

ISLANDS IN THE SKY

In the next war there may be islands in the sky. The Germans are said to have been working on plans for a platform 5,000 miles up in the stratosphere. From this platform a mirror nearly two miles square would focus the sun's rays on the earth and thus concentrate sun-power with which machines could be driven and the ocean made to boil at times and places inconvenient to Germany's enemies.

It all sounds pretty fantastic, recalling the powerful imagination of that singular genius, Charles Fort. Fort, whose disciples have formed a Fortean Society to publish his fiery books, maintained that the sky was inhabited, and that scientists had conspired to conceal the facts which proved it.

And before Fort that eminent traveler, Lemuel Gulliver, visited the island of Laputa, which sailed about in the air and carried as queer an aggregation of pseudo-scientific experimenters as ever were imagined.

Maybe Fort and Gulliver were merely ahead of their day.

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