

Monthly Weather Report

M.O. 722

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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August 1962 — *Cool and wet.*

The month was mainly cyclonic with a succession of troughs moving east across the country. These were mainly associated with depressions to the north or north-west of Scotland, and the series was broken by only short anticyclonic spells on the 12th-13th and on the last two days of the month.

An unstable westerly airstream gave thundery overnight rain on the 1st, and after a generally fine day on the 2nd a complex depression, deepening off the north-west of Scotland, brought widespread and frequently heavy rain on the 3rd. The next two days were fine with 12 to 13 hours of sunshine over much of southern England. Bank Holiday Monday, on the other hand, was wet and cold with a deepening depression moving north-east across southern England; at Kew it was the coldest Bank Holiday Monday since 1888. The rain, heavy at times, persisted throughout the night, and continued in the north-east for most of the 7th. Showers became scattered the next day as a ridge of high pressure moved across the country.

The 9th and 11th were wet and stormy days with vigorous depressions moving east near the north of Scotland; rain was heavy and prolonged in places on both days, and there was flooding in the Lake District and southern Scotland on the 11th; 5.02 in. of rain was recorded at Langdale in 24 hours. Winds, which had reached gale force over most of the country on the 11th, with gusts exceeding 60 kt in Scotland moderated on the 12th and weather thereafter in Scotland and northern England became fine with over 10 hours of sunshine at many places during each of the next three days. In southern England, however, it remained mainly dull ahead of a northward moving depression in the South-West Approaches. By the 14th this depression had reached Cornwall and there were frequent outbreaks of thundery rain and thunderstorms as it moved north-eastward. Rain spread to the remainder of the country on the 15th and continued throughout the next day with the main depression centred over eastern Scotland and a shallow secondary moving eastwards across the Midlands that night.

The 17th and 18th were mainly fine with decreasing shower activity as the depressions moved away east, but troughs associated with a quasi-stationary depression south of Iceland gave fairly widespread rain on the 19th and 20th as they moved slowly east across the country, and there were thundery showers on the 21st and 22nd as the depression itself moved towards Scandinavia and filled.

Active depressions from the Atlantic moving east over or near Scotland gave widespread and locally heavy rain on the 23rd and 26th. Winds increased to gale force on the evening of the 23rd. There were good sunny periods and scattered showers on the 24th and 25th but strong to gale force winds continued for some time, especially in north-west England. Periods of heavy rain on the 23rd caused flooding in parts of Scotland and the Lake District for the second time during the month.

Winds moderated on the 27th and the day was generally sunny with scattered showers, but a trough from the Atlantic brought rain to most districts that night which continued in some southern districts for most of the following day. On the 29th, an anticyclone over the South-West Approaches spread north-eastwards, and the remainder of the month was generally dry with long sunny periods.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the average everywhere except in south-west England, the deviation at 9 hr ranging

from -6.0 mb at Lerwick to $+0.8$ mb at Plymouth. Surface winds were generally westerly at first, north-westerly on the 5th-7th then mainly south-westerly until the 11th, light and variable on the 12th and 13th and south-westerly on the 14th and 15th after which they were predominantly westerly until the end of the month. Gales were reported on 14 days in Scotland and on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 22nd-24th, 26th and 27th (13 days) in England and Wales and were widespread on the 26th and 27th. Gusts of 63 kt were recorded at Tiree and Lossiemouth on the 11th and at Southport on the 26th.

Temperature — Mean temperature was again below the average as it has been every month this year except for January and February, the deficit being 1.3°C in England and Wales, 1.2°C in Scotland and 0.9°C in Northern Ireland. Day temperatures were below the average throughout the month except around the 19th; night minimum temperatures were below the average during the first week and the last few days of the month, otherwise they were about average. Ground frost occurred on 10 nights and was widespread on the 9th.

Extremes included: — (England and Wales) 25.0°C at Gillingham on the 19th, -1.7°C at Moor House on the 14th; (Scotland) 21.2°C at Kinloss on the 20th, -1.1°C at a number of stations on the 13th and 14th; (Northern Ireland) 22.3°C at Ballykelly on the 9th, 0.0°C at Baronscourt Forest on the 13th and at Knockmany Forest on the 14th.

Precipitation — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 137 for England and Wales, 162 for Scotland and 117 for Northern Ireland. Less than average rainfall occurred in Kent (except for the south coast) Essex and Suffolk, around the Dee estuary and in parts of Northumberland and Durham. More than 150 per cent of the average was recorded along the south coast, in central southern England, the Midlands, in central Wales, in parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire and the Lake District. More than 200 per cent was recorded locally in Wiltshire and the Cotswolds area and in Leicestershire. At Edgbaston it was the wettest August Bank Holiday in 75 years of records. At Exeter monthly rainfall was above the average for the first time since last August.

Thunder was heard on 10 days in Scotland and on the 3rd, 6th-8th, 14th-17th, 20th-22nd and 26th (12 days) in England and Wales. Thunderstorms were widespread in central and southern England on the 14th, and in south-east England on the 7th.

Sleet was reported on 3 days in Scotland.

Sunshine — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 92 in England and Wales, 109 in Scotland and 115 in Northern Ireland. In Scotland sunshine was below the average only in some south-western districts and in places adjacent to the Great Glen, in Northern Ireland it was above the average practically everywhere but in England and Wales it was mostly below the average.

Fog — In Scotland early morning fog was reported on 8 days; hill fog was reported from Lowther Hill on 20 days. Fog occurred on twelve days in England and Wales and was widespread in north-east England on the 15th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was visible in Scotland on 11 nights.