

The Big Picture – Weather – Friend or Foe

Master Sergeant Stuart Queen: The English Poet Ford Madox Ford once asked a question which has plagued military men since the dawn of history. He wrote: "Sometimes wind and sometimes rain, then the sun comes back again. Sometimes rain and sometimes snow, goodness how we'd like to know why the weather alters so."

The Army's need to know more and more about weather that surrounds this planet is a vital part of the expanded research program of atomic weapons. We all talk about the weather. The Army is doing something about the weather.

Narrator: In war, the weather is either a friend or an enemy. It is never neutral. When it is bad, it is very, very bad – freezing fingers, noses, toes. The many American men who fought through the winter campaigns in Europe or trudged back from the Chosin Reservoir in Korea will testify to that.

Sometimes it lasts for weeks, sometimes for months. There are hurricanes that can toss a powerful ship around like a cork, thunderstorms that raise havoc with a plane in flight. Innocent looking...