

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
February 16, 1935

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Feb. 9, 1935

WEATHER REPORTING IN EUROPE

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The interchange of current weather information by radio broadcasts tends to become universal but is carried out in a much more systematic way in Europe than elsewhere. Not counting the stations of the airway weather services, there are about 800 European stations, including some stations in northern Africa and the Near East, that contribute their reports to the broadcasts. At most stations the weather observations are taken three times a day: viz. at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 6 p.m., Greenwich time. Some stations take additional observations: e.g., one at 1 a.m.

In each country the results of the observations are reported to a single radio station, usually by wire telegraph or telephone, and are broadcast together from that point at fixed hours each day, in accordance with a regular time-table, internationally agreed upon. Many of these broadcasts include reports collected by radio from ships on the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. A few high-power radio stations issue at certain hours "collective messages," comprising reports from selected stations in several countries.

All the reports are transmitted in code; the message consisting generally of six groups of five figures each. A truly surprising amount of information about current weather conditions is conveyed by these thirty figures.

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