

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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AUGUST, 1945.—Sunny and dry in the north-west of the British Isles, dull in the south-east.

The month was warm, sunny and dry generally in the west of Scotland, north-west England and Northern Ireland. Rainfall exceeded the average over fairly large areas in east Britain and in the west Midlands and it was dull on the whole over most of England except the north-west. Severe thunderstorms were reported in Scotland on the 5th and in England and Wales on the 28th-29th.

Mainly anticyclonic conditions with sunny, warm weather prevailed from the 1st-3rd although it was rather cool in England on the 1st. On the 4th a depression south-east of Iceland moved north-north-east and on the 4th and 5th an associated trough moved slowly east. Local rain occurred in the north and west on the 4th and rain fell in most districts, with somewhat widespread thunderstorms on the 5th and 6th. On the 7th a depression over the North Sea moved south-west and later swung east; rain occurred at most places in England and south Scotland on the 7th and in parts of England and Ireland on the 8th and there were local thunderstorms. On the 9th the depression was situated over Germany and heavy rain fell in south-east and east England. A period of mainly fair weather ensued with a belt of high pressure extending from north to south over the British Isles. Unsettled conditions were renewed on the 14th when a trough of low pressure approached the west of Ireland and thereafter moved slowly north-east; heavy local rain occurred from the 14th-16th. From the 17th-19th pressure was relatively high over or to westward of the British Isles and comparatively low to the east and south. Rather cool weather prevailed with little or no rain but a good deal of cloud in some districts. Between the 20th and 22nd a deep depression off south-west Ireland moved slowly north-east and then south-east; there was rain in most districts of England and Wales and Ireland, but not much in Scotland, particularly in the north. Local gales were reported in England and Wales on the 21st and 22nd and local thunderstorms on the 22nd. On the 24th a deep depression between Scotland and Iceland moved east and associated troughs crossed the British Isles giving slight drizzle in the south and scattered showers in the north. A wedge of high pressure moving east on the 26th and 27th was associated with a short period of fair, warmer weather. On the 28th and 29th an almost stationary depression was situated off south-west Ireland, while a trough moved north over southern England. There was an outbreak of thunderstorms over England and Wales; the thunderstorms were severe and accompanied by heavy rain in places. Meanwhile a small depression off the north of Scotland caused heavy rain in the Shetlands. Weather improved in Scotland on the 30th and by the 31st improved conditions had spread southward, but a depression south-west of Ireland brought renewed heavy rain locally in the south-west during the night of the 31st to September 1st.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was somewhat above the average in the north of the British Isles and below the average in the south, the deviation from the average at 9 h. ranging from +2.3 mb. at Wick, Tiree and Rothesay to -2.1 mb. at Greenwich and Lympne. The pressure gradient was thus decreased and the month was less windy than usual. Winds from between north and east were more frequent than the average. Wind reached gale force locally in Scotland on the 6th and 25th and locally in England and Wales on the 10th, 21st and 22nd. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 59 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse and 51 m.p.h. at Prestwick on the 6th, 50 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head on the 22nd and 52 m.p.h. at Point of Ayre on the 23rd and at Eskdalemuir on the 25th. Conditions were unusually quiet in the far north.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat above the average particularly in the north and west. In the east and south it was not very different from the average. The deviations for the districts ranged from -0.4°F. in England, E. to +1.8°F. in Scotland, W. Among warm days were the 1st-4th, 10th-14th, 18th and 28th. From the 11th-14th it was mainly warm in the west but cool in the East. In England temperature rose to 85°F. or above at many places on the 4th. On the whole the coolest spell occurred from about the 6th to 9th, though cool nights were experienced also outside this period.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 88°F. at Terrington Maldon, Peterborough, Wealdstone and London (Camden Square and Greenwich) on the 4th, 38°F. at Rhayader on the 4th; (Scotland) 83°F. at Stirling on the 1st, 36°F. at Glenlee on the 17th and at Braemar on the 19th; (Northern Ireland) 78°F. at Lisburn on the 3rd and Castlerock on the 13th, 43°F. at Lisburn on the 16th and Garvagh on the 26th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 82 over England and Wales, 71 over Scotland and 43 over Northern Ireland. Broadly speaking more than the average occurred in east Scotland from the Moray Firth to the Firth of Tay, over much of north-east and east England from Berwick-on-Tweed to Essex, over part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, in an area covering part of south Wales and the west Midlands and in small scattered areas elsewhere. Within these areas some places received more than 150 per cent. of the average. On the other hand over large areas in the west less than 50 per cent. of the average was registered and locally on the coast of north Wales less than 25 per cent. Rainfall was not only deficient on the whole but fell less frequently than usual, particularly in the north-west and north, where the number of rain-days was approximately six to nine below the average.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

6th	3.68 in. at Milltown (Banffshire), 3.54 in. at Keith (Banffshire) and 3.08 in. at West Hopes in the Lammermuir Hills.
23rd	3.37 in. at Ardgour (Argyll).
28th	3.26 in. at Usk; 3.17 in. at Trecastle (Brecon).
29th	3.35 in. at Boston (Lincs.) and 3.07 in. at Widdop Reservoir (Yorkshire).

Thunderstorms occurred at times chiefly from the 5th-9th, 22nd and 27th-29th. They were widespread on the 5th and severe in central and southern districts of Scotland. Severe thunderstorms occurred locally in England on the 28th and 29th.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking sunshine exceeded the average in Scotland, Northern Ireland and north-west England. In the Shetland Isles, however, there was a considerable deficiency. The excess was marked at some places in the west and north of Scotland and north-west England. Elsewhere in England, sunshine was generally less than the average though a slight excess was registered locally in south-west England and south Wales and at a few scattered places elsewhere. The deficiency was greatest in the south-east; at Hampstead, the total sunshine was the lowest for August since 1931.

Fog.—Fog, chiefly early morning, developed rather frequently, mainly from the 2nd-4th, 8th-18th and 26th-29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on seven days.