

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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SEPTEMBER, 1944.—Unsettled, wet and cool.

Apart from two short spells of mainly anticyclonic weather from the 9th–12th and 17th–18th, the weather of the month was unsettled and wet on the whole.

During the opening days a depression west of Ireland moved east-south-east to the Bristol Channel and then turned north-east to Denmark. On the 3rd and 4th a complex depression, situated initially off north-west Ireland moved slowly east. The weather was very unsettled with heavy rain at times and strong winds prevailed in England with a gale locally. On the 6th a trough of low pressure moved slowly south-east over England causing scattered showers, and on the 7th heavy rain was experienced in England with the passage north-east of a depression from north France to Denmark. In the rear of this depression, cold winds prevailed over the British Isles, with showers and widespread thunderstorms.

Subsequently an anticyclone north-west of Ireland moving south-east over the British Isles and then north-east to southern Scandinavia maintained mainly fair weather over the British Isles from the 9th–12th inclusive. Some low night temperatures were registered during this period and ground frosts were reported at numerous stations.

By the 13th a trough approaching our western seaboard was associated with rain in Ireland and west Scotland. On the morning of the 14th a depression was situated off our south-west coasts and on the 15th and 16th it moved north-north-east over the country. There was further rain, heavy locally, on the 14th and 15th. In the rear of this depression the Azores anticyclone moved slowly north-east and another short spell of mainly fair weather was enjoyed over the country on the 17th and 18th, although depressions off our north-west seaboard were associated with a gale in the northern Hebrides.

Subsequently the anticyclone moved away eastward and unsettled weather was renewed over the British Isles. On the 20th and 21st a shallow trough moved eastward over the country causing some rain in the west and north and on the 22nd another trough moved eastward causing general rain. On the 23rd and 24th a secondary depression on the Atlantic moved rapidly east-south-east across England and then turned north-east to Denmark: heavy rain occurred, and winds were strong over England on the 24th. On the 25th a vigorous trough associated with a depression near Iceland moved rapidly east causing rain in most places and, on the 26th and 27th, cold west-north-westerly winds reaching gale force at exposed places, prevailed, with showers and bright periods, and local thunderstorms. During the closing days of the month a rather vigorous depression moved east to the north of Scotland and associated troughs moved across the British Isles; further rain or showers occurred.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was not very different from the average, but broadly speaking it was slightly below the average in the north and east and a little above in the south and west. The deviations from the average at 6 h. ranged from -0.9 mb. at Sumburgh, Shetlands, to $+1.2$ mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly. On the whole winds from some westerly point predominated. Strong winds and local gales were reported in England on the first four days, strong north-westerly winds with gales at exposed stations, particularly in the northern half of the country, on the 26th and 27th, and strong winds in England with a gale locally in the Irish Sea on the 24th. Gale force was also reached locally in Scotland on the 17th and 29th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 67 m.p.h. at Plymouth and the Lizard, 63 m.p.h. at Pendennis Castle and 61 m.p.h. at Manston and Holyhead all on the 2nd, 60 m.p.h. at Larkhill on the 24th and 70 m.p.h. at Stornoway and 62 m.p.h. at Tiree on the 26th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average by 1.3°F . over England and Wales and 1.1°F . over Scotland and

Northern Ireland. Over England and Wales and Northern Ireland it was probably the coldest September since 1931. Among warm days were the 1st, 13th–15th and 17th–21st, particularly the 14th in England and Wales, and the 18th and 19th in Scotland. Low minimum temperatures were registered at numerous places on the mornings of the 10th–12th. Among cold days were the 7th–9th, 24th and 27th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 75°F . at Norwich, Maldon, Canterbury and London (Greenwich) on the 14th, 29°F . at Santon Downham and Rhayader on the 10th, (Scotland) 75°F . at Gordon Castle on the 18th, 26°F . at Braemar on the 12th; (Northern Ireland) 71°F . at Hillsborough on the 17th, 34°F . at Lisburn on the 10th, and at Garvagh on the 22nd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 167 over England and Wales, 140 over Scotland and 175 over Northern Ireland. Less than the average occurred in the Shetlands, in Aberdeen, over much of the western Highlands, in the south of England between Plymouth, Marlborough and Portsmouth as well as at a few places on the Cornish coast. More than twice the average was received over most of a broad belt along the east coast from Edinburgh to the Wash extending westward to include the southern uplands of Scotland and the greater part of the Pennines, in a narrow strip stretching from Leicester and Birmingham across Stafford to Llandudno, and at a few places elsewhere. More than three times the average was received in a small area round Newcastle. At Edinburgh the total 4.78 in. was the heaviest for September this century apart from September 1927 and at Leazes Park, Newcastle, it was the wettest September in a record back to 1896.

Falls of more than 1 in. in 24 hours were frequent, particularly during the first week and on the 14th, 15th, 23rd and 24th. On the 3rd a large number of stations in Wales reported a fall of more than 3 in.

Among the heaviest daily falls were:—

- 2nd. 2.00 in. at Staindrop, Durham.
- 3rd. 3.97 in. at Rhondda Water Works, 3.85 in. at Treherbert (Glamorgan) and 3.80 in. at Llyn-y-fan Fach (Carmarthen).
- 4th. 2.95 in. at Etrick Manse (Selkirk).
- 15th. 2.94 in. at Tiree.

Thunderstorms were fairly frequent for September, being reported locally on the 2nd, 6th–8th, 15th–16th and 26th–27th.

Snow fell on the hills in the western Highlands of Scotland on the 7th and 8th and on Snowdon on the 8th and there was a considerable fall of fresh snow on the Grampians on the 24th. Snow showers were reported in Glencoe on the 29th.

Sunshine.—On the whole the duration of bright sunshine was somewhat below the average, the percentages being 97 over England and Wales, 95 over Scotland and 91 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland good records were reported from the Orkneys and the Western Isles and totals were somewhat above the average locally on the mainland. Over most of the country, however, there was a deficiency, which was considerable in the south. In Northern Ireland and north-west England and N. Wales sunshine was deficient, elsewhere in England and Wales, deviations from the averages were more irregular. In the south-west numerous stations recorded an excess.

Fog.—Fog developed fairly frequently, mainly from the 10th–22nd; it was most considerable on the whole on the 14th–15th and 19th–22nd. Some coast and hill fog occurred locally at times during the first week and fog was reported with drizzle on the extreme south-west coast of England on the 25th and 29th–30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 11 nights and solar halos were noted at Oxford on 9 days.