

Monthly Weather Report

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

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June, 1948—Unsettled, wet and rather cool.

The weather of the month was unsettled, dull and wet on the whole, with frequent thunderstorms.

On the first day a shallow depression over north-west England drifted east; meanwhile a depression west of Iceland moved south-east and an associated secondary on the Atlantic east-south-east. During the ensuing days the latter moved east across England and then north over the North Sea. Rain occurred generally, while strong winds and local gales were recorded on the 2nd and 3rd; widespread thunderstorms occurred in England and Wales on the 1st. From the 4th to the 6th an Atlantic depression moved irregularly east to westward of Scotland; on the 4th an associated trough of low pressure moved east over the British Isles and on the 6th a secondary disturbance developed off south-west Ireland and moved rapidly north-east. Rain occurred in most places on the 4th, and scattered showers on the 5th, while heavy rain was registered at numerous stations on the 6th. Gales, too, were reported at exposed places on the 6th. On the 7th a new disturbance approached south-west Ireland from the south-west, and moved north-east on the 8th. Rain fell in the west and north; it was heavy and accompanied by thunder locally in Scotland on the 8th. Further rain occurred in parts of England and Wales on the 9th.

Subsequently, from the 9th–12th, a wedge of high pressure extending southward over the British Isles moved slowly east. Weather improved, first in Scotland and Northern Ireland and later in England. On the 12th a shallow trough of low pressure off our south-west coasts, moving slowly north-east, was associated with some rain in the south-west. By the 13th pressure was almost uniform over the British Isles and very warm weather prevailed with scattered rain and local thunder on the 13th, and widespread thunderstorms on the 14th.

Thereafter unsettled conditions were re-established and persisted until the end of the month. During the period 14th–17th a shallow depression remained almost stationary westward of Scotland; meanwhile shallow troughs or secondaries moved east across the British Isles. Rain occurred in most places and there were widespread thunderstorms on the 14th and 17th. On the 18th the main depression, now centred over north-west Ireland, moved slowly east-south-east causing showers and thunderstorms on the 18th and 19th. Temperature fell decidedly on the 15th, and continued rather low. On the 21st and 22nd a trough of low pressure moving east over the country was associated with showers and widespread thunderstorms in England. During the 23rd the Azores anticyclone spread north-east, while a weaker anticyclone over Iceland moved slowly east; a shallow trough off our south-west coasts moving slowly north-east occasioned slight scattered rain on the 23rd and further slight rain in the west and north on the 24th and 25th. In eastern districts, however, weather was mainly fair and rather warm from the 24th–26th.

On the 26th and 27th a depression south of Iceland moved eastward to southern Scandinavia, while a secondary depression moved south-east across the British Isles to the North Sea. A marked deterioration in the weather began in the north on the 26th and reached the south late on the 27th. During the closing days of the month pressure was low to the west and high to the east of the British Isles and cold, northerly winds prevailed. Rather widespread thunderstorms occurred on the 28th and a few local ones in south-east England on the 29th. Further rain occurred in south-eastern districts late on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the deviation at 9h. ranging from -1.2 mb. at Scilly to -5.0 mb. at Eskdalemuir. The chart shows that pressure was nearly uniform over Scotland and that there was a gradient for westerly winds elsewhere (see chart I). From the information available the

total run of the wind appreciably exceeded the average over much of England but was considerably below the average in the Shetland Isles. Gales were reported locally on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th–8th and 18th, the gale on the 6th being rather widespread. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 78 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse, 71 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head and 67 m.p.h. at Eskdalemuir on the 6th, 68 m.p.h. at Cardington on the 2nd, and 65 m.p.h. in London (Kingsway) on the 3rd.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was average in Scotland, 0.5°F . below the average in Northern Ireland and 0.4°F . below average in England and Wales. The coolest spells occurred at the beginning and towards the end of the month; some low minimum temperatures were registered also on the 9th, 18th and 24th. The warmest spell on the whole was the 12th–14th, but short, rather warm spells occurred in England also on the 8th and 26th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 83°F . at Earl's Colne on the 13th, 36°F . at Droitwich, Hawarden and Welshpool on the 9th and at Hawarden on the 24th; (Scotland) 79°F . at Ruthwell on the 13th, 31°F . at Glenlivet on the 18th; (Northern Ireland) 74°F . at Armagh on the 13th, 36°F . at Aldergrove on the 9th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 151 over England and Wales, 181 over Scotland and 139 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average was confined to the extreme north-west, while more than 250 per cent. of the average occurred over much of Aberdeenshire and part of Banffshire, and also over part of Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, while more than 300 per cent. was received at Balmoral and Banff. In England and Wales percentages of the average were irregular: less than the average occurred on the south-east coast from Shoeburyness to Portsmouth, in a narrow area extending irregularly east-north-east from Falmouth to Oxford and in a small area around Worcester, Ross-on-Wye and Cheltenham, while more than 200 per cent. of the average occurred over parts of Wales, north-west England, the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. More than 300 per cent. (9.12 in.) was registered at Keswick. The excess was general in Northern Ireland.

Rainfall was not only heavy but measurable rain fell frequently; the number of rain-days exceeded the average by as many as nine days in England N.E. and eight in England N.W.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours or less were:—

2nd 3.00 in. at Borrowdale, Cumberland, and 2.79 in. at Denby, Yorkshire.

6th 3.10 in. at Cwn Dyli, Snowdon, and 2.72 in. at Inverailort Castle, Inverness-shire.

14th 2.54 in. at West Malling, Kent, and 2.41 in. at East Ham.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on numerous occasions, mainly on the 1st–3rd, 8th–11th, 13th–23rd, and 28th–29th. They were rather widespread on the 1st, 10th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd and 28th. A man was killed by lightning at the London Airport, Heath Row, on the 10th.

Sunshine.—The deficiency of bright sunshine was a feature of the weather of the month. The general values expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–1935 were 82 over England and Wales, 77 over Scotland and 79 over Northern Ireland. At Newquay it was the dullest June on record; at Hampstead the total sunshine was the smallest for June since 1923; at Oxford the total was, with the exception of June 1909, the lowest since records began in 1881.

Fog.—Fog occurred at times chiefly from the 8th–15th and 23rd–26th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 10 days. Ball lightning was observed at Whipsnade on the 10th.