

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1960 *Warm and Sunny*

The anticyclonic spell at the end of May continued for the first few days of June but there followed nearly a fortnight of changeable westerly type of weather. Thereafter anticyclonic conditions predominated. There were heavy instability rains at times.

A declining anticyclone persisted to the east of the British Isles during most of the first week and the warm dry weather of the latter part of May continued into June. By the 4th many places in East Anglia had had up to 20 days without measurable rain although there was occasional slight rain in some north-west districts. Afternoon temperatures, over most of the country, progressively increased during the period exceeding 80°F. extensively on the 4th and reaching 85°F. locally in the eastern half of England the next day. Thunderstorms broke out in parts of Wales and south-west England late on the 4th and became heavy and widespread on Whit Sunday, the 5th. Much damage to livestock and property was done by extensive flooding, especially in the Midlands, following torrential rain. Some main roads at times were from two to four feet deep in water; near Ross-on-Wye nearly 1 in. of rain fell in less than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Several people were killed by lightning.

The period from 6th to 16th was one of changeable weather with westerly winds. Rainfall was generally light to moderate, except on the 7th and 8th in western districts when a fairly vigorous depression moved east towards Scotland. Further depressions on rather a similar track gave two wet days on the 11th and 12th, but on most other days there were considerable bright periods with occasional showers and local thunder; thunderstorms were widespread in southern England on the 14th.

The latter half of the month was mainly dry in the west and north, but in the Midlands and southern England there were very severe thunderstorms at the beginning of the last week. On the 16th a warm moist airstream spread over the southern half of the country as an anticyclone from the Azores moved into the Bay of Biscay. Temperature rose rapidly, again exceeding 80°F. in many districts, and fog patches formed on windward coasts.

Pressure became high and weather generally dry and sunny over the British Isles from the 18th to 22nd with variable winds and afternoon temperatures rising to around 80°F., although on the 19th it was somewhat cooler due to a temporary freshening of the wind from the north.

A low at 500 mb. to the south-west of Ireland moved towards Devon and Cornwall on the 22nd. A severe outbreak of thunderstorms began in south-west England that night and became widespread the following day. The main storm, one of the severest experienced in the country since that of 5th September 1958, began shortly before midnight on the 22nd and continued for about 12 hours, the centre, with the heaviest rainfall, appearing to move on a curved track from Dorset through Oxford into Suffolk. Among the many noteworthy falls of rain recorded was one of 4 in. in five hours at Oxford. Severe but local thunderstorms also occurred on the 24th in Cornwall, Dorset and Suffolk; at Ipswich $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. of rain fell in 15 minutes.

On the 25th an anticyclone became established off the west of Ireland and although thunder was heard in a few places the activity rapidly died out with the onset of cooler northerly winds and the movement towards southern France of the upper low. The remainder of the month was

generally fine with considerable sunshine, but there were scattered showers also in most areas.

Pressure and Wind. Mean pressure was everywhere above the average, the excess at 9 h. ranging from 2.8 mb. at Felixstowe to 1.6 mb. at Aldergrove and Ross-on-Wye. Winds were variable but mainly between south-east and south-west until the 5th becoming predominantly south-westerly until the 17th and thereafter variable until the 24th and mainly northerly from the 25th until the end of the month. In Scotland gales were reported in many districts on the 12th, 28th and 29th and locally on the 5th, 7th, 8th and 16th/17th. In England and Wales wind reached gale force in western districts on the 7th and 8th, and gales were fairly widespread on the 12th. They occurred locally on six other days.

Temperature. Mean temperature was everywhere above the average, the excess being 2.7°F. in England and Wales, 3.2°F. in Scotland and 2.9°F. in Northern Ireland. In most districts the warmest weather was around the 4th and between the 17th and 25th when afternoon temperatures rose to 80°F. or more at many places. The 4th was the warmest Whit Saturday at Worthing since 1928 and there has been no warmer Whit Saturday at Kew this century.

Extremes included:—(England and Wales) 87°F. at Wyton on the 18th, 30°F. at Allendale Town on the 7th; (Scotland) 85°F. at Grantown-on-Spey on the 24th, 33°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 19th and at Leadhills on the 30th; (Northern Ireland) 77°F. at Ballykelly on the 22nd, 39°F. at Ely Lodge on the 20th.

Precipitation. The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 90 in England and Wales, 95 in Scotland and 106 in Northern Ireland. Less than 25 per cent. of the average occurred on the east coast from Spurn Head to Tyneside and there was less than 50 per cent. of the average over much of northern England including much of Lincolnshire, the central Pennines and the north coast of Wales. More than twice the average was recorded in Staffordshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Suffolk.

Thunder was widespread in Scotland from 5th to 15th and it occurred locally on five other days. In England and Wales thunder was heard on 15 days and thunderstorms were widespread on the 14th and 23rd; storms on the 5th and 23rd were exceptionally severe.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 128 in England and Wales, 116 in Scotland and 135 in Northern Ireland. Except for a few places in eastern Scotland sunshine was above average nearly everywhere and as much as 150 per cent. of the average in parts of north-west England. It was the sunniest June at Bidston Observatory since 1907.

Fog. Early morning fog, mainly local, occurred in Scotland on 11 days. In England and Wales it occurred at one place or another on 15 days, being fairly widespread on the 23rd and 25th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was visible at Stornoway on the 28th/29th and at a number of places in the British Isles on the following night, the furthest south being Deal. Dust devils about 100 yd. wide developed on the sands at Weymouth on the 20th carrying paper 100 ft. high, while a whirlwind caused slight damage to buildings at Walton-on-Naze on the 28th.