

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

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

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## APRIL, 1925: MAINLY COOL AND WET.

**General.**—The weather during April was generally changeable and showery, with many sunny periods and a rainfall above normal in all districts. Snow fell in several parts of Scotland during the first few days of the month, and lay to a depth of more than 6in. in Edinburgh on the 1st. A ridge of high pressure moved across England on the 3rd, and was associated with sharp frost on the morning of the 4th, when a grass minimum temperature of 11°F. was recorded at Oundle in Northamptonshire. Pressure subsequently remained low near Ireland for many days, giving southerly winds, moderate rain and warmer weather. A rainfall of 38mm. was recorded at Colmonell (Ayr) on the 4th. Maximum readings of 66°F. were recorded at Reading and at S. Farnborough on the 8th and at Worksop on the 12th. Local thunderstorms were experienced during this period, and fog or mist occurred in the eastern and southern parts of Great Britain on several mornings.

On the 13th there was a change to westerly winds, and a deep depression passing across the north of Scotland was associated with high winds and gales in many parts from the 15th to the 18th. Thunder also occurred in many places on the 15th. Gusts of over 60 m.p.h. were reported from several places, and on the morning of the 16th gusts of 80 m.p.h. (83 m.p.h. at Fleetwood) occurred on the north-west coasts of England, while the airship, R.33, was torn from her moorings at Pulham. The highest gusts of the month were experienced on the 16th over a considerable portion of England; Table II should be consulted for further details. On the 17th a rainfall of 39mm. was recorded at Rothesay (Bute). Between the 19th and 21st a ridge of high pressure passed across the British Isles and fair or fine weather prevailed. Over 13 hours bright sunshine were recorded in parts of Ireland on the 19th and 20th, and screen minimum temperatures below 32°F. occurred in many places. High north-east winds and gales were experienced in the Straits of Dover early in the morning of the 21st. As the high pressure ridge moved southwards a depression developed rapidly off the Hebrides on the 22nd, and high south-westerly winds occurred in exposed places in the north and west, with heavy rain in northern England; from two stations in the Lake District, Dungeon Ghyll and Hawkshead, 55mm. and 44mm. were reported on the 22nd.

During the last week the weather continued generally unsettled, though with many bright periods. Local thunderstorms were of frequent occurrence, especially in the south-eastern area, and were accompanied by hail in several instances. Snow showers fell locally, more especially in Scotland.

The general character of the month is illustrated by the following remarks taken from observers' notes:—Copdock (Suffolk).—An unpleasant month with sunshine below normal and the number of wet days, though not the rainfall, above normal. Berwick-on-Tweed. —A wet April, with high average of sunshine. Fairly calm, prevailing winds easterly. Newport (Isle of Wight).—A showery month with variable winds and moderate temperature. Sidmouth. —A great deal of cold wind. Southport. —A sunny westerly month but otherwise very normal except for the whole gale on the 16th, which greatly blackened exposed trees and bushes. Torquay. —Generally unsettled; sunshine, temperature and rainfall showed little departure from the normal. Walton-on-Naze. —A bad month for vegetation. Everything backward on account of cold nights and generally low temperature. Paisley. —The wettest April for at least 40 years. Greenock. —The only wetter April on record was that of 1904. Dublin. —A cool and showery month. The nights were often clear and cold, the following days showing, rapid cloud formation of the cumulus type with showers of rain and hail in the afternoon hours on many occasions.

**Pressure and Winds.**—The mean pressure was everywhere below normal. The deviation of monthly means of pressure at fixed hours varied from 5.8mb. at Stornoway to 1.4mb. at Scilly. The prevailing winds were S.W. to W., the isobars of mean pressure tending roughly from west to east over the southern part of the British Isles and from south-west to north-east over the northern part. The diversity of paths followed by the month's depressions is shown by the complex chart of depression tracks. At most stations the highest gust occurred

during the gales on the 15th and 16th associated with the passage of the depression (Track H). At Fleetwood and Southport gusts of 83 m.p.h. and 80 m.p.h. were recorded on the 16th. In Scotland gales on the 22nd and 23rd were associated with the passage of the depression Track L, and at Lerwick a gust of 78 m.p.h. was recorded on the 23rd. The highest recorded pressure was 1029mb. at Eskdalemuir on the 20th and the lowest 973mb. at Stornoway on the 15th.

**Temperature.**—The mean temperature of districts 1-10 was 44.6°F. The second and third weeks were the warmest, and the week ending May 2nd the coldest. At most stations in England and Wales the absolute maximum temperature for the month occurred on the 8th or the 12th, the absolute minimum on the 3rd or 4th. In Scotland the highest temperature occurred generally about the 20th, the lowest screen temperature during the first few days of the month. In one district only, England E., the mean temperature was slightly above normal, the excess amounting to 0.1°F. (mean temperature 45.7°F.). The greatest deficiency, 1.5°F., occurred in Scotland E. (mean temperature 41.7°F.). The extreme temperatures for the month were:—(England and Wales) 66°F. at Reading and South Farnborough on the 8th and at Worksop on the 12th, 21°F. at Marlborough on the 4th; (Scotland) 65°F. at Smeaton on the 21st, 17°F. at Braemar on the 1st; (Ireland) 62°F. at Glasnevin and Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 21st, 23°F. at Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 3rd.

Ground frosts were numerous and occurred in every week. A grass minimum temperature of 11°F. was recorded at Oundle on the morning of the 4th.

**Precipitation.**—Precipitation was above normal in all districts. Areas where the rainfall was less than normal comprised parts of western England and Wales, a small area near the mouth of the Thames and parts of the extreme north and north-east of Scotland. Precipitation was more than twice the normal over a considerable area of southern central Scotland and over small areas in southern England, central Ireland and western Scotland.

The beginning and end of the month were the driest, the third week the wettest. In Scotland, the heavy rainfall of the 17th-18th caused destructive flooding.

The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal was 145, the values for the countries were:—England and Wales 133 per cent., Scotland 164 per cent., Ireland 154 per cent.

Thunder was reported from many places in east and south-east England on the 7th, and occurred generally during the last week of the month. In Scotland thunder occurred at some places in the west and south on 8th and 9th, in the east on 18th and 25th, and here and there on the 23rd, 24th and 30th.

A few stations in England and Wales reported snow on two or three days; in Scotland snow occurred in some districts on the 15th and 29th.

**Sunshine.**—Sunshine was in excess in Scotland and Ireland and in the western districts of England and Wales. The largest mean daily excess, 0.92 hr., was experienced in Ireland N., the largest deficiency, 1.05 hr., in England E. The former district had 41 per cent. of the possible duration and the latter 32 per cent. A number of records exceeded 13 hrs.

**Fog.**—Fog was reported on a few occasions. It occurred at most stations during the week ending on the 11th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—Halos of 22° were observed frequently. Parhelia were observed at Oxford on six occasions, at Dublin on the 8th and at Lympne on the 18th. The Zodiacal Light was observed at Ross-on-Wye on the 12th, 15th and 16th, and at Oxford on the 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 23rd and 24th. Aurora was seen at Gordon Castle on the 15th and at Tenbury on the 27th. A sun pillar was recorded at Oxford on the 29th.