

Monthly Weather Report

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

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August, 1950 - Unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms; wet in the west.

The weather was unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms. It was very wet in western districts of England and Wales but rather dry over much of the eastern half of Scotland and parts of east England. Sunshine appreciably exceeded the average in north and east Scotland.

During the opening days of the month a shallow depression off the west of Scotland moved east to Denmark causing showers and widespread thunderstorms, though there were long sunny periods in many places. On the following days a new depression moved slowly north-east to the south-west of Iceland, while associated troughs moved north-east over the western and northern districts of the British Isles giving rain in the west and north. Meanwhile a small anticyclone over north-west France moved north-east and became absorbed in a larger anticyclone over North Russia. Temperature rose over the British Isles and maxima somewhat exceeded 80°F. locally in east England from the 6th to 8th. During the 7th to 9th a deep depression moved from mid Atlantic north-east to westward of Scotland and later turned north, while troughs of low pressure crossed the British Isles giving thunderstorms in eastern districts on the 7th, and heavy rain locally in the west and north on the 8th. Gales were recorded at exposed stations in the west and north on the 8th and 9th. Thereafter small secondary depressions to a disturbance near Iceland moved north-east across the country causing rain in the north and west on the 11th and more generally on the 12th. On the 13th and 14th a wedge of high pressure moved east across England and mainly fair weather prevailed in the south and east but more rain occurred in the west and north.

On the 15th a depression developed off north-west Scotland and moved north; subsequently it turned west and then south-west. Meanwhile associated secondary depressions or troughs moved irregularly north over the British Isles; rain, heavy in places, fell on the 15th and during the following days rather cool weather prevailed, with frequent showers and somewhat widespread thunderstorms. By the 20th pressure was high over Germany and low north-westward of Ireland, while a new depression developed in mid Atlantic and moved quickly east to the west of Ireland, where it remained almost stationary until the 23rd. Shallow troughs moved over the British Isles giving heavy rain, particularly in the south-west and in Lancashire, on the 20th, and on the 22nd and 23rd cold fronts moving east across the country were associated with showers and widespread thunderstorms. Subsequently, on the 24th a shallow depression off our south-west coasts moved north-north-east and on the 25th and 26th another shallow depression off south-west Ireland moved north; rain and thunderstorms occurred, the latter being widespread on the 24th, but there were also sunny periods. Again on the 27th and 28th a trough of low pressure west of Ireland moving slowly east caused thunderstorms and heavy local rain, and on the 30th a trough to a shallow disturbance off north-west Ireland moving across England caused further thundery rains, which were heavy locally in the south. The last three days were mainly fair over much of Scotland.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the greatest deficiency occurring in the north-west; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from -6.0 mb. at Tiree and Armagh to -2.2 mb. at Spurn Head. The prevailing winds were southerly or south-westerly. Gales occurred at exposed stations in the north-west on the 8th to 10th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 51 at Aldergrove and 54 at Eskdalemuir on the 9th, 56 at Stornoway on the 10th, 50 at Scilly on the 17th and 52 at St. Ann's Head on the 25th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was not very different from the average for the period 1906–35 in England and Wales and Northern Ireland but exceeded the average by 1.0°F. in Scotland (see Table I). The deviation for the districts ranged from +1.7°F. in Scotland, N. to -0.7 °F. in England, S.W. and S. Wales. The warmest days occurred from the 3rd or 4th to the 8th and around the 21st and 22nd but there was no really hot spell.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 83°F. at Wealdstone on the 6th and Greenwich on the 7th, 40°F. at Marlborough on the 14th; (Scotland) 74°F. at Paisley on the 3rd, Gordon Castle and Kelso on the 4th and Nairn on the 8th, 31°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 3rd and 31st; (Northern Ireland) 72°F. at Armagh on the 3rd and Castlerock on the 5th, 39°F. at Ballykelly on the 28th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 147 over England and Wales, 115 over Scotland and 135 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred on the whole in western and central districts while less than the average was received at most places in the east. In England and Wales less than the average was registered in an area extending from south of the Humber across most of Northamptonshire and south-eastward over Suffolk, Essex and the London area, while appreciably less than half the average was received around Cranwell, Lincs. Less than the average occurred also at a few isolated places elsewhere. In contrast more than twice the average occurred at many places in south-west England and south Wales. In Northern Ireland more than the average occurred except in the extreme north-west; percentages of the average ranged from 99 at Londonderry to 151 at Seaford, County Down. Measurable rain fell frequently, the number of 'rain-days' being five in excess of the average in Northern Ireland and west Scotland and four in the western districts of England and Wales. Daily falls of more than one inch were rather frequent in western districts of England and Wales, particularly during the second half of the month.

Among the largest falls in 24 hours were:—

8th	2.23 in. at Princetown, S. Devon, 2.16 in. at Filindre, near Cowbridge, Glams. and 2.10 in. at Malham Tarn, Yorks.
11th	3.27 in. at Blaenau Festiniog, Merioneth.
15th	2.70 in. at Blaenau Festiniog.
24th	2.30 in. at Crieff.
26th	2.77 in. at Loch Sloy Dam, Dumbartonshire.
30th	2.09 in. at Guernsey.

Thunderstorms occurred frequently, mainly from the 1st to 8th and 16th to 31st. They were recorded on as many as nine days at Boston and Shrewsbury and eight days at Goudhurst, Polegate, Bolton, Market Drayton and West Raynham.

Sunshine.—The percentage of the average sunshine for the period 1906–35 was 99 in England and Wales, 116 in Scotland and 95 in Northern Ireland. In north and east Scotland the excess was considerable.

Fog.—Fog, mainly at night or in the early morning, occurred locally at times, chiefly on the 7th, 8th, 12th, 21st to 24th and 28th to 31st.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on nine nights. The aurora was widely seen on the night of the 19th to 20th, being recorded as far south as Tangmere, in Sussex. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 18 days.