

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 18, 1930.

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 11, 1930.

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THE GEOGRAPHY OF THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms occur occasionally in Greenland, Spitsbergen and elsewhere in high northern latitudes. As a rough average it may be stated that at places anywhere north of the Arctic Circle one thunderstorm may be expected in ten years. Apparently thunder has never been recorded on the Antarctic continent, though it is sometimes heard on the subantarctic islands, such as South Georgia and the South Orkneys.

There are some extensive regions of the temperate zones in which thunderstorms are quite scarce. Thus the average for the Sahara and the Arabian Desert is less than four a year, and about the same average prevails along the whole western coast of North America from Alaska south as far as San Diego. San Francisco has an average of two a year, and San José, Calif., only one a year.

Equatorial Africa, Java, southern Mexico and Panama are lands that have all the way from 100 to 200 thunderstorms a year. The world record appears to be held by Baliburg, in the former German colony of Kamerun, with an average of 212 a year.

Thunderstorms are comparatively rare over the oceans except close to land.

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21st and B Sts.
Washington, D.C.