

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
April 28, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 21, 1934

AVIATORS' WEATHER KNOWLEDGE

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,  
Authority on Meteorology.

Nowadays every airport of any consequence has attached to it a weather station, with a professional meteorologist in charge. Thus a flier can get information and advice about weather all along any commercial airway; but, notwithstanding this fact, it behooves him to be a meteorologist himself. To quote from a Weather Bureau publication:

"He needs at least enough knowledge of meteorology to enable him to read a weather map understandingly; enough to enable him to discuss this map intelligibly with the man who makes the forecasts for him; enough to enable him to judge, while in the air, whether or not the forecasts are coming true; and enough to give him an understanding of the weather significance of the clouds and the look of the sky. From his study, with the aid of the forecaster, of the latest weather map, constructed from extremely recent observations along and on either side of the route to be flown, he learns what sort of weather to expect at each particular place and time. But weather does not always come exactly according to the forecast. It therefore is essential that the aviator know not only what kind of weather he probably will encounter, and where, but also he must definitely understand the significance of the clouds and other weather appearances and their relations to the anticipated weather. He must know to a certainty from the looks of things whether the expected storm, for instance, is developing sooner than anticipated, or later. In short, in addition to being able to consult intelligently with the station meteorologist and read knowingly the weather map, he must be able to visualize that map in terms of actual weather phenomena, and especially must he become weatherwise for the route he is flying, just as the fisherman is weatherwise in respect to his own home waters."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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