

# 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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### November 1955—Mild and changeable during the first half of the month, then mainly anticyclonic.

A complex low pressure system in the vicinity of the west of Ireland maintained generally mild unsettled weather from the 2nd–11th, but during the remainder of the month mainly anticyclonic conditions prevailed with cooler, mostly dull weather and an absolute drought in many parts of the country.

Early in the month an intense upper trough, with an associated upper vortex, remained almost stationary in mid-Atlantic. A rather cold sunny day on the 1st was followed by two days of widespread, and locally heavy, rain as surface troughs and small secondary depressions crossed the country. Temperature rose considerably, reaching 65°F. locally in the Midlands on the 4th, which was the warmest day of the month. Accompanying an eastward movement of the upper trough there were widespread thunderstorms in south-east England on 5th and 6th. On the 9th the main upper vortex over the Atlantic deepened slightly and minor upper troughs, in company with surface depressions, moved north-east across the country, resulting in another two days of widespread rain on the 9th and 10th. With a general rise of pressure on the eastern Atlantic on the 11th, the complex low pressure system, which had been lying off the west of Ireland since the beginning of the month, moved north-east across the country filling as it went, but there was occasional rain chiefly in the west and north and scattered thunderstorms in Ireland. Some rain had fallen almost every day at most places from 2nd–11th and in parts of south-west England the cumulative total exceeded the normal amount for the whole month. By the 13th the main upper trough had withdrawn to the region of Greenland, leaving a cut-off cold vortex over the Bay of Biscay and Spain, while an upper ridge to the west of the British Isles intensified. This led to the establishment of a marked blocking pattern which dominated the British Isles or the eastern Atlantic for most of the rest of the month. From the 12th–15th the surface anticyclone was centred over Scotland; weather was cooler and generally rather dull with some slight local drizzle, principally in the east, though there were good sunny periods on the 12th and 15th. During the next four days, the anticyclone was centred over England; fog was widespread and particularly dense in parts of the Midlands and northern England and it persisted in many places from 17th–19th. Temperature during this period was about normal except in persistently foggy areas; Manchester, for example, had a screen temperature of 22°F. on the night of the 16th/17th. The anticyclone then moved westward to the eastern Atlantic and by the 20th north-westerly winds were developing over much of the country, slowly clearing the fog; although during the next few days there was some slight rain in Scotland and eastern England, many places in the west Midlands had recorded an absolute drought by the 26th. On the 25th and 26th the highest pressure was transferred eastward across the southern part of the British Isles into western Europe, and westerly winds in the north brought prolonged rain to parts of northern Scotland. By the 28th the anticyclone, then to the south-east of the British Isles, ceased to be the dominant feature of the weather and a mild south-westerly airstream became established over most of the country; fairly widespread and locally dense fog formed over England during the night of the 29th/30th and persisted in parts of London and the Home Counties throughout the following day.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure was everywhere above the average, the excess at 9 hr. ranging from 9.1 mb. at Stornoway to

4.1 mb. at Scilly. Winds were mainly between south and south-east during the first week becoming south to south-west until the 11th. During the anticyclonic period from 12th–19th winds were mainly light and variable, but light easterlies predominated in the south and westerlies in the north. Later, from the 20th–25th, winds were generally from a north-westerly direction backing to south-west by the end of the month. Gales occurred on 23 days in Scotland; in England and Wales they occurred on 8 days, principally in the south-west where on the 2nd they were fairly widespread. Among the highest gusts recorded was 59 kt. at both Tiree and the Lizard on the 2nd.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was above the 1921–50 average by 1.2°F. in England and Wales, 2.8°F. in Scotland and 2.6°F. in Northern Ireland. In Scotland keen or severe night frost occurred in many areas around the middle of the month; screen temperature fell to 20°F. and 19°F. at Glenlivet and Dalwhinnie respectively on the 14th. In England and Wales the coldest day was the 1st; grass minimum temperature early that morning fell below 15°F. in places. Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 65°F. at Huddersfield (Oakes) and Raunds on the 4th, 16°F. at Long Sutton on the 1st; (Scotland) 62°F. at Kelso on the 8th, 19°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 14th and 16th; (Northern Ireland) 58°F. at Castle Archdale on the 6th and at Armagh on the 8th, 25°F. at Aldergrove on the 13th and at Nutts Corner on the 19th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1881–1915 average was 71 for England and Wales, 48 for Scotland and 64 for Northern Ireland. Rainfall exceeded the average over the west Midlands, south Wales and parts of Devon, Somerset and Dorset; it was less than 25 per cent of the average in parts of Essex, east Sussex and north-east Scotland, and at many places in these districts absolute droughts were recorded.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hr. or less were:—

2nd 2.13 in. at Ashburton and 2.34 in. at Burrator, both in Devon.

10th 2.00 in. at Ebbw Vale (Llangynidr), Brecknock.

28th 2.09 in. at Loch Stack (Ardchullin), Sutherland.

Snow or sleet showers occurred over high ground in Scotland on the 2nd, 23rd, 24th and 27th and in England on the 2nd and 24th at Cleethorpes and Alston respectively.

Thunderstorms were widespread in south-east England on the 5th and 6th; isolated storms occurred also on the 7th and 8th in this area and on the 11th in Ireland.

**Sunshine.**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 96 for England and Wales, 95 for Scotland and 73 for Northern Ireland. Most areas north-west of a line from Oban to Banff were duller than usual, but elsewhere in Scotland sunshine was above the average. The sunniest part of England and Wales was the south-west; Ilfracombe had 162 per cent of its normal sunshine.

**Fog.**—In Scotland fog occurred on 23 days; it was prevalent in eastern parts from 6th–12th and in the west around the 15th. In England and Wales fog was widespread and persisted locally throughout the day on the 6th, 16th–19th and 30th.

**Miscellaneous phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 11 nights. Lunar halos were observed at Lymington, Hants., on the 28th.