

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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June 1959—*Warm and sunny*

A westerly type of weather predominated for the first 10 days of the month, being interrupted between the 3rd and 5th. An anticyclone from the Azores moved into the country on the 11th and developed first northwards and then westwards, dominating our weather for 4 or 5 days and producing record pressures for June. There followed a short spell of north-westerly winds but another anticyclone developed over the country on 19th and moved to Scandinavia by 21st. Between the 22nd and 25th much of England was in a col in the pressure distribution but westerly winds were established over southern districts on 26th and subsequently extended to most parts of the British Isles.

June 1st was rather cool with occasional slight rain at first, followed by showers in the north. The next two days were warm and sunny, although some slight rain occurred here and there; on both days temperature exceeded 70°F. with over 14 hr. of sunshine at many places. By the 4th a pronounced ridge at 500 mb. had built up over western Europe and an exceptionally cold low was moving south from the Baltic towards the Balkans forming a temporary blocking pattern. Thunderstorms broke out on the 4th and 5th as a wave depression from the Bay of Biscay moved northwards over the British Isles. The storms were most severe in the north of England where at some places more than 1 in. of rain fell in 24 hr. With freshening westerly winds the next few days were cooler, but outbreaks of thundery rain or showers continued. Falls generally were not large, although there was some heavy rain in western districts on the 6th, and some places in west Scotland had more than 2 in. in 24 hr. on the 7th.

Pressure began to rise on the 10th as an anticyclone spread north-east from the Azores, and this was the beginning of a long spell of dry weather which lasted in most parts of the country for about 12 days. The anticyclone intensified, becoming centred over the country on the 12th, and by midnight the following night pressure in most districts was higher than had been recorded in any previous June anywhere in the British Isles during the last hundred years. Pressures exceeding 1042 mb. were reported from most parts of the country. At 500 mb. the centre of the anticyclone was situated to the west of Ireland, and reached the exceptional height of 6 km. The 14th was unusually sunny and warm especially in eastern Scotland and north-east England where some places recorded nearly 16 hr. of sunshine with temperature in excess of 80°F. Northerly winds brought unusually dry air to parts of East Anglia with dew points below 32°F. and relative humidities of the order of 20 per cent.

The following day the anticyclone moved westwards and cooler air spread southward to most districts; slight ground frost was experienced locally in the Midlands on the night of the 15/16th. Nevertheless the days were mainly sunny and rather warm from 16th to 21st with little measurable rain in England and Wales, although in Scotland it was rather wet.

An anticyclone, which had formed over England on the 19th, became centred over Scandinavia two days later. Winds over the British Isles, on its western flank, were light variable or southerly from 21st to 26th. Weather was generally warm and close, with good sunny periods, especially in the north, although there were frequent, and often heavy, outbreaks of thundery rain and thunderstorms. Temperature rose to 84°F. locally in eastern England and there were severe thunderstorms in Wales and the Midlands on the 24th and 25th; on the latter date 3 in. of rain fell in an hour and a half at Bristol and 2½ in. was recorded at Llanidloes, central Wales, in two hours. At Lerwick, on the other hand, 47.6 hr. of sunshine was registered in the three days 25th–27th.

The blocking Scandinavian high declined steadily after the 23rd and weather became somewhat cooler as winds veered to the west behind a depression which moved north-east towards west Scotland. The air, however, remained unstable over much of the country until the 29th; heavy rain occurred in the Pennines and the North Riding of Yorkshire on the 27th and 28th and thunderstorms broke out in south-east England on the 29th. The last day of the month was mainly fine, although a warm

front approaching from the Atlantic brought some rain to western districts by midnight.

Pressure and Wind. Mean pressure was everywhere above the 1921–50 average, the excess at 9 h. ranging from 1.9 mb. at Stornoway to 3.6 mb. at Spurn Head. Pressure rose to record levels all over the country on the 13th and reached 1042.9 mb. at Clones in Ireland, a value which compares with previous highest pressures for June in the British Isles of 1037.4 mb. at Rhayader in 1957 and 1036.5 mb. at Valentia in 1890. Winds were light and variable on the 3rd–5th, 11th–14th and on the 19th, and during the intervening periods from the beginning of the month were mainly between west and north-west. They were predominantly southerly on 20th–26th and westerly during the last few days of the month. Wind reached gale force in parts of Scotland on 9 days and parts of England and Wales on the 2nd, 6th–9th and 17th (6 days); gales were most prevalent in southern and western England on the 8th and in north-east England on the 17th. A gust of 58 kt. was recorded at Tiree on the 7th.

Temperature. Mean temperature was everywhere above the 1921–50 average the excess being 1.5°F. in England and Wales, 1.6°F. in Scotland and 1.7°F. in Northern Ireland. The coolest period was from 6th to 10th when afternoon temperatures did not reach the average. Temperature rose to 83°F. or 84°F. at a number of places in the Midlands, eastern and south-east England on the 17th and 24th.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 84°F. at several stations on 17th and 24th, 30°F. at Santon Downham on the 13th and at Alwen on the 19th; (Scotland) 83°F. at Dundee on the 14th, 30°F. at Glenlivet on the 11th; (Northern Ireland) 80°F. at Armagh on the 14th, 37°F. at Garvagh and Ely Lodge on the 4th and at Nutts Corner on the 19th.

Precipitation. The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1916–50 average was 80 in England and Wales, where it was the driest June since 1951, 109 in Scotland and 89 in Northern Ireland. Less than half the average occurred in western Cornwall, lowland Somerset, on the Sussex coast, in the Birmingham–Oxford area and in the Fen district. More than 150 per cent. of the average was recorded in parts of southern and mid-Wales, in the English Lake District and on the western coasts of Inverness-shire and Ross-shire.

In Scotland there was little rain between 10th and 20th the 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th being dry in most places. In east Scotland the 24th and 25th were also dry, but rain occurred most other days. In England and Wales many places had 15 days or more without measurable rain from the 10th; Scarborough had no measurable rain from 9th to 25th inclusive.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hr. were:—

- 7th 3.15 in. at Conaglen, Argyllshire.
- 24th 3.26 in. at Swansea Waterworks.
- 25th 3.40 in. at Broadstairs, Kent and 3.69 at Hanham (Conham Sewage Works), Gloucestershire, about 3 in. of which fell in about 90 min. from 1330 G.M.T.

Thunder was heard on the 6th–8th and 21st–29th in Scotland and on the 1st, 4th–6th, 8th–12th, 16th, 19th and 21st–29th in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 24th and 25th and were prevalent in north-east England also on the 5th, 22nd, 27th and 28th. In Northern Ireland they were widespread on the 27th.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921–50 average was 115 in England and Wales, 109 in Scotland and 123 in Northern Ireland. Few places reported less than 95 per cent. of average sunshine.

Fog. Early morning fog occurred at one place or another on 11 days in Scotland and 12 days in England and Wales; it was most prevalent on the 5th, 23rd and 26th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was not reported as being seen during the month from any part of the British Isles.