

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 19, 1932

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 12, 1932

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

FLYING IN A HAILSTORM

A severe hailstorm is capable of causing much damage to automobiles and of inflicting at least minor injuries upon their occupants. A recent experience of some Army fliers illustrates the fact that aircraft and aviators are subject to similar misadventures but also that the flier sometimes has the advantage of the motorist in being able to beat a hasty retreat from the pelting hailstones.

One afternoon last month Lieut. R. K. LeBrou took off, with two Army passengers, from Scott Field, Ill., for Springfield, Mo. West of St. Louis he encountered indications of a line-squall approaching from the west. He first sought a landing field to the north, but being unable to locate it, on account of poor visibility, he turned east in an attempt to return to his starting point. The storm overtook him while he was flying low in his search for Scott Field, and with it came a fusillade of large hailstones.

Fortunately no material harm was done to the plane, but the fliers were painfully bruised and cut by the hailstones. The consequence might have been more serious if the pilot had not promptly climbed above the levels in which hail was falling. Probably the uprush of the air at the front of the storm helped him make a rapid escape in an upward direction.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.