

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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**MAY, 1937.—Wet on the whole in England, mainly rather dry elsewhere; warm spell 23rd-30th.**

Broadly speaking the month was moderately dry and sunny in most parts of Scotland, Ireland, Wales and north-west England; in east and south-east England, however, it was dull and wet. Temperature was above the average generally.

During the opening days an anticyclone moved north-east across the British Isles giving mainly fair, sunny weather. On the 3rd and 4th a trough of low pressure crossed the country and local thunderstorms occurred, though sunshine records were good on the whole. A wedge of high pressure moved eastward over the British Isles on the 5th and 6th, and sunny weather was enjoyed in many parts on the 5th and in eastern districts on the 6th; thunderstorms occurred locally, however, in north-east England and south-east Scotland on the 5th and rain spreading from the west reached most eastern districts by the evening of the 6th.

Subsequently, from the 8th-13th anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part in Scotland, while depressions off our south-west coasts moving east and finally north on the 13th, caused unsettled weather and occasional rain in most of England. On the 15th and 16th the weather was mainly anticyclonic; on the 17th there was some scattered rain and local thunderstorms, and on the 18th rain in east and south-east England was associated with a depression over France. A depression east of Iceland moving south-east caused rain locally in the west and north-west on the 18th. This depression moved south and then remained almost stationary westward of Ireland until the 26th; meanwhile secondary disturbances moved north-east over the British Isles causing unsettled weather, with frequent thunderstorms. Between the 27th and 29th an anticyclone moved north-east from France to Denmark, while a deep Atlantic depression moved slowly north-north-east to Iceland. Finally the Icelandic depression moved eastward and caused gales locally in the north of Scotland on the 30th and 31st. The last week was very warm at times; 80°F. was slightly exceeded locally in south-east England on the 25th, 29th and 30th.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure differed only slightly from the average, the deviation at 7h. ranging from -0.9 mb. at Birr Castle and Valentia to +1.3 mb. at Gorleston and +2.2 mb. at Lerwick.

Gales occurred locally at times; they were recorded in parts of Scotland and north-east England on the 5th, at Bell Rock Lighthouse on the 21st and locally in the north of Scotland on the 27th and between the 29th and 31st. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 67 m.p.h. at Lerwick on the 27th, 60 m.p.h. at Spurn Head and 58 m.p.h. at Eskdalemuir on the 5th, 57 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 29th and 56 m.p.h. at Bell Rock on the 21st.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature exceeded the average in all districts, the excess ranging from 1.0°F. in England, E., to 2.3°F. in Scotland N. The mean maximum temperature at Renfrew, 61.1°F. was the highest at that station in May since before 1921. On the whole, the warmest spell occurred during the last eight or nine days; temperatures approaching or somewhat exceeding 80°F. were recorded at a number of stations in England on the 25th, 29th and 30th, while in Scotland 75°F. was registered at Forres and Gordon Castle on the 29th. Another fairly warm spell was around the 2nd-3rd and it was rather warm at times locally in west Scotland and parts of Ireland between the 15th and 18th, though this latter period was cool on the whole in east and south-east England. At certain stations in Ireland the highest temperature of the month was registered also on the 14th.

An interesting drop in temperature in a short period of time was registered at West Kirby on the 29th; there was a fall of 16°F. in 25 minutes from 12 h. to 25 m. The fall in temperature occurred with a sudden change of wind from SE. to NNW. at 12 h.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 84°F. at Camden Square (London) on the 29th and at Canterbury on the 30th, 30°F. at Thetford on the 17th; (Scotland) 75°F. at Forres and Gordon Castle on the 29th, 24°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 13th; (Ireland) 72°F. at Cork on the 14th and 31°F. at Hazelhatch on the 10th and at Markree Castle on the 11th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation of the British Isles expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 107, the values for the constituent countries being England and Wales 136, Scotland 78 and Ireland 80. In England and Wales less than the average occurred in most of Wales and the north-west of England, locally in the counties bordering Wales and at a few other scattered stations mainly in the south-west of England. More than twice the average fell in an area extending from the Wash southward to Woburn, Bedfordshire, and in other small isolated areas in the east and south, while 292 per cent. of the average was registered in Boston, Lincs. In Ireland, more than the average occurred in a central area extending from County Longford to the north of County Cork and at one or two other isolated stations. In Scotland more than the average was received over a considerable part of the south-east and east, in the Shetland Islands, at Stornoway and at one or two stations in Argyll. Less than 50 per cent. occurred locally in Sutherland, Caithness, Moray and Ayr, while less than 20 per cent. was registered in the Orkney Islands.

Among heavy falls in 24 hours were:—

12th. 1.93 in. at Holton Heath.

20th. 2.33 in. at Rendlesham Hall (Suffolk), 2.26 in. at Campsea Ashe (Suffolk), 2.11 in. at Sprowston and 1.87 in. at Cawston (Norfolk).

21st. 1.68 in. at Pipeland (Fife) and 1.62 in. at Gleneagles.

22nd. 1.66 in. at Borrowdale (Cumberland).

Thunderstorms occurred frequently mainly from the 3rd-5th, 7th, 12th, 20th-21st and 23rd-26th. The thunderstorm in the Wisbech district on the 26th was accompanied by a strong, squally wind and unusually heavy hail, which caused great damage to orchard and farm crops. Much glass was broken in the windows of churches and private houses and in greenhouses.

**Sunshine.**—Broadly speaking, sunshine exceeded the average in the west and north, and was deficient in the east and south-east. The percentages of the average for the various districts ranged from 121 in Ireland, N. and 120 in Ireland, S., to 87 in England, S.E. and 81 in England, E. (see Table I). More than 250 hours were registered locally in the extreme west of Scotland and in Anglesey; for example, the totals in hours were 267 at Tiree, 259 at Duntulm (Skye) and 252 at Holyhead.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred locally on many days, particularly during the first three weeks; it was fairly widespread from the 1st-3rd, on the 14th and from the 17th-20th. Fog was reported along practically the whole of the north-east coast on the 2nd and 3rd, and was thick at times locally on the south-west coasts on the 7th and 8th. It was rather widely reported in east and south-east England on the 12th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on five days; it was seen as far south as Eskdalemuir and Edinburgh on the 4th. Mr. G. A. Clarke, of Aberdeen Observatory, observed a solar halo on each day of the week 23rd-29th inclusive.