

# Monthly Weather Report

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

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### June, 1950 - Warm and Sunny; very warm during the first week.

The weather was warm in the British Isles generally and sunny in England, Wales and south Scotland. Over most of England and Wales it was mainly dry, with some thundery outbreaks, but in the north and west of Scotland it was very wet.

From the 1st-7th the situation was dominated by a ridge of high pressure extending from an anticyclone centred most of the time over southern Scandinavia and the Baltic. Very warm, sunny, and mainly dry weather prevailed, but thundery rain or thunderstorms occurred locally, especially on the 2nd and 5th. There was some rain from the 2nd-4th, mainly near the western coasts of Ireland and Scotland associated with weak Atlantic fronts which failed to penetrate far inland. The period 3rd to 7th was particularly warm with temperatures exceeding 80°F. at many places and at least as far north as the Glasgow neighbourhood. The Continental system was weakening on the 7th and a cold front, which first affected northwest Scotland on that date, crossed the country on the 8th to clear the southeast of England by the morning of the 9th. There was rain locally in west and north Scotland, and in Ireland, and considerable falls of temperature occurred everywhere behind the front. A ridge from the Azores anticyclone covered the British Isles at midday on the 9th, but was followed by the warm sector of a secondary depression which moved southeast on the 9th-10th, mainly affecting Scotland; there was some rain in the northwest. Fine dry weather persisted in the south where an anticyclone developed, and this then moved northeast to cover the North Sea from the early morning of the 11th to the evening of the 12th. Meanwhile from a low pressure system over the Iberian peninsula a centre formed off Portugal on the 10th and moved slowly northwest with an associated front, which moved north over France, affecting southern districts of England by the 12th. Thus while temperatures rose again, with mainly fair weather, on the 10th-11th, the situation was beginning to break down on the 12th with thundery conditions spreading north from the Channel at the same time as a weak cold front was approaching Scotland from the northwest. On the 12th-13th thunderstorms occurred in the southern half of England; further north, though it was fine on the 12th, it was generally cloudy by the 13th with some light rain or drizzle in many places. The high pressure over the North Sea had given place to a complex trough extending southwestwards from southern Scandinavia, and the cold front which had moved down from north crossed southern England to lie along the Channel by the evening of the 14th. Moderate rain occurred over wide areas both before and behind this front, and temperatures fell. On the 15th-16th there was low pressure to the north of Scotland, but also off Portugal, and the northwesterly airstream over the British Isles was rather feeble. Cooler weather prevailed, though it was mainly dry in England and Wales except for the northwest. A slightly more definite westerly airstream which developed temporarily on the 17th was interrupted with the formation of a secondary depression off Ireland. The track curved from a southerly direction round to northeast, to bring the centre to a position off Scilly late on the 19th. During this period the British Isles were situated for the most part in a complex trough of low pressure with its axis lying first from northeast to southwest, later becoming north to south. Weather became warmer, but there was some rain or drizzle in most areas, southeast England being the least affected. From the 20th-22nd a shallow depression which had formed near Iceland on the 19th moved from a position to the north of Scotland to the southern North Sea, and then to south Scandinavia. An associated occlusion swung over the whole of the British Isles, rather slowly, causing widespread rain which was moderately heavy at times in some places. Much of this rain was of a thundery type and thunderstorms occurred widely during the three days, especially in the eastern half of England. By the 23rd higher pressure was building up over France, resulting in a more definite westerly type of

weather, with a succession of depressions and fronts affecting the British Isles from then to the end of the month. There was rain at times in all areas but in the south and east it was relatively fair. Temperatures were again generally above average.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deviations for 09h. ranging from -4.2 mb. at Lerwick to +0.3 mb. at Portland Bill. Prevailing winds over the country as a whole were between southwest and northwest, but this was in large measure due to the persistent westerlies of the last week of the month. Gales were non-existent apart from two isolated instances in Scotland near the end of the month; the highest gusts recorded were 53 knots at Durham, 29th; 51 knots at Plymouth, 11th; and 47 knots at Stornoway, 29th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was above the average, with deviations for the districts ranging from +4.5°F. in England, NE. and England, E. to +1.9°F. in Scotland, N. (see Table I). The warm spell during the first week was notable for some warm nights as well as for the high day temperatures; a minimum of 62°F. at Kew on the 6th and one of 67°F. at Glasgow on the 7th, were outstanding. The coolest weather was on the 14th with maxima nowhere much above 60°F.

The extremes for the month included.—(England and Wales) 92°F. in London (Camden Sq.) on the 6th, and 36°F. at Totnes on the 16th; (Scotland) 88°F. at Glasgow on the 6th, and 31°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 21st; (Northern Ireland) 84°F. at Lisburn and Castlerock on the 6th, and 39°F. at Garvagh on the 21st and 23rd and at Aldergrove on the 19th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 77 over England and Wales, 123 over Scotland, and 96 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred over the Central Lowlands, Perth, and as far north as the southern half of Aberdeenshire; more than twice the average fell in the extreme northwest and over two small areas, one in Ross and Cromarty, the other to the south of Ben Nevis. In England and Wales more than the average was experienced in parts of Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire and W. Yorkshire, over most of Norfolk, over central Devon, and in parts of Wales mainly on the west coast; less than half the average occurred in an inland belt running from north Nottinghamshire to Durham. In Northern Ireland the driest part, with about three-quarters of the average was in the extreme east, around Strangford Lough; rather more than the average fell over northwest Armagh, Tyrone, Londonderry and north Antrim.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:

2nd 2.60 in. at West Molesey and 2.33 in., which fell in 72 minutes, at Hampton Waterworks.

26th 2.20 in. at Blaenau Festiniog.

28th 2.53 in. at Achnashellach and 2.69 in. at Onich.

Thunderstorms occurred mainly on the 2nd, 5th, 7th, 12th-13th, 18th, and 20th-22nd, with other scattered outbreaks around the main periods.

Snow fell on two days at Dalwhinnie.

**Sunshine.**—Sunshine was less than the average in north Scotland, slightly above average elsewhere in Scotland and in Northern Ireland, and well above average over most of England, the northwest being least sunny.

**Fog.**—Much of the month was virtually free from fog, but it occurred locally mainly in the night and early morning, and particularly on the 3rd-5th, 11th, 20th and in lesser degree on the 26th-27th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed on one night from Northern Ireland and solar halos were observed on eight days at Oxford.