

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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September 1953—Mainly fine 5th–14th, then unsettled with heavy local rain at times; severe gale on 21st.

The changeable south-westerly type of weather of late August lasted into the first few days of September. The period 5th to 14th was mainly dry with the highest pressure first over Germany, then on the Atlantic, and finally again to eastward at the end of the period. The remainder of the month was changeable and there was a notable gale on the 21st. Rainfall appreciably exceeded the average on the whole, but there was a deficit locally in north Scotland and over much of the eastern half of England but not in the south-east.

In the opening days a depression off west Scotland moved north-east, while associated troughs of low pressure crossed the British Isles. Rain, heavy locally, fell in the north and west on the 1st and showery weather with sunny periods prevailed on the 2nd and 3rd. Subsequently a developing ridge moved slowly east across the country and by the 6th the highest pressure was over Germany. Fine weather set in the south-east on the 5th and soon became general; temperature rose, the period 6th–8th being really warm. On the 8th the anticyclone on the continent declined and a north-westerly type became established as another anticyclone built up on the Atlantic. Temperature fell on the 9th but the fine weather persisted apart from slight rain chiefly in the west and north. On the 12th to 13th the anticyclone moved north-east to Scandinavia. The fine weather was brought to an end in the south-west on the 14th and elsewhere on the 15th as a trough moved slowly north-east across the country bringing rain to most districts. A spell of thundery weather ensued from the 16th to 18th. On the 19th a depression moved east-north-east from north-westward of Ireland to the Hebrides giving general rain, heavy locally, while an associated trough gave a gale in the south-west. On the 21st an exceptionally deep depression, which was formerly a tropical cyclone in the Bermuda area, approached north-west Ireland and moved across southern Scotland giving a widespread gale, severe locally, and heavy rain or showers in places. Pressure at Claremorris, north-west Ireland, fell to 957 mb. at 7h., the lowest pressure on record in the British Isles in September. A secondary depression moved east-north-east across southern England during the night of the 22nd and then turned north-east to the North Sea giving more heavy rain and a gale in the south-west. Subsequently the depression filled up and a weak ridge formed over southern England and a short spell of fair weather ensued with widespread morning fog, but some rain occurred in northern districts. An unsettled westerly type of weather prevailed during the last few days with considerable rain at times in the west and north, particularly on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was everywhere below the average for the period 1901–30, the deficiency being greatest in the northern half of the country; the deviation from the average at 9h. ranged from –5.6 mb. at Stornoway and Tiree to –1.7 mb. at Plymouth. Winds were mainly southerly or westerly. There was a widespread gale on the 21st and wind reached gale force locally on some other days, mainly on the 2nd, 3rd, 19th, 20th, 22nd, 29th and 30th. Among the highest gusts registered, in knots, were 68 at the Lizard, 66 at Scilly, 62 at Port Talbot and 59 at Shoeburyness, all on the 21st.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average for the period 1921–50 by 0.3°F. in England and Wales, 2.0°F. in Scotland and 2.4°F. in Northern Ireland; the excess was appreciable in northern districts but at some places in the southern half of England there was a slight deficit. It was warm in parts of England on the 1st and over the country generally on the 6th to 8th; temperature approached 80°F. at a number of places in Scotland on the 7th and 8th and 80°F. was registered locally in England and Wales on the 6th

and 8th; the value 79°F. at Gordon Castle on the 7th was the highest in September since 1907. The nights were very mild in Scotland and Northern Ireland; the screen minimum temperature fell below the freezing point in Scotland on only one occasion, namely the 28th, when Dalwhinnie recorded 31°F.; only in three other Septembers this century has the screen minimum failed to fall below 31°F. in Scotland. Locally in southern England the mean minimum temperature was somewhat below the average.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 81°F. at Camden Square, London on the 8th, 32°F. at Moor House on the 25th; (Scotland) 79°F. at Peebles on the 6th and at Elgin, Gordon Castle, Banff and Logie Coldstone on the 7th, 31°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 28th; (Northern Ireland) 76°F. at Aldergrove and Armagh on the 6th, 41°F. at Nutt's Corner on the 24th, 25th and 28th and at Garvagh and Hillsborough on the 28th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 125 over England and Wales, 139 over Scotland and 115 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland, rainfall was less than average in the northern Hebrides, at some coastal stations in the north-east from Wick around to Banff and locally in Berwickshire, while more than 175 per cent. of average was registered in the south-west and locally in Argyll. In England and Wales, it was less than average over most of the eastern half of England from Tynemouth to Felixstowe and less than half the average locally in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and north Cambridgeshire; it was more than average elsewhere and more than twice the average locally in the Lake District, central Wales and north Devon. In Northern Ireland rainfall was above average except locally in the south-east, percentages at individual stations ranging from 81 at Lisburn to 133 at Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

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| 1st | 3.07 in. at Glengyle, Perthshire, 2.95 in. at Kingairloch, Argyllshire and 2.70 in. at Sloy Power Station, Dumbartonshire. |
| 19th | 2.35 in. at Watendlath Farm, Keswick. |
| 21st | 3.85 in. at Exford, Somerset, 3.09 in. at Patterdale, Westmorland and 2.90 in. at Watendlath Farm. |
| 30th | 4.29 in. at Loch Sloy Dam, Dumbartonshire, 3.75 in. at Ardgour, Argyllshire, 3.63 in. at Onich, 2.94 in. at Llydaw Intake, Snowdon and 2.73 in. at Llechwedd Quarries, Merionethshire. |

Thunderstorms occurred on the 16th–18th, 22nd and 24th; they were rather widespread on the 16th and 17th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 111 in England and Wales, 92 in Scotland and 81 in Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland and in Scotland, except in the extreme north and in the neighbourhood of the Moray Firth, it was a dull month. In England and Wales it was sunny on the whole though a number of places in the west had less than the average amount. In the eastern half of England there was a considerable excess.

Fog.—Fog, mainly at night or in the morning, occurred chiefly on the 1st, 4th–9th, 13th, 15th–19th, 23rd–27th; it was widespread from the 25th–27th, particularly in the southern half of the British Isles.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on nine nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 11 days.