

# Mystery of Fogs Is Believed Solved by Former Salem Man

## Dale Leipper Devises Method of Forecasting Fog Attacks

Out at Scripps Institution at La Jolla, Calif., Dale F. Leipper, a former Salem boy, has formulated a method that will materially advance the ability to predict fog.

Fog is an ancient mystery. In seaports it can be seen hanging offshore for hours. Then it swoops in. Or on a clear day, it suddenly forms and blots out the sun.

Years ago Carl Sandburg of Chicago, wrote that "the fog comes in on little cat feet."

Leipper, a former army captain in the A.A.F. weather service, believes that out of his study made in the Aleutians, during the time that American bombers flew through the "soup" of the North Pacific to bomb the Japanese Kurile bases, he has devised a plan to advance the art of fog-predicting.

### Taught School

Dale, who before the war was a teacher in Pacific Beach Junior High school, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leipper of La Mesa, Calif. The family moved from Salem five years ago.

His method for saying whether at a definite time tonight or tomorrow a fog will occur is now being studied by meteorologists at the San Diego weather bureau and by army and navy forecasters.

A dozen of them already have reported back that his method is bringing results.

It may be the key to solving the fog mystery so that within a reasonably short time there may be more definite daily fog prediction.

When Leipper taught school before the war, he took no more interest in fog or weather than the average young man who plans a week-end excursion.

Then one day when he was serving as a private at a northern California army post he received a package wrapped in a newspaper. In that newspaper was a story saying the army wanted men who could qualify to study meteorology and become meteorological officers.

### Secret Hunted

He applied for the course, and spent 12 months in study, including three months of specialized study at the Scripps Institution. In the course of time he found himself hunting the secret of fog in America's northwest approach, one of the world's foggiest regions.

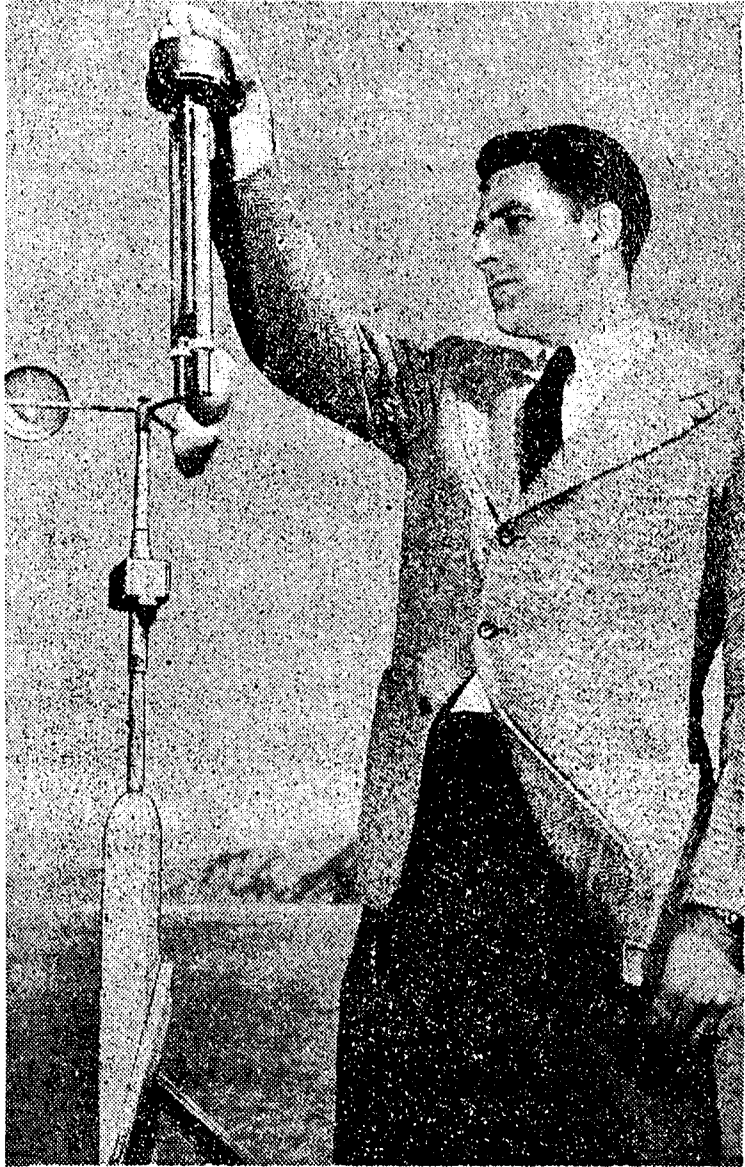
"It was pretty important," he said. "Our planes would be coming back with their gas tanks nearly empty. And then 10 minutes before they would land, a field of visibility of several miles would close in suddenly to zero.

"What we needed was a key to predicting that fog. The army at times needed a forecast 36 hours in advance and we had no methodical way of giving it to them. We set out to find a method. And as a result, I think the number of lives lost because of fog may be materially decreased."

To understand Leipper's method well enough to use it would require a course in meteorology. But the difficulties and the basic idea of his method can be understood by any layman.

Meteorologists already understood the theory of fog. They knew that if moist air became sufficiently chilled, fog was bound to form. They knew just how cold it had to be to produce fog in air of any degree of wetness.

"But that was laboratory science," Leipper said. "We didn't have lab-



Dale F. Leipper, former A.A.F. captain now working at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, believes he's found method to advance art of predicting fog. Before war he taught in Pacific Beach Junior High.

10-29-92  
W. Found this in a  
weekly supplement in  
our local newspaper  
titled Yesterday. Thought  
you might enjoy the  
nostalgia!  
Hope you are both well  
and "on the go."  
I'd love to have you  
visit us if you get to Ohio.  
J. v. M.