

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt
but intended for use
Nov. 24, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Nov. 17, 1934.

A BATTLE IN THE SKY

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman
Authority on Meteorology

The "battles in the sky" recorded by medieval chroniclers were generally nocturnal displays of aurora borealis, the shifting streamers of which can, with the aid of the imagination, be seen to resemble the spears of fighting warriors. There was a case about twenty-five years ago, however, when an aerial battle was witnessed in the daytime and the participants were seen to be using modern weapons.

One March day the superstitious villagers of Doerzbach and Ober-Ginsbach, in Wuerttemberg, were startled to see a bright red streak appear in the sky. On this could be observed a landscape with field, streams and woods, among which two bodies of troops in battle formation were advancing toward each other, firing volleys. The puffs of smoke were clearly visible.

Much alarm prevailed in the villages until the picture suddenly disappeared. The next day the explanation appeared in the newspapers. A sham fight had been held by the garrison at the town of Mergentheim, twenty miles distant, and its appearance in the sky was due to mirage.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

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