's army is up to. You can see its troops. You can see what they are doing. You can see where they are going. This can help you know how to fight them. This can help you win the war.

President Lincoln loved this idea. He saw how the hot air balloons could help the North win the war. Lincoln formed the first American air force. It did not have planes. (Planes weren't invented yet.) It had balloons.

Each balloon was held to the ground by a long rope. This kept the balloon from flying away. A pilot took the balloon up 500 feet. He looked around. He wrote down what the Southern troops were doing. The balloon went down. The pilot told the army leaders what he saw. This helped them fight the South. It helped the North win the war.



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**Filling a hot air balloon  
on the battlefield**

