

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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**AUGUST, 1939.—Dry on the whole but frequent thunderstorms; cool at first then warm.**

The month was dry in Scotland, Ireland and most of northern and western England; rainfall was excessive, however, over a large area in east and south-east England and the eastern Midlands. The first part of the month was mainly cool but the latter half was warm.

During the first eleven days cool and unsettled conditions prevailed on the whole. On the 1st, shallow troughs of low pressure moved eastward over the country and from the 2nd–4th a shallow depression moved south-east over the British Isles; rain fell in many places and local thunderstorms occurred, but in the west and north weather improved on the 3rd and fair, sunny weather was general in those areas on the 4th. A depression over north-east France drifted north-west on the 5th and caused further thunderstorms in England. Between the 6th and 11th secondary troughs of low pressure passed eastward over the British Isles; somewhat cool weather occurred for the most part, with local thunderstorms.

Pressure rose on the 12th and there ensued a period of mainly anticyclonic conditions, with good records of bright sunshine, which lasted over the 18th.

Subsequently a depression over France drifted northward and a spell of warm, thundery weather prevailed; the storms were severe locally in England between the 19th and 21st. Apart from a little local rain in south-east England, weather was mainly fair on the 23rd, and on the 24th there was scattered rain in eastern districts of England with local thunderstorms in that area on the night of the 24th–25th. From the 26th onwards pressure was high to the north-east or north of the British Isles and low westward of Ireland. Rather unsettled, warm weather prevailed and thunderstorms occurred locally between the 26th and 29th. In the Hebrides the last four days of the month were markedly sunny; at Stornoway the total sunshine for these days was 47 hours.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the north; the deviation from the average at 7h. ranged from +1.4 mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly and Portland Bill to +6.3 mb. at Lerwick. A gale was reported at St. Ann's Head on the evening of the 9th. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 53 m.p.h. at Larkhill on the 21st, 51 m.p.h. at Lympne on the 10th, 49 m.p.h. at Manston on the 20th and 45 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 14th and at Valentia Observatory on the 31st.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature exceeded the average, the deviation from the average for the districts ranging from +1.0°F. in England, S.E. and Ireland, N. to +2.2°F. in England, N.W. The first 12 days were mainly cool; subsequently temperature rose and the remainder of the month was warm on the whole. Minimum temperatures were frequently high from the 20th onwards.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 85°F. at Canterbury on the 21st, 38°F. at Thetford on the 13th; (Scotland)

78°F. at Perth, Marchmont, Kelso and Wolfelee on the 18th, at Ruthwell on the 19th and at Kilmarnock on the 28th, 31°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 5th; (Ireland) 77°F. at Foynes on the 13th and at Birr Castle on the 28th and 40°F. at Phoenix Park, Dublin, on the 6th, at Garvagh on the 6th and 23rd and at Aldergrove on the 23rd.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 70, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 87, Scotland 51 and Ireland 50.

In Scotland and Ireland the deficiency was general. In England and Wales more than the average occurred over most of the eastern counties and parts of south-east England and the Midlands as well as in a few isolated areas elsewhere. More than twice the average occurred locally in the London area, at Wellingborough (Northamptonshire) and at Ridlington (Rutland). On the other hand, over most of Wales and the northern and western districts of England there was a deficiency.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 2nd 2.19 in. at Hoylake.
- 4th 2.07 in. at Maldon (Essex).
- 5th 2.18 in. at Brigg (Lincolnshire) and 2.02 in. at Wymondham (Norfolk).
- 19th 2.20 in. at Tenby.
- 20th 4.52 in. at Blandford (Dorset), 2.74 in. at Whorlton Vicarage (County Durham), 2.24 in. at Luton, 2.20 in. at Exmouth and 2.05 in. at Shaftesbury.
- 21st 2.70 in. at Warwick.

Local thunderstorms occurred frequently, particularly between the 1st and 11th and 19th and 29th. Lightning caused considerable loss of life in the London area on the 21st and at Jedburgh, in Roxburgh, two people were killed by lightning on the 26th.

**Sunshine.**—Sunshine exceeded the average on the whole in the west and north of Scotland and in Ireland. At some places in these districts the excess was notable; for example, the percentage of the average was 159 at Stornoway, 141 at Tiree and Mallaranny, 140 at Malin Head, 139 at Onich and 135 at Valentia Observatory. There was, in general, a deficiency of sunshine in east Scotland, north-east and east England and the Midlands; in other districts of England it was variable, an excess being recorded at numerous stations and a deficiency at others. The week ending the 19th was sunny over the country generally.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred frequently from the 14th–31st; it was widespread at times. Some fog was reported earlier in the month, particularly from the 6th–9th and on the 11th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on seven nights. Solar halos were noted in Oxford on five days.