

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers

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July 1960—*Cool; wet except in parts of Scotland. Frequent thunderstorms.*

Apart from the first few days, weather throughout the month was dominated by cyclonic activity, a well developed frontal system or depression reaching the British Isles from the Atlantic every few days. Many of the troughs and depressions became slow moving on reaching the neighbourhood of the British Isles.

The rather cool anticyclonic weather prevailing at the end of June continued during the first three days of July; on the 1st, parts of Devon and Cornwall had over 15hr. of sunshine and there was ground frost at nights at one or two places. However, on the 4th, the declining anticyclone was replaced by a frontal system which brought rain to many districts. Rain was widespread on the 5th and 6th, being frequently heavy in the north, as a deepening depression from the Atlantic became slow moving over Scotland and northern England; on the 6th more than 1in. of rain in 24hr. was widely recorded in the North and Midlands, while west of Slaidburn, Yorkshire, there were falls of over 5in.

The next three days were showery with thunder locally but with a good deal of sunshine, many places having more than 10hr. daily. On the 10th and 11th a complex depression moved from southern Ireland to the North Sea and rain was widespread in all districts except north-west Scotland. Thunderstorms occurred in many areas on the 12th.

From 13th to 19th weather was changeable with some rain or showers in most places; frontal rain was widespread on the night of the 16th/17th with falls of over 1in. locally in south-west England and western Scotland. There were thunderstorms at one place or another in the British Isles every day during this period and they were heavy locally on the 19th.

A ridge of high pressure moved across the country on the 20th, and although there were a few light showers in some places, this was generally the driest day for two weeks.

The next day a vigorous trough, associated with a developing depression near Iceland, moved eastwards across the country accompanied by widespread rain and local thunder. On the 22nd, in the north-westerly winds behind the trough, thunderstorms became frequent and heavy at times, with hail in places.

The warm sector of a depression centred near Iceland moved across the British Isles on the 23rd and 24th, and weather became generally dull and mild with coastal fog in the south-west, but little rain. Two showery days followed with the depression remaining stationary over Iceland, but on the night of the 27th/28th there was widespread and locally heavy rain in southern England as the warm front of a deepening Atlantic depression moved eastward across the country; more than 1in. of rain fell in some places in the south-west. The 28th was warm and humid with occasional slight rain or drizzle in places, but with an almost stationary depression to the west of Scotland, this soon gave way to bright showery weather which lasted until the end of the month.

Pressure and Wind. Pressure was everywhere below the average, the deficit at 9hr. ranging from 5.4mb. at Tiree to 2.0mb. at Scilly. Winds, which were mainly northerly on the 1st, 7th and 8th and light and variable on the 2nd and 3rd, were otherwise generally between south-west and west until the 18th. North-westerly winds predominated from 19th to 22nd after which winds became mainly westerly until the 26th and then

south-westerly until the end of the month. Wind reached gale force locally in Scotland on the 6th, 16th, 17th and 21st, and in England and Wales on the 6th, 11th, 17th and 18th. A gust of 57kt. was recorded at Southport on the 6th.

Temperature. After four months with above average temperature, mean temperature was almost everywhere below the average, the deficit being 1.9° F. in England and Wales, 0.7° F. in Scotland and 0.7° F. in Northern Ireland. The low mean temperatures in England and Wales were mainly due to low maximum temperatures, especially in south-east England where the mean maximum was 3.9° F. below the average. The highest temperatures recorded during the month at Kew (72° F.) and at Hastings (67° F.) were the lowest July maxima at these stations since records began in 1888 and 1874 respectively. Ground frost occurred at a number of places on the 1st-4th and there was air frost locally on the 1st, 3rd and 4th.

Extremes included:—(England and Wales) 77° F. at Mansfield on the 4th, 30° F. at Santon Downham and Moor House on the 1st and at Alwen on the 3rd; (Scotland) 74° F. at Fort William on the 7th, 30° F. at Halkirk on the 4th; (Northern Ireland) 72° F. at Kilkeel on the 24th, 40° F. at Ely Lodge on the 16th.

Precipitation. The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 141 over England and Wales, 95 over Scotland and 164 over Northern Ireland. Over most of Scotland rainfall was below average, half the average being recorded in central Inverness-shire and Orkney. More than twice the average occurred locally in north-west England, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. On the 6th, south of the Bowland Forest, Yorkshire (W. Riding) heavy rain fell continuously from 3am until midnight. The following amounts were recorded in 24hr. by gauges in the district:—5.07in. at Haredon Valley, 5.03in. at Langden Brook, 4.18in. at Footholm and 4.09in. at Dunsop Houses. It was the wettest July at Stonyhurst since at least 1907, while at Moor House there was measurable rain every day of the month.

Thunder was widespread in Scotland on the 7th and 13th and occurred at one place or another on 19 days, the highest number of days in any month since July 1953. In England and Wales thunder was heard at one place or another on every day of the month except 1st-4th and 27th-29th and occurred at a number of places on 8 days during the month; it was widespread on the 8th, 12th and 22nd.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 85 in England and Wales, 100 in Scotland and 102 in Northern Ireland. Over most of central and southern Scotland sunshine was below average but the western Isles and all districts north of Aberdeen had more than the average, the excess being greatest in Orkney. It was also above average locally in Cornwall and North Wales.

Fog. Early morning fog occurred in many western districts on the 24th and 28th and at one place or another in the British Isles on 12 other days.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was reported in Scotland on the nights of the 17th/18th and 25th/26th. A small whirlwind did some structural damage at Taversham, near Northwich, on the 20th.