

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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November 1954—Wet; very unsettled from 22nd onwards; severe gales during the last week.

Apart from a period of anticyclonic weather from the 14th to 20th, conditions were mainly unsettled. During the last week intense depressions from the Atlantic passing over or near the British Isles gave widespread gales, severe and prolonged in some areas. Frequent rain during the last ten days caused extensive flooding.

On the 1st an almost stationary front lay over south-east England maintaining cloudy weather, with slight rain in the south, and a ridge off our north-west coasts moved south-east; there were long sunny periods at some places in the north-west on the 1st and locally in the south also on the 2nd in those places free from mist or fog. On the 3rd a cold front associated with an Icelandic depression moved south-east over Scotland and later became slow moving over Wales and central districts of England. On the 4th and 5th wave depressions moved along the front giving considerable rain at times in England and Wales. The front did not clear the south-east of the country until the 7th, but a ridge of high pressure off our north-west coasts moving south-east gave a fair day at many places in Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 6th and severe frost on the morning of the 7th. Throughout the second week of the month a westerly air-stream brought a succession of rainbelts across the whole country, though they were too fast moving to give prolonged rain. On the 11th, however, an active depression moving north-east across the north of Scotland brought two days of gales with a gust of 88 kt. at Stornoway and the resulting high tides in the North Sea caused serious flooding at Hull. A change of type occurred on the 14th when an anticyclone off our south-west coasts moved in over the British Isles and mainly dry, quiet, foggy conditions prevailed over much of the country until the 20th. The fog was widespread, particularly in England and the Glasgow area and frost occurred in many places in the early morning especially on the 15th, 17th and 18th. On the 21st the anticyclone was displaced towards the continent and during the next few days frontal troughs moved slowly eastward across the country giving heavy rainfall at times. From the 26th onwards a succession of intense Atlantic depressions moved northwards over or near the British Isles and the whole country was in the path of gales extending over most of the North Atlantic; strong gales swept our coasts and ships were wrecked in their vicinity. Considerable rain occurred daily from the 21st until the 30th and there were serious floods in many parts of the country.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was everywhere below the average for the period 1901–30; the deviation at 9h. ranged from –1.2 mb. at Croydon and Felixstowe to –6.8 mb. at Stornoway. Winds from between south and west predominated. Gales occurred frequently, particularly from the 8th to 12th and the 21st to 30th. The gale on the 11th–12th was very severe in the north of Scotland; a mean hourly speed of 51 kt. was registered at Stornoway on the 11th. Gales were widespread from the 26th to 30th and were severe on the coasts and the neighbouring seas; several ships were wrecked, for example, on the 27th the tanker *World Concord* broke in two in the Irish Sea, another tanker sank without trace off the Cornish coast and the *South Goodwin Lightship* broke adrift and overturned with the loss of all but one of her crew. In the south-west the gales were very prolonged; at the Lizard the anemograph (effective height of the vane 60 ft.) showed a speed of 34 kt. or more continuously from 7h. on the 26th to 2h. on the 28th and from 16h. on the 29th to 18h. on the 30th; during the hour ending at 22h. on the 26th the mean velocity was as high as 64 kt. Among the highest gusts, in knots, were 88 at Stornoway on the 11th, 85 at Lizard on the 26th, 91 at Scilly on the 29th and 84 at Milford Haven on the 30th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature differed from the average for the period 1921–50 by +0.9°F. in England and Wales, –0.1°F. in Scotland and –0.6°F. in Northern Ireland. Temperatures reached

60°F. at one or two places in the extreme south on the 2nd, more widely in England and Wales on the 6th and 11th and it touched 60°F. also at Dunbar on the 11th. Low minimum temperatures were registered on the 7th in Scotland and Northern Ireland and more generally in the anticyclonic period, particularly on the 15th, 17th and 18th.

Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 64°F. at Polegate on the 6th and Colwyn Bay on the 11th, 21°F. at Lincoln on the 15th, Kielder Castle and Shawbury on the 17th and Elmdon on the 18th; (Scotland) 60°F. at Dunbar on the 11th, 18°F. at Glenlivet, Braemar and Logie Coldstone on the 7th; (Northern Ireland) 59°F. at Armagh on the 11th, 24°F. at Aldergrove on the 7th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 190 over England and Wales and 149 over both Scotland and Northern Ireland. Rainfall was less than average at some places in the north and extreme south-east of Scotland; it was more than twice the average in parts of south-west Scotland, the Lake District, south Lancashire, south and east Wales, most of the Midlands, East Riding of Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and parts of Devon. At Abergavenny; in Monmouthshire, it was three times the average.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

8th	2.35 in. at Borrowdale, Cumberland and 2.17 in. at Patterdale, Westmorland.
11th	2.02 in. at Dunsop Houses, Yorkshire.
22nd	2.45 in. at Tiree Airport and 2.22 in. at Treherbert, Glamorgan.
23rd	2.16 in. at both Lowery, Dartmoor and at Borrowdale.
25th	2.00 in. at Cricket St. Thomas, Somerset.
26th	2.45 in. at Borrowdale and 2.42 in. at Ashburton, Devonshire.
27th	3.25 in. at Thirlmere, Cumberland and more than 2 in. at numerous other places.
30th	2.38 in. at Thirlmere.

The frequent rainfall in the latter part of the month gave large totals for the last ten days; for example, 13.67 in. at Patterdale, 13.32 in. at Borrowdale, 11.21 in. at Tredegar, Monmouthshire and 11.06 in. at Princetown.

Thunderstorms occurred at times, mainly on the 9th, 11th–13th and 25th–30th; they were fairly widespread in southern districts of England and Wales on the 28th and 30th.

Showers of sleet or snow occurred locally on the 5th–12th, 13th, 16th, 18th, 21st–24th, 26th–27th and 30th. There were no really heavy falls though snow lay a few inches deep on high ground in Scotland on the 24th; for example, 2½ in. at Glenlivet and Glengavel, 4 in. at Dalwhinnie and 5 in. at Leadhills.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 102 over England and Wales, 94 over Scotland and 89 over Northern Ireland. Considerably more than the average sunshine was registered in the extreme south-east of Scotland, much of northern England and north Wales and locally in east and south-east England. Appreciably less than average occurred at some places in the south of England, south Wales and west and north-west Scotland.

Fog.—The chief periods with fog were the 1st, 2nd, 5th–8th and during the anticyclonic spell from the 14th to 21st. Fog was persistent most of the day in parts of England and south Scotland on the 17th, 18th and 19th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 14 nights.