

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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NOVEMBER, 1944.—Unsettled; very wet; mainly dull.

The weather of the month was very wet except in north-west and locally in north-east Scotland. It was dull on the whole and there were long periods of rain accompanied by strong winds, which often reached gale force at exposed places. It was rather cold in Scotland.

During the opening days of the month pressure was high westward of the British Isles, while a depression north of Iceland moved east and associated troughs moved south-east over the British Isles. Some rain, mainly slight, occurred on the 1st and 2nd and showers on the 3rd. On the 4th and 5th a secondary depression on the Atlantic off our north-west coasts moved rapidly north-east, while troughs moved south-east over these Islands: heavy rain was reported, accompanied by strong winds and gales. On the 6th and 7th a new depression west-north-west of Ireland moved east-north-east and then turned east. There were further strong winds and gales: rain was general and heavy locally on the 5th and on the 6th rain occurred in the south-west and showers elsewhere. Snow or sleet was reported in Scotland between the 5th and 7th. On the 8th pressure was low eastward of the British Isles, and a small depression centred off south-west Ireland moved rapidly east-south-east: rain fell in the south and showers elsewhere. On the 9th cold northerly winds, with long bright periods and wintry showers, prevailed and on the 10th and 11th a wedge of high pressure moved east over the country and was followed by a shallow trough which caused rain in the west on the 10th and more generally on the 11th and 12th.

There ensued a period of very unsettled conditions from the 14th-22nd with depressions taking a more southerly track. On the 14th and 15th a complex depression over England moved south-south-east; some wintry precipitation occurred in most places, with cold easterly winds and local gales. On the 17th a deep depression off north-west Ireland moved north-north-east along our western seaboard and was associated with widespread gales, almost general rain (heavy in places) and a sharp rise in temperature over England. From the 18th-20th a series of depressions moved east-north-east across the British Isles, on the 22nd a trough moved east over the country and on the 23rd and 24th a deepening depression centred west-south-west of Ireland moved rapidly across England. Rain fell daily and was heavy locally, particularly from the 18th-22nd. Gales were reported locally on the 18th, 19th, 23rd and 24th. By the 25th pressure was low eastward of the British Isles and a small depression over England moved south-east. This was followed by another depression moving south-east from north-west Scotland. Cold weather prevailed with wintry precipitation but periods of bright sunshine. On the 28th and 29th an unusually intense depression centred just off south-west Iceland moved slowly east, while associated troughs crossed the British Isles. Rather widespread gales and rain occurred on the 28th and rain, chiefly in the north-west and north on the 29th. Good sunshine records were obtained in south-east and east England on the 29th. On the last day a trough on the Atlantic approaching our western seaboard was associated with rain in the west and north.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average throughout the country, the deviation at 6h. ranging from -2.6 mb. at the Scilly Isles to -6.2 mb. at Eskdalemuir. Gales were reported rather frequently, mainly from the 4th-8th, 14th-20th, 23rd-25th and 27th-29th: they were widespread from the 4th-7th and on the 17th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 83 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 5th, 75 m.p.h. at Prestwick and Renfrew on the 7th, and 82 m.p.h. at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 14th. At the centre of the deep depression near Iceland on the 28th, pressure fell to 947 mb.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average by roughly 1.5°F. in Scotland and was about or slightly above the average on the whole in England. Apart from a mild spell around the 4th-5th, and in Scotland on the 2nd, the first 17 days were mainly cold, particularly the 8th-16th. Another cold spell occurred from the 25th-27th. In England, a sharp rise in temperature occurred on the 17th and mild weather persisted for the most part there until the 25th. It was rather mild again from the 28th-30th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 63°F. at Cromer on the 5th; 20°F. at Totnes on the 16th; (Scotland) 57°F. at Dunbar on the 4th and Ruthwell on the 22nd; 10°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 27th; (Northern Ireland) 57°F. at Hillsborough on the 5th and at Castlerock, Garvagh, Ballyhalbert and Bishop's Court on the 22nd; 27°F. at Armagh on the 16th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 178 over England and Wales, 138 over Scotland and 148 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average occurred over much of north-west Scotland and over a coastal strip of Aberdeenshire. More than 200 per cent. of the average was received in an area in the south of Scotland extending from Queen's Park, Glasgow, to Kelso, Roxburgh, and stretching northward to include most of the Firth of Forth. Edinburgh had its wettest November for at least 100 years. More than 200 per cent. was registered also in areas scattered over England and Wales. Rainfall was not only heavy but frequent; measurable rain was reported on 29 days at Bolton and Lake Vyrnwy and on 28 days at numerous stations in north-west England and the Midlands. Falls of more than 1 in. were numerous, particularly on the 4th, 15th-19th, 21st and 27th.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

4th	3.81 in. at Blackwater Dam, Glenleven, 3.39 in. at Strathfillan (Perthshire), and 2.36 in. at Newbiggin-in-Teesdale.
16th	3.60 in. at Holne, S. Devon.
17th	3.05 in. at Holne.
18th	2.30 in. at Maesteg, Glamorgan.
27th	2.84 in. near Blaenau Festiniog, 2.61 in. at Ardgour House, Argyll, and 2.59 in. at Borrowdale.

Thunder occurred locally on the 5th-6th, 14th-16th and 29th.

Snow or sleet, mainly showers, was reported in Scotland on most days from the 5th-28th. Wintry showers also occurred locally in England on the 3rd, 5th, 7th-9th, 13th-15th, 22nd and 25th-26th. On the 9th, snow lay 6 in. deep in the Garbat Forest (Ross-shire), on the morning of the 16th there was 4 to 6 in. of wet snow at Braemar, and about 3 in. fell over Lanarkshire on the 21st and in Perthshire on the 27th.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking, sunshine was below the average, the percentage of the average for the districts ranging from 52 in England, S.W. and S. Wales, to 107 in Scotland, W. The deficiency was marked in south-west England and locally in the Midlands: at Ross-on-Wye, apart from November 1934, it was the dullest November in a 31-year record. The unusual distribution is illustrated by the fact that Tieve in the Western Isles had more than twice as much sunshine as Bude in north Cornwall.

Fog.—Fog occurred on numerous occasions, chiefly from the 1st-3rd, 11th-13th, 16th-17th, 22nd-24th and 26th-27th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 11 nights. At Oxford, solar halos were noted on nine days: on the 1st a brightly coloured portion of the zenithal halo (about 90°) was observed.