

Monthly Weather Report

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

VOL. 69 No. 6

PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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June 1952—Dull and mainly wet in the west and north; warm during the last week.

Broadly speaking the weather of the month was wet in the north and west and dry in the south and east. On the whole the duration of bright sunshine was less than the average except in the south-east, the deficiency being greatest in the north of Scotland. Temperature was changeable during the first three weeks but the last week was warm.

On the 1st and 2nd a depression moved north-east over the British Isles causing rain and local thunderstorms, with a gale on our south-west coasts. Thereafter an anticyclone moved quickly north-east from Spain to central Europe, while a depression south of Iceland moved slowly east and turned north and associated troughs of low pressure crossed the British Isles. Rain or showers, heavy in places, occurred on the 4th and 5th and thunderstorms were experienced locally on the 5th and 6th. The duration of bright sunshine exceeded the average in all districts in the first week. On the 8th a shallow depression off north-west Ireland moved east-south-east causing widespread rain in the south. Subsequently a belt of high pressure extended from the Azores across the southern districts of the British Isles to Germany and a short spell of fair warm weather prevailed over much of the country, though cloudy conditions with some rain occurred in the north of Scotland. On the 12th and 13th a small depression over the Bay of Biscay moved to southern England and then turned north-east; thunderstorms occurred widely in southern England and the Midlands on the 13th, the storms being severe locally with heavy rain. A cool rather unsettled spell ensued, which lasted until the 21st. On the 14th and 15th pressure was low over Scandinavia and high to the north-west of the British Isles; cool northerly winds prevailed with scattered rain or showers. On the 17th and 18th a depression off the west of Scotland moved east and became less intense while an associated trough moved across England; rain occurred widely and there was thunder in places. On the 19th and 20th a small disturbance west of Iceland moved south-east and on the 21st another westward of Scotland moved east-south-east to the North Sea. More rain occurred, heavy locally but falls were slight in the south.

Subsequently the Azores anticyclone spread north-east and a belt of high pressure lay over southern districts maintaining fair, warm weather for the remainder of the month, but Atlantic depressions moving north-east caused rain at times in northern districts, particularly on the 24th and 28th. Except in the north-west and north of Scotland the last week was warm, the last three or four days being very warm.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average for the period 1901–30 in the northern half of the country and slightly above the average in the south. The deviation at 9 h. ranged from –5.1 mb. at Lerwick to +1.6 mb. at Newquay. Winds from some westerly point predominated. Gale force was reached locally at times, mainly on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 18th, 21st, 22nd and 28th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 55 at Pendennis Castle, 54 at Scilly and 47 at Kete on the 1st, 47 at Lerwick and Dover on the 2nd and 49 at Stornoway on the 4th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was 1.1°F. above the average for the period 1906–35 in England and Wales and 0.6°F. below the average in Scotland, while in Northern Ireland it equalled the average. The coolest week was that ending on the 21st but some low minimum temperatures were registered on the 3rd and 7th–9th. A warm spell occurred around the 12th and, except in the north and north-west of Scotland, the last week was warm, particularly the last

three days. At numerous places in the eastern half of England, and the Midlands maxima of 80°F. were recorded during the last three days.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 89°F. in London (Camden Square and Greenwich) on the 29th and 30th, 31°F. at Kielder Castle on the 9th; (Scotland) 78°F. at Perth on the 12th, 24°F. at Glenlivet on the 3rd; (Northern Ireland) 76°F. at Holywood on the 30th, 33°F. at Aldergrove on the 9th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 86 over England and Wales, 130 over Scotland and 98 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average rainfall occurred in the neighbourhood of the Moray Firth, the Valley of the Tweed and at one or two scattered places elsewhere. More than 150 per cent. of the average was received in the north-west and extreme north and around Aberdeen and more than twice the average at Lerwick, in the Shetland Islands. In England and Wales the distribution was rather variable but broadly speaking less than the average occurred in all eastern and Midland districts of England and in much of south-west England and more than the average in south and west Wales and most of north-west England. Heavy thundery rain, however, caused a considerable excess locally in the drier areas; for example, at Bristol, Cranwell and Hatfield, Essex. In Northern Ireland less than the average was measured at some places in the eastern part of the Province and more than the average elsewhere.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st 1.86 in. at Broadford, Island of Skye.
- 13th 2.47 in. at Barrow Gurney Reservoir, Somerset, 2.21 in. at Long Ashton, Bristol and 2.02 in. at Cranwell, Lincolnshire.
- 21st 3.24 in. at Blaenau Festiniog and 3.16 in. at Llechwedd Quarry, both in Merionethshire and 2.90 in. at Cwm-Dyli, Snowdon.
- 26th 1.80 in. at Kinlochquoich, Inverness-shire.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 1st–3rd, 5th–6th, 12th–18th, 28th and 30th; they were widespread and severe in places in southern England and the Midlands on the 13th.

Sleet showers were recorded locally in Scotland on the 1st, 6th and 21st.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–35 was 98 in England and Wales, 80 in Scotland and 84 in Northern Ireland. In Scotland, Northern Ireland and north-west England, a deficiency occurred almost everywhere; in Scotland the deficiency was most marked north of the Forth-Clyde valley. The first week was sunny on the whole and the last week was sunny in southern England. In the intervening period sunshine was mostly below the average for the season. In the north of Scotland the period 7th–16th inclusive was unusually dull; at Duntulm, Island of Skye, the total sunshine for the ten days was only 6.2 hours, the lowest total there for ten days in June since records were first begun in 1934.

Fog.—Fog occurred locally at times, chiefly on the 6th, 8th–14th, 21st–22nd and 24th–30th. It was most frequent on the whole on the north-west and south-west coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 16 days.