

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, 1950 - Unsettled and wet; frequent thunderstorms.

The weather of the month was unsettled, with frequent thunderstorms. It was very wet in Northern Ireland, western and central Scotland and over much of the southern half of England and Wales.

A small anticyclone gave mainly fair weather in the opening days but a trough of low pressure over France was associated with thunderstorms in south-east England during the night of the 2nd to 3rd. During the 3rd a depression over Brittany moved to north-west Germany and further rain occurred in southern and eastern districts of England. On the 5th another depression moved from north-west France to northern Germany and, on the 6th, a shallow depression off the south of Ireland moved to the southern North Sea; rain and thunderstorms were again experienced in southern districts. The period 3rd to 6th was dull in England and Wales but sunny in the north of Scotland.

From the 7th to 9th a depression was situated on the Atlantic westward of the British Isles; on the 7th and 8th troughs associated with this depression caused rain in Scotland and Ireland; on the 9th a shallow trough moved across England and heavy rain and rather widespread thunderstorms occurred in the evening and during the following night. Temperature rose considerably and the 9th was the warmest day of the month at most places in England. During the next two days a secondary depression moved east over the country causing further rain. This was followed by a ridge of high pressure, which was associated with a fair day in eastern districts. Unsettled weather was renewed on the 13th when a depression off the coast of Ireland moved irregularly north-east and later turned north; rain, heavy locally, fell generally on the 13th and, in the west and north, also on the 14th. From the 15th to 18th another deep depression westward of Ireland moved slowly north-east and occasioned rain generally on the 15th and showers and local thunderstorms on the 16th and 17th; rainfall during this period was heavy in some parts. By the 19th an anticyclone over France had intensified, while a trough off south-west Ireland moved north-east; temperature rose temporarily and fair weather occurred over most of England but rain fell in the west and north of the British Isles. A further period of unsettled weather ensued; troughs of low pressure moving slowly east caused rather widespread thunderstorms on the 21st, while a secondary depression, which moved east-north-east across Ireland and northern England, was associated with more rain and local thunderstorms on the 22nd and 23rd. Thereafter small wave depressions off the south of England moved east; some rain occurred in the south of England and there were scattered showers in Scotland and Ireland.

Subsequently an anticyclone off our south-west coasts moved east-north-east to Germany, while a depression off south-east Iceland moved west-south-west. Fair weather prevailed in England from the 26th to 29th, apart from scattered thunderstorms on the 28th. Troughs of low pressure caused showers in Scotland and Ireland and thunder occurred locally in Scotland on the 26th to 28th. On the 30th a trough of low pressure to a depression south of Iceland, moving east, caused some rain in all districts.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average generally, the greatest deficiency occurring in the west; at 9 h. the deviation from the average ranged from -4.6 mb. at Tiree and Armagh to -1.5 mb. at Lympne. Over most of the country the predominating winds were from between south and west. In the northern half of the country the month was less windy than the average. Widespread strong winds, reaching gale force locally, pre-

vailed on the 16th. A gale was recorded at Spurn Head on the 11th and at Dungeness on the 23rd. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 48 at Thorney Island on the 9th and 53 at St. Ann's Head, 49 at Spurn Head and 48 at Thorney Island, Pendennis Castle and Scilly on the 16th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 0.4°F . in England and Wales, 0.6°F . in Scotland and 0.1°F . in Northern Ireland. It was, on the whole, a month of rather equable temperature; there were few really warm days, though temperature reached or exceeded 80°F . widely in England and Wales on the 9th. In Scotland the highest maximum, 74°F ., was the lowest extreme maximum in July since 1922.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 86°F . in London (Camden Square and Greenwich) on the 9th, 39°F . at Rhayader on the 2nd and Market Drayton and Droitwich on the 27th; (Scotland) 74°F . at Auchincruive on the 7th, Liberton on the 14th and Aberdeen on the 20th, 32°F . at Dalwhinnie and Balmoral on the 6th; (Northern Ireland) 71°F . at Armagh on the 30th, 42°F . at Aldergrove on the 3rd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 137 over England and Wales, 133 over Scotland and 191 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred around the Moray Firth, at a few places in the north-west, and in the extreme south-east; a considerable excess occurred in western and central districts, more than twice the average being recorded in part of Argyll and locally in Renfrewshire. In England and Wales less than the average was registered in a fairly wide belt running from Anglesey to the Lincolnshire border, and at a few isolated places elsewhere; more than twice the average was received in an area extending from Dorset north-east to north Cambridgeshire and in small areas in Monmouthshire and north-east Norfolk, while more than three times the average was recorded at Cambridge. In Northern Ireland the percentage of the average ranged from 158 at Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh to 260 at Ballymena, County Antrim.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

6th	2.32 in. at Lansdown, near Bath.
9th	2.14 in. at Odsey, Cambridgeshire.
13th	3.97 in. at Loch Sloy Dam, near Loch Lomond.
17th	2.23 in. at Onich, Inverness-shire.

Thunderstorms occurred frequently, being recorded at some place or other on nearly every day of the month. They occurred on 9 days at Ipswich, 8 days at Felixstowe and 7 days at West Raynham and Whipsnade.

Sunshine.—Sunshine exceeded the average in Scotland and was less than the average in Northern Ireland and south-west England. Elsewhere in England it was rather variable. At St. Andrews it was the sunniest July for 15 years, while at Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands, there has only been one sunnier July (in 1947) since records began nearly 30 years ago.

Fog.—Fog (mainly at night or in the early morning) occurred locally at times, chiefly on the 2nd to 3rd, 7th to 8th, 11th, 13th, 18th to 23rd, 25th and 29th to 31st.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on the 25th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days. A complete circumscribed halo to the halo of 22° was seen at Wrexham on the 2nd.