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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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A HAILSTORM THAT ENDED A WAR

A hailstorm that played an important part in history occurred in April, 1360. The English had long been at war with the French. Edward III, after an unsuccessful attempt to take Paris, had withdrawn his army toward Chartres. The French offered to negotiate peace, but the English king was stubborn. Then came the storm, which is thus described by Froissart:

"During the time that the French commissioners were passing backwards and forwards from the king to his council and unable to obtain any favorable answer to their efforts, there happened such a storm and violent tempest of thunder and hail, which fell on the English army, that it seemed as if the world were come to an end. The hailstones were so large as to kill men and beasts, and the boldest were frightened. The king turned himself toward the church of Our Lady at Chartres, and religiously vowed to the Virgin, as he has since confessed, that he would accept terms of peace." The result was the Treaty of Bretigny.

The chronicles of the time place the English losses from this storm at 1,000 men and 6,000 horses; probably an exaggeration.

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