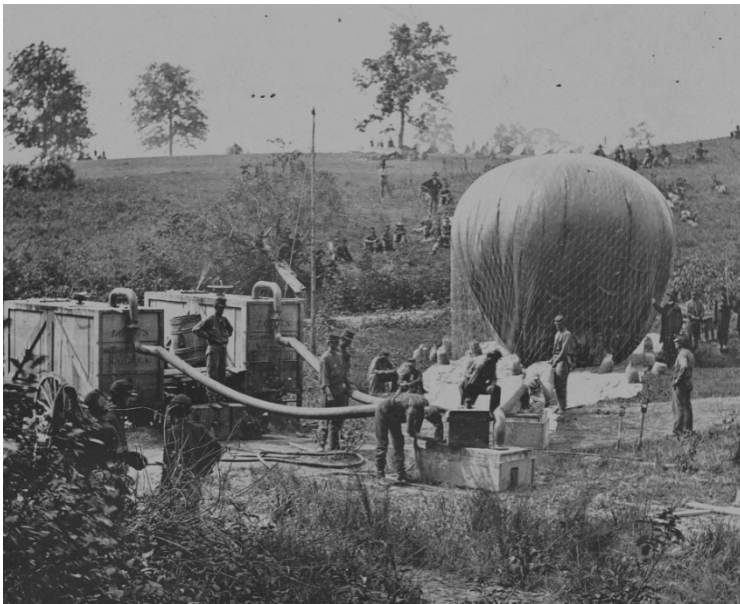


Thaddeus Lowe's Balloon, "Intrepid" used to observe the Battle of Fair Oaks during the early U.S. Civil War

UAV (Drones) Inquiry Unit

Manned aerial balloons were used for gathering intelligence before the modern development of unpiloted reconnaissance aircraft. In these photos, taken by Matthew Brady on 1 June 1862, inventor Thaddeus S. C. Lowe (1832-1913) ascends in his balloon, "Intrepid" to observe the Battle of Seven Pines on the north side of the Chickahominy River in eastern Virginia after he and his team inflate the balloon using gas tanks and a hose. This reconnaissance mission netted important information about Confederate troop buildup and movement by spotting them near Fair Oaks train station



VISIT SOURCE:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2015649857/>

Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, Publisher, Gardner, Alexander, photographer. Professor Lowe inflating Balloon Intrepid to reconnoiter Battle of Fair Oaks. Henrico County United States Virginia, 1862. [Washington, D.C.: Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2015649857/>. (Accessed 15 June 2017.)



Visit Source:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/cwp2003000067/PP/>

Fair Oaks, Va. Prof. Thaddeus S. Lowe observing the battle from his balloon, "Intrepid." Fair Oaks, Virginia, United States, 1862. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/cwp2003000067/PP/>. (Accessed 10 June 2017.)