

# 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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### July 1952—Dry; rather warm; sunny in south and east Scotland and north-east England.

The month was dry except in a few scattered areas, chiefly in the north-west. Sunshine was less than the average in Northern Ireland and at most places in the western half of England and Wales but in southern and eastern Scotland and part of north-east England there was a substantial excess. There were rapid variations of temperature but mean temperature for the month somewhat exceeded the average except in the north of Scotland. An absolute drought prevailed at many places in the southern half of England towards the end of the month.

On the 1st a depression over the Bay of Biscay moved north-north-east across England, while another westward of Scotland moved north-east; severe thunderstorms and heavy rain occurred widely in western, central and northern England and local thunderstorms in south-west Scotland and Ireland. It was very warm on the 1st, particularly in the south-east where temperatures reached 90°F. at a number of places. A cold front moved across south-eastern districts on the 2nd with little rainfall but a rain area developed behind the front and it was persistently wet on the 3rd, though amounts were small except in the extreme south-east. Temperature fell rapidly; for example the maximum at London Airport on the 3rd was 32°F. lower than on the 1st. On the 4th an anticyclone moved north-east across the British Isles being centred over southern Scandinavia by the 6th and temperature rose again, reaching 80°F at some places on the 5th and 88°F. at Mildenhall on the 6th. Between the 6th and 8th a complex depression off our south-west coasts moved north over Ireland and western Scotland. In the early hours of the 6th there was a widespread outbreak of thunderstorms in the south-western half of England and much of Wales, the storms being severe in places. Later that day thunderstorms occurred fairly widely but rainfall was variable. Heavy rain occurred also in south-west England and locally in Scotland on the 7th. Subsequently pressure was high to the south and low to the north of the British Isles and a westerly type of weather developed which lasted until the 19th. In the southern half of the country there was little or no rainfall during this spell except at some places, chiefly in the south-east, on the 11th. The period 12th–18th was mainly cool. By the 20th a ridge of high pressure extended north-east over the British Isles from the Azores anticyclone and a spell of warm, close dry weather ensued, though some rain fell at times, chiefly in the west and north of Scotland. From the 26th to 28th a depression over Iceland moved to a position off Denmark; temperature fell rapidly and scattered rain occurred, mostly in the north and east. Drought conditions ended locally in the south on the 29th, when minor troughs of low pressure moving in from the Atlantic brought westerly winds and some rain, accompanied by a rise in temperature. Thunderstorms occurred at a number of places in the north of England on the 31st.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure exceeded the average; the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from +1.4 mb. at Lerwick to +4.8 mb. at Douglas and Newquay. Winds from some westerly point predominated; at Southport there were more due westerly winds than in any other July since 1928. Gale force was reached at exposed stations in southern England on the 4th and 5th and locally in extreme south-west England on the 7th and northern England on the 13th and 28th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 50 at Dover on the 3rd and at Sicily on the 4th, 46 at Plymouth on the 5th and 47 at Durham on the 19th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature exceeded the average in most places except in the north and north-west of Scotland; the deviation from the average was +1.5°F. in England and Wales, +0.6°F. in

Scotland and +1.4°F. in Northern Ireland. The first twelve days and the period from about the 19th to 26th were warm on the whole; in particular the 1st was a very warm day, with the temperature reaching 90°F. at some places in the south-east. It was cool from the 12th to 18th and 27th to 29th. There were rapid variations of temperature at times, notably during the sharp falls on the 2nd, 3rd and 27th. At London Airport the maximum on the 3rd was only 60°F. as compared with 92°F. on the 1st.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 92°F. at Camden Square, London Airport and Southampton on the 1st, 32°F. at Bellingham on the 15th; (Scotland) 82°F. at Kinloss on the 1st and at Achnashellach, Forres, Colmonell and West Freugh on the 6th, 33°F. at Glenmore Lodge on the 6th; (Northern Ireland) 75°F. at Castlerock on the 1st and 5th and at Garvagh on the 6th and 7th, 40°F. at Garvagh on the 4th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 47 over England and Wales, 79 over Scotland and 55 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales and Northern Ireland it was the driest July since 1935. More than the average occurred in scattered areas in west Scotland and in the neighbourhood of Cockle Park, Hull and Manchester Airport. Less than 25 per cent. of the average occurred over much of a large area extending from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire to Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Gloucestershire and then south across Wiltshire and Hampshire. Less than 10 per cent. was received at Cranwell and Cirencester. At numerous places in the south of England no significant rainfall occurred from the 12th to the 29th and at some the drought lasted until the 30th or 31st. Locally in the south-west the dry weather was still more prolonged, namely from the 8th to the 30th or the 31st.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

1st 2.35 in. at Goytshead, Buxton, 2.18 in. at Hednesford (Staffordshire), 2.12 in. at Taxal (Derbyshire) and Cockle Park (Northumberland), 2.11 in. at Stalybridge (Cheshire), 2.08 in. at Wrexham (Denbighshire) and 2.07 in. at Princetown (Devonshire).

7th 2.19 in. at Drumlanrig Castle (Dumfriesshire).

Thunderstorms occurred on the 1st–8th, 10th–15th, 27th, 29th and 31st; they were widespread on the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th. The storms on the 1st were severe and accompanied by heavy rain in western, central and northern districts of England.

**Sunshine.**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–35 was 97 over England and Wales, 114 over Scotland and 78 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland totals substantially exceeded the average except in the north and north-west; at Renfrew it was the sunniest July since records were first taken in 1921 and at Glasgow and Perth the sunniest since 1919. It was also considerably sunnier than usual in some parts of north-east England but in Northern Ireland and at most places in the western half of England and Wales totals were below the average. The 4th and 5th were unusually sunny days except in the south-west; Leuchars registered 16.2 hr. on the 4th and Felixstowe and Dyce 16.0 hr. on the 5th.

**Fog.**—There was not much fog but it developed locally, chiefly at night and in the morning, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 5th–11th, 17th, 19th–26th and 29th–31st.

**Miscellaneous Phenomenon.**—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on nine days.