

# Monthly Weather Report

M.O. 701

## OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

*Summary of observations compiled from returns of official stations and voluntary observers*

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### June 1961 — *Dry; sunny in the south; very warm towards end of month*

Apart from the 7th-12th, when small depressions moved across the country, weather during the major part of June was anticyclonic in character with a ridge of high pressure extending from the Azores anticyclone towards north-west Europe.

The month opened with northerly winds and cold wet weather over the eastern half of the country and temperatures generally some 7°C below average; at Kew temperature during the afternoon reached only 10.6°C, the lowest June maximum since 1916. In the north-west, however, weather was warm and sunny with over 13 hours of sunshine at many places. Warmer air from the Atlantic spread across the whole country on the 2nd, as winds backed to between west and north-west, and the next few days were warm and sunny in most places although there was some occasional slight rain in western and northern districts.

On the 7th a shallow depression approached Scotland from the west and an associated frontal system brought rain to all districts as it moved eastwards across the British Isles. There were showers and thunderstorms the following day in the unstable north-westerly air-stream behind the front. Another minor depression moved eastwards across northern England on the 10th and 11th but it brought some very heavy rain, accompanied by thunder, to parts of the north-west; many places in northern England having more than 1 in. of rain in 24 hours. This depression was followed by a deeper one which moved across southern England on the 12th. Rain was heavy over an area extending from South Wales to the Thames Estuary with falls of more than 1 in. in 24 hours in many central and southern districts. Weather in Scotland during this period, however, was dry and sunny; in the three days 10th-12th Stornoway recorded more than 43 hr of sunshine.

With a ridge of high pressure moving eastwards across the country, the 13th and 14th were fine and sunny. During the next three or four days there was a complex depression in the neighbourhood of Iceland which gave west to south-west gales in parts of Scotland on the 17th and 18th, with gusts reaching 50 kt locally, and associated fronts brought rain to most northern districts from 15th to 17th and some occasional slight rain further south.

During the next few days a ridge of high pressure extended eastwards across the British Isles from an anticyclone to the north of the Azores. Apart from a little rain in the north and west weather was fine generally with steadily rising temperatures. However, there was some slight ground frost in the North Midlands on the morning of the 21st.

The eastward movement of weak fronts across the country was resumed on the 21st, and with the arrival of a warm and humid air-stream from the region of the Azores weather during the next three or four days was cloudy with low stratus in some western districts. There was extensive sea fog in the South-Western Approaches and patches in coastal areas, but further inland weather was fine and sunny and temperatures continued to rise steadily; 29°C was reached at a number of places on both the 24th and 25th.

On the 26th thundery rain from France spread into southern England, but this was soon followed by brighter weather as an anticyclone moved into northern France the next day. During the remainder of the month weather was often cloudy with rain at times in western and northern Scotland and Northern Ireland but elsewhere

it was fine and very warm. Afternoon temperatures exceeded 30°C in many parts of England on the 30th and reached 31.1°C at Gillingham, Kent.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was below the 1921-50 average in the north and above in the south, the deviations at 9h ranging from -3.1 mb at Lerwick to +1.9 mb at Scilly. Surface winds were mainly northerly on the 1st, backing to between west and north-west on the 2nd and becoming generally south-westerly on the 3rd-6th, after which they were variable until the 14th, becoming generally westerly until the 25th, north-westerly on the 26th and 27th and then south-westerly until the end of the month. Gales, which were mainly confined to Scotland, occurred there in exposed places on the 16th-19th, 22nd, 24th and 28th. Wind reached gale force at Moor House, Westmorland, on the 16th. A gust of 56 kt was recorded at Lerwick on the 18th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperature, in spite of the very warm weather at the end of the month, was only 0.4°C above the 1921-50 average in England and Wales; it was equal to the average in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The coldest period generally was the 9th-12th, and there was ground frost and some local air frost on the 10th-14th; on the morning of the 12th temperature on the grass at a number of places in Scotland fell to -7°C.

**Extremes included:** (England and Wales) 31.1°C at Gillingham, Kent, on the 30th, -2.2°C at Santon Downham and at Alwen on the 14th; (Scotland) 24.4°C at North Berwick on the 30th, -3.0°C at Glenlivet on the 12th and 14th; (Northern Ireland) 23.9°C at Belfast on the 24th, 0.0°C at Lislap Forest on the 1st.

**Precipitation** — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 69 over England and Wales, where it was the driest June since 1951, 82 over Scotland and 78 over Northern Ireland. Less than half the average rainfall was recorded in Devon, Somerset, Wiltshire, around the Wash, in the mid-Severn Valley, on the Cumberland coast, in the Lothians and in east Stirlingshire. More than 150 per cent of the average occurred in the Ben Nevis area, locally in the north-west Highlands and in northern Sutherland.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on the 8th-10th, 15th and 25th (5 days) and in England and Wales on the 6th-9th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 25th, 26th and 30th (10 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 8th and occurred widely in southern England on the 26th.

**Sunshine** — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 109 in England and Wales, 85 in Scotland and 82 in Northern Ireland. In Scotland and Northern Ireland sunshine was below average almost everywhere, in some places the deficit was as much as 40-50 hours. Elsewhere the sunniest places were generally in eastern and southern England; Cromer, Bath and Birmingham all had 124 per cent of their average sunshine.

**Fog** — There was little fog apart from patches of coastal fog in south and south-west England on the 17th and 22nd-25th, and in the Channel Islands on the 16th, 18th, 25th and 26th. Early morning fog occurred at widely separated places on 4 days in Scotland and on the 1st, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 11th and 12th in England and Wales.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was not observed anywhere during the month.