

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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July 1954—Notably cool and dull; wet in some areas.

The month was notably cool and dull; it was wet in some southern and western areas but in large areas in north-east England and the Midlands and in parts of east and central Scotland rainfall was less than average. Throughout the month an anticyclone was situated near the Azores but at no time did it spread over the British Isles sufficiently to establish fine, warm weather; on almost every day some part of the country at least was under the influence of a low-pressure system. It was the coolest July since 1922 both in Scotland and in England and Wales. The duration of bright sunshine was much below average but over the country generally the month was less dull than July, 1944.

From the 1st to the 7th the whole country experienced a north-westerly to northerly type of weather beginning with frontal systems moving south-eastward, and followed by a depression from Iceland, which became slow moving over the North Sea and Denmark. Cool weather was general throughout this period and rain or showers occurred each day in many places, with scattered thunderstorms, chiefly in eastern districts, from the 4th to the 7th. There was, however, some sunshine on most days and good daily totals were recorded at a few places towards the end of the week. From the 7th to the 24th pressure was low near Iceland and a number of small but often active depressions moved in some easterly direction across the British Isles. The intervening ridges of higher pressure were weak and transitory but they gave some fine, rather warm days, particularly in the south and east. Throughout this period the weather was changeable with some rain or showers in many districts on most days. The 16th and 17th were wet days in south and south-east England and in Wales, while on the 23rd heavy rain fell in northern England and southern Scotland. On the 25th and 26th a deepening depression moved south-east from the south of Iceland and after moving irregularly over Scotland on the 27th moved into the North Sea on the 28th. It was preceded on the 25th and 26th by small disturbances moving eastward across southern England, giving heavy rain in southern counties. From the 26th to the 28th there was widespread rain at times in northern England and parts of Scotland and showers in the south, but there were also sunny periods. On the 27th and 28th there were thunderstorms in places and strong winds reaching gale force at times occurred in many parts of England and Wales, western and southern coastal districts being particularly affected. From the 29th onwards weather continued generally cool, with some rain in Scotland, but also with sunny periods in places especially in the east.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was everywhere below the average, the deficit being greatest in the north-east and least in the south-west; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from -7.0 mb. at Lerwick to -0.5 mb. at Scilly. Westerly winds were rather frequent and, except in the north of Scotland, the total run of the wind was mostly above the average. At Southport it was the windiest July since 1909 and at Kew Observatory since 1936. Gales occurred locally on the 17th, 27th and 28th. Among the highest gusts, registered in knots, were 51 at Southport and 50 at Sellafeld on the 27th and 49 at Scilly on the 28th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was everywhere below the average for 1921–50. The deviations from the average were -3.5°F .

in England and Wales, -2.3°F . in Scotland and -2.7°F . in Northern Ireland. In particular the days were very cool; at Kew Observatory, for example, the mean daily maximum temperature was 6.1°F . below the average, while at Ross-on-Wye the absolute maximum, 70°F ., was the lowest on record for July. During the first week the temperature was 10°F . below the average at times locally while on the nights of the 5th to the 7th temperature on the ground fell below freezing point at a number of places. On the morning of the 6th there was slight air frost at several stations in Scotland, where air temperature has not fallen as low in July since 1919.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 78°F . at Southend and at Camden Square, London, on the 20th, 33°F . at Moor House, Westmorland on the 6th; (Scotland) 76°F . at Stonehaven on the 24th, 29°F . at Glenlivet, Eskdalemuir and Leadhills on the 6th; (Northern Ireland) 69°F . at Armagh on the 13th and at Nutt's Corner on the 20th, 41°F . at Nutt's Corner on the 6th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 126 over England & Wales, 105 over Scotland and 129 over Northern Ireland. It was less than the average over a large area of central and east Scotland, over most of north-east England and in some smaller areas in east, central, west and south-west England. Considerably more than average was registered in parts of north-west and south-west Scotland, north Wales, the Midlands and north Devonshire, while more than twice the average occurred at places on the south coast between Dover and the Isle of Wight and in central Lancashire. In Northern Ireland percentages ranged from 106 at Garvagh, County Londonderry to 174 at Omagh, County Tyrone.

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

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| 4th | 1.90 in. at Ballindalloch, Morayshire. |
| 16th | 2.20 in. at Maesteg, Glamorganshire and 2.14 in. at Llangurig, Montgomeryshire. |
| 23rd | 3.10 in. at Ribbleshead, Yorkshire, 2.63 in. at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon, and 2.24 in. at Stonyhurst, Lancashire. |
| 25th | 2.88 in. at Princetown, Devonshire, 2.60 in. at Ventnor Park, Isle of Wight and 2.47 in. at Creech Grange, Dorset. |
| 27th | 2.85 in. at Watendlath Farm, Cumberland and 2.85 in. at Patterdale Hall, Westmorland. |

Thunderstorms occurred locally mainly on the 4th–7th and 27th–28th. They were rather widespread in eastern districts on the 4th and 6th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 75 over England and Wales, 80 over Scotland and 66 over Northern Ireland. It was less than average almost everywhere, though there was a small excess at some places along the east coast of Scotland.

Fog.—Fog occurred locally at times, mainly in southern and western coastal districts and on high ground, on the 1st, 2nd, 8th–14th, 16th, 17th and 20th–28th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 2 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 3 days.