

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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AUGUST, 1946—Very unsettled; cool; wet on the whole

The month was cool, unsettled, and wet, particularly in England and Wales. Widespread gales occurred on the 28th and local gales between the 10th and 13th.

During the opening days of the month a depression south of Iceland moved east and then north-east, while associated secondaries crossed the British Isles; rain occurred at times. On the 5th a shallow secondary depression off north France moved north-east and caused scattered thunderstorms in Great Britain. From the 6th–8th a depression remained, with little movement, south of Iceland, while troughs of low pressure moving eastward over the British Isles were associated with occasional rain. On the 9th and 10th a deepening depression moved from a position south-westward of Ireland across the south of England to the North Sea; in England, heavy rain occurred on the 9th and locally on the 10th. On the 11th a new depression appeared off the south-west of Ireland and during the next few days moved north-east across the British Isles to southern Norway; strong winds and local gales were reported from the 11th–13th and rain was heavy in some parts on the 11th and 12th. In the rear of this depression an unstable north-westerly air current spread over the British Isles and secondary depressions moved south-east across the country; cool, showery weather prevailed with local thunderstorms. On the 16th and 17th a depression off Brittany moved rather slowly north-east to Hamburg; heavy rain occurred in east and south-east England on the 16th. During the following days a depression south of Iceland moved east-north-east and a complex trough moved slowly east over the British Isles; further rain fell in most places and local thunderstorms were reported on the 19th. Thereafter pressure was relatively high to the south and south-west of the British Isles, but weak troughs moving east across the country caused some rain. On the 24th and 25th complex troughs of low pressure moving east were associated with rain and thunderstorms. Subsequently, on the 27th, a depression approached south-west Ireland and became very deep and a period of stormy weather ensued. The system moved rather slowly north-east across southern Ireland to south Scotland, then north-north-east to central Scotland, where it remained without much movement and becoming less deep until the end of the month. Heavy rain was registered on the 27th and 28th and showery weather prevailed from the 29th–31st. Local thunderstorms were reported from the 28th–31st inclusive.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average by about 3 to 5 mb. The depression on the 28th was unusually deep for the time of year and pressure near the centre fell to 974 mb. at Roches Point in the south of Ireland. Gales occurred on several days, mainly from the 10th–13th, 28th and 29th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 65 m.p.h. at Lympne on the 10th and 76 m.p.h. at Pendennis, 69 m.p.h. at Scilly and 66 m.p.h. at Boscombe Down, all on the 28th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average, the deviations for the districts ranging from -0.6°F . in Scotland, N. to -2.0°F . in England, S.W. and Northern Ireland. Over England and Wales as a whole it was the coldest August since 1931. The opening week was comparatively warm, particularly on the 4th and 5th, when temperature rose to 80°F . or above at numerous places in east and south-east England and the Midlands. Low minimum temperatures were registered at times, mainly on the 16th–18th, 21st, 23rd and 26th–28th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 83°F . at Peterborough, Regents Pk. (London) and East Malling on the 5th and in London (Camden Square and Greenwich) on the 4th and 5th, 33°F . at Rhayader on the 16th; (Scotland) 74°F . at Strathy, Gordon Castle, Banff and Marchmont on the 5th, 31°F . at Dalwhinnie on the 27th; (Northern Ireland) 72°F . at Lisburn on the 5th, 37°F . at Garvagh on the 21st.

Precipitation.—The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 164 over England and Wales, 103 over Scotland and 130 over Northern Ireland. Over England and Wales it was the wettest August since 1917. In Scotland less than the average occurred over much of the western half of the country and locally near the east coast. Less than 75 per cent. was received over an area in the south-west, in small, scattered areas in Inverness-shire and locally on the north-east coast. More than 150 per cent. of the average was reported over part of Banffshire and locally in the Shetlands. In England and Wales an excess was general; more than twice the average occurred over much of south-east and east England, over a large area in the Midlands and in a small area in Northumberland. In Northern Ireland percentages of the average ranged from 112 at Newtownbutler to 151 at Omagh. Rain occurred frequently, the number of days with measurable rain being six more than the average in England, S.W. and S. Wales and five more than the average in England, E. and SE. and the Midlands. Heavy rain on individual days caused serious flooding and damage to the harvest.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours ending at 9h. were:—

9th	2.03 in. at Weston-S-Mare, 1.92 in. at Cannington and 1.78 in. at Hereford.
12th	3.10 in. at Belford (Northumberland), 2.83 in. at Berwick-on-Tweed, 2.88 in. at Troutbeck (Cumberland).
16th	3.13 in. at Patcham (Sussex), 3.12 in. at Seaford, 2.80 in. at Beachy Head and 2.48 in. at Manston.
29th	2.45 in. at Watendlath Farm (Cumberland).
30th	2.64 in. at Watendlath Farm and 2.02 in. at Dundee.

Thunderstorms occurred rather frequently, mainly on the 5th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 14th–15th, 17th, 19th–20th, 24th–25th and 28th–31st.

Sunshine.—Speaking generally sunshine was somewhat above the average in Scotland, considerably below the average in England and Wales and slightly below in Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the duration was everywhere below the average except at a few stations in the north-west. At Swansea and Ross-on-Wye it was the dullest August since 1922. In the far north and locally in the west of Scotland, however, the month was much sunnier than usual.

Fog.—Fog occurred locally at times, mainly from the 1st–6th, 16th–19th and 22nd–26th. It occurred most frequently and was rather persistent at times on the south-west coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed at Baltasound, Shetlands on the 30th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 17 days. A lunar rainbow was seen in the neighbourhood of Cardiff on the 8th, and a waterspout at Aberdovey on the 12th.