

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1941.—Dry and mild with morning fog.

The month was marked by the prevalence of local night and morning fog, which was reported from some part of the country on practically every day. At all stations the rainfall was less than the average and totals of about a tenth of an inch were recorded, e.g. .06 in. at Bungay (Suffolk), .12 in. at Basingstoke and Henley-on-Thames and .13 in. at Farnham, South Farnborough and Reading. No measurable rain was recorded in parts of the south and east of England between the 6th and 26th and at Camden Square (London), Slough, Stanmore and Reigate from August 30th to September 27th inclusive. Over England and Wales the month was the mildest September since that of 1933 and nearly as warm as August 1941. Over Scotland the month was the mildest September since that of 1895 and actually warmer than August for the first time since 1900. September 1941 was about 0.4°F. warmer than August 1941 over Scotland and 0.2°F. cooler over England and Wales.

Pressure was high over the south of England at the beginning of the month, with a shallow depression over north-west Scotland moving slowly north-east and with minor troughs crossing the British Isles which gave local drizzle in the west on the 2nd. On the 3rd a high pressure system extended across England and Wales from the Netherlands giving generally warm conditions. A shallow depression off south-west Ireland, with an extension to south-west England, gave rise to lower temperatures and local rain in the south, particularly in Devonshire, on the 5th. From the 6th to the 24th anticyclonic conditions prevailed over the British Isles, the centre moving slowly northwards about the 18th. Minor troughs and shallow depressions off the Scandinavian coast between the 9th and 16th gave local coastal drizzle mainly in the east. A low pressure system to the west of the British Isles moved slowly north-eastwards from the 23rd and was centred off north-west Ireland by the 26th. It continued to move north-eastwards, bringing heavy rain to south-west Scotland. This system became associated with a secondary and minor troughs moving east across the British Isles, the wind rising to gale force on the Lancashire coast and off the coast of south-west Ireland on the 27th. On the 27th a secondary moved east from Ireland and rain became general in the west and north and spread to the south-east on the 28th. Rain became more general in the north during the last two days of the month.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was considerably above the average, the deviation from the average at 7h. ranging from +8.2 mb. at Stornoway to +6.3 mb. at Southampton and at Scilly. The mean monthly pressure for the month increased from north-west to south-east, but winds during the month were variable and unexceptional. No gales were reported during the month at stations in England and Wales, but gales occurred on three days at Duntuil, Skye. In Scotland winds rose to gale force in exposed coastal places in the north and west on the 1st, 3rd and 26th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts at anemograph stations were 55 m.p.h. at Kirkwall on 28th, 54 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 3rd, 46 m.p.h. at Bidston on the 21st and at Aldergrove on the 26th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was above the average, the deviation from the average for the districts ranging from +3.8°F. in Scotland W. to +1.5°F. in England S.E. Over Scotland generally it was the mildest September since that of 1895 and September was warmer there than August for the first time since 1900. The warmest period occurred during the first few days, especially the 3rd and 4th. Temperatures of 81°F. occurred on the 4th at Mildenhall (Suffolk), Rugby and Sparkhill (Birmingham). There was a further warm period around the 26th and 27th in the Midlands, eastern and

southern England, when 80°F. was recorded at Camden Square, 79°F. at Whitstable and 78°F. at Westminster and Canterbury. Some low screen temperatures were recorded on the 8th, 15th to 18th, 23rd and 30th. The extremes for the month were: (England and Wales) 81°F. at Mildenhall, Rugby and Sparkhill on the 4th, 29°F. at Killerton on the 16th; (Scotland) 79°F. at Dundee on the 4th and 31°F. at Braemar on 16th. (Northern Ireland) 75°F. at Armagh on the 6th, 40°F. at Garvagh on the 19th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the month 1881-1915 was 33 over England and Wales, 57 over Scotland and 54 over Northern Ireland.

Over England and Wales there have been only two drier Septembers since 1869 viz. those of 1910 and 1907 with 25 and 31 per cent. respectively. September 1941 was the fifth consecutive September with less than the average. This is the longest run of consecutive dry Septembers in the series, although during the 18 years from 1900-1917 only four Septembers gave more than the average. Over Scotland it was the driest September since 1933 with 43 per cent. and there were only seven drier Septembers since 1869. The total rainfall was below the average everywhere in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and more than 75 per cent. of the average occurred only in parts of the Western Highlands and south-west of Scotland. Over most of England and Wales and eastern Scotland the rainfall was less than half the average. Less than 25 per cent. was recorded along much of the east coast from Aberdeen to Durham and along the east, south and west coasts from Norfolk to Sussex and from Cornwall to Carnarvon and also along a belt of central England from Sussex to the southern half of the Pennines. There was only 10 per cent. along the south coast of Kent. At Aberdeen the total of .55 in. was less than that reported in any September since the record commenced there in 1871.

There were no heavy falls of note during the month, about 1.4 in. was recorded on 27th at stations in Radnorshire; other falls were 26th, 1.45 in. Snowdon; 27th, 1.51 in. Fofanny Reservoir, Co. Down; 28th, 1.25 in. Haverfordwest.

Local thunderstorms were reported from a number of stations, mainly on the 1st, 5th, 27th, 28th and 30th.

Sunshine.—The total sunshine for the month was below the average over most of the country, but there was an excess in Cornwall, North Devon and the neighbourhood of the Moray Firth. The variation was from 6.1 hours per day at Newquay to about 2 hours per day over the southern Pennines.

Fog.—Local night and morning fog was reported from some part of the country on every day except the 11th and on several occasions fog persisted throughout the day in south-western coastal districts. Morning fog was widespread between the 1st and 9th and between the 21st and 25th and on the 27th and 28th but there was little from the 10th to 15th. Fog was reported at the morning observation on 14 days at Usk, 13 at Sutton Bonington and 12 at Sealand.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Aurora was observed in Scotland on 12 nights and on the 18th was seen in south-west Ireland and Devonshire. Solar halos were noted at a number of stations and at one or more stations on as many as 14 days during the month. Oxford reported solar halos on the 1st, 5th, 11th, 14th, 24th, 26th, 29th and 30th; Mayfield on the 4th, 13th, 25th and 26th, and Stonhurst on the 2nd, 10th, 11th and 25th.