

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: ADASTRAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY LONDON W.C.2; 120 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH 2; YORK STREET, MANCHESTER 1; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any Bookseller.

VOL. 52. No. 7.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Price 1s. 0d. net, Post-free 1s. 1d.
 Annual Subscription, including
 Annual Summary and Introduction,
 15s. 0d. post free.

JULY, 1935.—Sunny and warm; very dry on the whole.

The weather of the month was distinguished by an almost universal excess of sunshine, a large deficiency of rainfall except at some stations in the west and north of Scotland and an unusual number of warm days, particularly in south and east England.

A shallow depression moving from north-west France to the North Sea caused widespread thunderstorms with heavy rain in south-east England on the night of the 1st to 2nd. Meanwhile from the 1st—5th, depressions moving north-east off our northern seaboard caused unsettled weather, with rain at times in the west and north, although little or no rain fell over most of England.

Subsequently an anticyclone moved eastward across England and fine, sunny weather prevailed generally until the 9th, when rain again fell in the west. From the 10th to 16th a belt of high pressure extended over a large part of the country, but secondaries to depressions near Iceland caused some rain at times in the west and north, and thunderstorms occurred locally in southern England on the 11th and in northern England on the 14th. The period 9th to 16th was mainly very warm.

There ensued an unsettled and rather cool spell from the 17th to 21st caused by the eastward movement of Icelandic or Atlantic depressions and their associated troughs of low pressure. Heavy rain fell at times and thunderstorms were widespread in Great Britain on the 18th and occurred in south-east and east England on the 20th.

From the 23rd until the close of the month anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part in the south, while depressions to the northward of Scotland maintained rather unsettled conditions in the north. After the 28th, however, the anticyclone extended its influence northward, and fine weather, with abundant sunshine, was enjoyed almost everywhere.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure everywhere exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the south-west and west and least in the north of Scotland. The excess at 7h. varied from 5.8 mb. at Valentia to 1.4 mb. at Lerwick.

The strongest winds occurred on the whole between the 3rd and 5th and on the 27th and 28th. Gales were reported from one or two places in the north of Scotland on the 3rd, 4th, 27th and 28th, and locally in north-east England on the 4th and 27th and in north-west England on the 5th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 63 m.p.h. at Kirkwall and 60 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 28th, 57 m.p.h. at Butt of Lewis on the 9th and at Bidston Observatory on the 11th and 56 m.p.h. at Spurn Head on the 4th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average in all districts, the excess varying from 0.5°F. in Scotland, W. to 3.0°F. in England, S.E., and 3.1°F. in the Midlands.

The warmest period occurred generally from the 9th to 16th, with its peak around the 13th, but it was also warm from the 22nd or 23rd to the 28th. Temperature, on the 13th, rose to 92°F. at Attenborough, 91°F. at Worcester and 90°F. at Wakefield and Huddersfield. The number of warm days was unusual at some places in south-east and east England; for example, 80°F. was reached or exceeded on 13 days both at Rickmansworth and South Farnborough. The coolest spell was from the 17th to 21st, though the first week was rather cool in some parts, particularly in the west and north. Some low minimum temperatures were recorded on the 30th and 31st: at Rickmansworth, the reading 32°F. on the 31st. is the lowest temperature recorded there in July since records began in 1929. The extreme range for the month in England and Wales, 60°F., is noteworthy.

The extremes for the month were: (England and Wales) 92°F. at Attenborough on the 13th, 32°F. at Rickmansworth on the 31st; (Scotland) 84°F. at Liberton on the 13th, 34°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 30th; (Ireland) 81°F. at Newcastle, County Wicklow, on the 13th and 37°F. at Markree Castle on the 11th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the normal for the period 1881—1915 was 41, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 30, Scotland 75 and Ireland 36.

In Scotland, rainfall exceeded the average in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, at a few places in the West Highlands and also around Aberdeen: elsewhere there was a deficiency, which was usually greatest in eastern and central districts. Less than 20 per cent. of the average was registered locally in County Cork and at a large number of stations scattered over England and Wales, while less than 10 per cent. was received at some places in England. It was the driest July at numerous stations since records are available (e.g., at Eastbourne since 1887, at Teignmouth since 1871, at Newquay since 1893 and at Holyhead since 1871). In marked contrast was the excess in the Shetland Islands, where Baltasound recorded about 300 per cent. of the average.

Local thunderstorms were reported at times, notably on the night of the 1st to 2nd, on the 11th, 14th, 18th and 20th.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours or less may be mentioned:

- 1st. 83 mm. at Exbury, Hants., 57 mm. at Winchester (nearly all of which fell in 2 hours) and 53 mm. at Southampton, during thunderstorms.
- 11th. 39 mm. in about 1½ hours during a thunderstorm at Long Ashton.
- 17th. 34 mm. at Bidston, Liverpool, mainly during a thunderstorm early on the 18th.
- 19th. 44 mm. at Borrowdale.
- 20th. 109 mm. at Baltasound, 86 mm. at Lerwick and 49 mm. at Deerness.

Sunshine.—One of the most striking features of the weather of the month was the excessive duration of bright sunshine. For districts 1—10 the percentage of the average amounted to 132. The greatest excess was enjoyed in the eastern and Midland districts of England and southern Scotland. (See Table I).

On the south-east and east coasts of England from Eastbourne to Lowestoft, nearly every station registered a daily average of more than 10 hours, while Dover had an average of 10.52 hours. At numerous places in Great Britain, it was the sunniest July since records began, and at Yarmouth it was the sunniest month of any name since records were started in 1908. At many English stations there was not a single sunless day.

Fog.—Local fog occurred in Scotland on the 1st, 2nd, 13th and 31st. It was thick over the Firth of Forth and adjoining countryside on the 1st and at Lerwick on the 13th. Local fog occurred at times in England and was experienced frequently on our south-west coasts, notably from the 3rd—6th, 10th—12th, 22nd—23rd and 27th—29th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days. A small whirlwind was observed at Chelmsford on the 10th and a waterspout at Beachy Head on the 19th.