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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed February 4, 1935

MILITARY METEOROLOGY

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Authority on Meteorology

Meteorology, in common with most of the other sciences, donned a uniform during the World War. From time immemorial weather had been a recognized factor in warfare, but the weatherman, in his professional capacity, had never before figured in the organization of an army. The observations of the military meteorologists were used especially to safeguard and facilitate the movements of aircraft and provide information for correcting the aim of artillery. Another task was to predict the winds favoring the use of gas by friend or foe. The meteorological units created during the war have been retained, on a reduced scale, in peacetime armies.

Some countries also organized naval meteorological units during the World War, and these, too, have, as a rule, been perpetuated. A navy has, in fact, greater need of meteorologists in days of peace than an army because of the large part that weather plays in navigation.

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