

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
December 19, 1930

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed December 12, 1930

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

DEFOE'S STORM

A book by Daniel Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," is devoted to the most memorable storm in English history -- that of November 26 - 27, 1703, -- hence this tempest is sometimes referred to as "Defoe's Storm." It is also known as the Great Storm.

The storm occurred during the night and was most severe in the southern half of the country, where houses were blown down and unroofed and in some places masses of lead from roofs were rolled up and carried considerable distances. The first Eddystone Lighthouse was destroyed and its designer, Winstanley, perished with it.

The loss of shipping was greatest on the south and southeast coasts of England. Even in the port of London many vessels were driven aground. On the shores of the Severn the damage was increased by an abnormally high tide. At Bristol the water rose eight feet above the highest previous level. In Kent the trees and grass were covered by a deposit of salt 25 miles from the sea. Riverside London was flooded by a high tide in the Thames on the 28th.

The storm ravaged Holland on November 27, struck Hanover and Copenhagen on the night of the 27th-28th, while severe gales that may have been due to the same storm were afterward reported from the Baltic, Sweden, Finland and northern Russia. Defoe believed that it was identical with a storm felt in America a few days before the visitation in England.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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