

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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JUNE, 1941.—Dry: cool at first, unusually warm later.

The weather was markedly dry and an exceptionally warm spell occurred on the 21st and 22nd.

The month opened with high pressure situated off our north-west coasts and a shallow low pressure area over Spain. Mainly cool weather prevailed with winds between north and east. Rain, in the south on the 3rd and 4th and further north also on the 5th, was associated with a shallow low initially over Spain, which moved north-east and then north-west; thunderstorms and heavy local rain were reported on the 4th and 5th. Fair weather continued, however, in Scotland. Between the 6th and 8th a shallow belt of low pressure associated with a depression on the Atlantic lay across Ireland and England, while pressure remained high northward of the British Isles. Rain fell locally in England and Ireland but dry weather persisted for the most part in the north; local thunderstorms occurred in England on the 7th and 8th. On the 9th and 10th a depression moved eastward from a position near the Scillies and in its rear an extension of the high pressure system in the far north moved eastward over Britain. Rain (heavy locally) occurred in the southern half of the British Isles on the 9th, in south and east England on the 10th and in the south-west as well as at one or two scattered places on the 11th. A few local showers and some thunder were reported on the 12th.

A change of type occurred during the 12th when a wedge of high pressure associated with the Azores anticyclone approached the British Isles. Subsequently pressure was high from the Azores across France, while depressions moved north-east or east in the neighbourhood of Iceland. This was a period of mainly fair weather in England; in the west and north of the British Isles it was somewhat unsettled. On the 19th and 20th a ridge of high pressure lay across the British Isles; weather was warm and sunny on the whole but thunderstorms occurred on the west coast of Ireland on the 20th.

From the 21st-22nd an anticyclone over the North Sea and north Germany moved east or south-east; meanwhile a shallow depression moved north-north-east from a position off our south-west coasts. A spell of unusually warm weather prevailed with rather widespread thunderstorms.

Subsequently the Azores anticyclone spread north-east, while depressions moved north-east or east in the neighbourhood of Iceland. Slight rain occurred, chiefly in Scotland and Ireland, from the 25th-27th but fair weather occurred over practically the whole country on the 28th and 29th. Thunderstorms in Scotland on the 30th were associated with a trough of low pressure which moved eastward from the west of Scotland and Ireland. By the end of the month an absolute drought prevailed in many places in the southern half of England.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average generally, the deviation from the average ranging from +2.0 mb. at Kew Observatory and Portland Bill to +3.4 mb. at Tynemouth. The only gales occurred on the north-west seaboard on the 16th and 24th. The month was less windy than usual in some parts; at Southport the mean daily movement of the wind was 64 miles below the average. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 55 m.p.h. at Paisley on the 14th and at Stornoway on the 16th and 54 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 12th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average, the deviation from the average for the districts ranging from +0.9°F. in Scotland N. to +2.3°F. in the Midland Counties. Cool weather prevailed on the whole for the first half of the month and it was mainly warm during the latter half. The warmth of the period 21st-22nd was exceptional for June; at a large number of stations in England temperature reached or exceeded 90°F. on the 22nd. At such widely separated stations as Hampstead, Wakefield, Southport and Oxford the maximum on the 21st or 22nd was the highest on record for June and at Ross-on-Wye the maximum on the 21st was the highest for June since 1893. At Wakefield and Oxford the minimum

temperatures on the 22nd, 63°F. and 66.2°F. respectively were the highest minimum temperatures on record for June and at Ross 66°F. was the highest minimum in any month since August 13th, 1911. In the west high maximum temperatures were registered also on the 29th. On the other hand, the maximum 51.2°F. at Oxford on the 2nd was the lowest in June since June 4th, 1909 and the minimum 35°F. on the 11th at Southport was the lowest there in June since 1903. The absolute range of temperature was high; the observer at Southport notes that the extreme range 52.6°F. was the greatest on record there in any month.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 94°F. at Camden Square on the 22nd, 29°F. at Bingley on the 12th; (Scotland) 89°F. at Glenbranter on the 29th, 24°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 11th; (Northern Ireland) 78°F. at Castlerock on the 21st, 35°F. at Hillsborough on the 3rd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 52 over England and Wales, 47 over Scotland and 21 over Northern Ireland. The deficiency was general in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In Scotland the deficiency was greatest in a strip extending southward from the Moray Firth over western Aberdeenshire to Stirling as well as locally in the extreme south. In these areas the percentage of the average was less than 20. In Scotland also the dry weather continued until June 12th, constituting with that at the end of May, an absolute drought which lasted for 16 days over almost the whole of that country. The long continued spell of relatively dry weather in the west of Scotland is noteworthy; in the six months January to June, for example, Fort William has had only 15.07 inches of rain, the least for any corresponding period in records going back to 1875. In England and Wales the distribution was rather variable but on the whole it was driest in the north where many stations had less than 20 per cent. of the average. More than the average occurred at a number of places on or near the south coast and in small scattered areas elsewhere.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

7th 1.72 in. at Fordingbridge (Hampshire).
 9th 1.59 in. at Hampstead (greatest for any June day since 1917) and 1.58 in. at Chadlington (Oxfordshire).
 22nd 1.82 in. at Rainow (Cheshire) in 90 minutes, 1.87 in. at Bowden near Melrose, 2.12 in. at Buxton, 2.47 in. at Newcastle, 3.06 in. at Chopwellwood.

Thunderstorms were reported locally on a number of occasions, mainly on the 4th-5th, 7th-9th, 11th-12th, 20th-23rd and 30th; they were most widespread on the 21st and 22nd. The thunderstorms at Chopwellwood and Newcastle on the 22nd were accompanied by unusually heavy rain.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was variable but over the country as a whole it was not very different from the average. The percentage of the average for the various districts ranged from 89 in Northern Ireland to 107 in England, S.E. In England the first half of the month was very dull and the second half sunny; for example, at Rotherham, Yorkshire, the mean daily sunshine for the first 15 days was 4.16 hours and that for the last 15 days was 9.22 hours, while at Torquay the values over the same periods were 5.27 hours and 9.39 hours respectively.

Fog.—Local morning fog occurred mainly on the 1st, 3rd-9th, 14th-22nd and 28th-30th. It was rather persistent at times on the coast and occurred most frequently on the south-west coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on eight days. An unusual halo phenomenon was observed at Aberdeen on the 5th; there were three concentric halos, the usual halo of 22°, one with an approximate radius of 17.5° and the innermost with a radius of roughly 8.8°. A solar halo with a sun pillar was seen at Leuchars at sunset on the 2nd.