

Monthly Weather Report

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

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NOVEMBER, 1946.—Mild; dull and very wet except in north-west Scotland.

The month was notable for an unusually warm spell around the 4th and very unsettled weather, with high winds, local gales and heavy rainfall, which caused serious flooding in many areas, during the second half of the month.

On the 1st a ridge of high pressure extended south-west over the British Isles from an anticyclone over Scandinavia, while a shallow low lay over north France and drifted westward; some rain occurred in most districts. From the 2nd-4th an Atlantic depression moved slowly north towards south-west Iceland while secondary troughs moved north-east over the British Isles. Rain fell in most places on the 2nd and was rather scattered on the 3rd. On the 5th and 6th a south-westward extension of an anticyclone over south Sweden moved north over the British Isles. With pressure low from Iceland to the Azores and high eastward of the British Isles, a mild southerly air stream flowed over the country and some unusually high temperatures were registered from the 3rd-6th, particularly on the 4th. There was little or no rain on the 5th and it continued dry over most of England and Ireland on the 6th, but fairly heavy rain occurred in north Scotland on that day. By the 7th a separate anticyclone was situated south of Iceland and thereafter it moved very slowly south and dominated conditions over the British Isles until the 11th. Temperature fell considerably and rainfall was mostly confined to showers in eastern districts. Considerable fog developed from the 2nd-7th.

Subsequently conditions became very unsettled and rain was a daily occurrence in most places. On the 12th a depression over south Iceland moved east to south Norway and on the 13th a small depression developed on the Atlantic and moved rapidly eastward to Ireland; subsequently it moved irregularly along the English Channel to north-east France and filled. Rain fell generally on the 13th, heavy rain occurred in southern districts on the 14th and moderate rain in eastern districts on the 15th. On the 17th and 18th a depression off the Hebrides moved east-south-east causing considerable rain generally and rather widespread gales. From the 20th-22nd, a depression moved north-north-east from south-west Ireland to the Faeroes and on the 21st a separate centre developed off north-west Ireland and moved east causing widespread gales in south-west England and in Wales. Fairly heavy rain occurred widely on the 20th and 21st, with scattered showers on the 22nd; there were thunderstorms at a number of places on the 21st. On the 23rd a very deep depression westward of Ireland moved slowly north while an associated trough moved north-east over the British Isles. Widespread high winds and gales occurred and exceedingly heavy rainfall was recorded in southern England and Wales, which caused serious flooding. Subsequently the main centre moved slowly east-south-east and then north-east across Scotland. Further rain fell on the 24th, 25th and 26th and thunderstorms occurred locally on the 24th and 25th. On the 27th an almost stationary depression was situated off north-west Ireland, while a deepening secondary north-east of the Azores moved rapidly north-east to south-west Ireland and later north-north-east across the British Isles to the Orkneys where it filled. Very unsettled weather prevailed with strong winds and general rain on the 27th and 28th and showers on the 29th. Finally, on the last day, a trough of low pressure moved eastward across the country causing further showers. Local thunderstorms were reported on the 28th-30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average by about 5 to 7 mb. except in the extreme north of Scotland, where the

deficiency was appreciably less. Gales were reported locally on the 4th, 7th-9th, and daily from the 17th-28th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 70 m.p.h. at Bidston and Holyhead (Valley) on the 18th, 65 m.p.h. at Boscombe Down on the 25th and 26th and 74 m.p.h. at Pendennis Castle on the 28th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 3.5°F. in England and Wales, 2.1°F. in Scotland and 2.3°F. in Northern Ireland. An exceptionally warm spell occurred from about the 4th-6th. The maximum temperature on the 4th was the highest on record at numerous stations; for example, 69°F. in the Edinburgh district is the highest temperature ever registered anywhere in Scotland in November, and in England the maximum temperature was the highest on record for November at stations as far apart as Wakefield, Oxford and Ross-on-Wye. Night minima during this spell were also exceptionally high; at Aberdeen the minimum 56°F. on the 5th is the highest ever recorded in November. Among cold nights were the 2nd, 7th and 23rd in England and Wales and the 15th, 16th and 23rd in Scotland. The extremes for the north were:—(England and Wales) 71°F. at Prestatyn on the 4th, 27°F. at Amesbury, Larkhill and Lyneham on the 2nd, and at Santon Downham on the 7th; (Scotland) 69°F. in Edinburgh (Botanic Gardens and Liberton) on the 4th, 16°F. at Balmoral and Braemar on the 15th; (Northern Ireland) 65°F. at Lisburn on the 5th and at Castlerock on the 5th and 6th, 26°F. at Armagh on the 16th and at Garvagh on the 16th and 17th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 179 over England and Wales, 136 over Scotland and 116 over Northern Ireland.

Less than the average occurred over an area stretching from Londonderry across north-west Scotland to Cape Wrath and at Llandudno in North Wales. More than twice the average was received in a coastal belt in east Scotland, over a large area covering most of south Wales and the Midlands and in smaller areas in south-west and south England, Durham and the Solway Firth. The latter half of the month was excessively wet. Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

18th 2.14 in. at Bridge of Dye (Kincardineshire).
19th 2.58 in. at Ystalyfera (Glam.) and 3.77 in. at Rhondda Waterworks, Llyn Fawr (Glamorgan).
23rd 4.56 in. at Blaenau Hydyfer (Brecon), 5.76 in. at Rhondda Waterworks and 6.83 in. at Princetown.
27th 3.28 in. at Princetown.

Local thunderstorms occurred at times, mainly on the 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th and 28th-30th.

In Scotland snow and sleet showers were widely reported in the north and east on the 13th and local showers occurred on the 12th, 14th-16th, 22nd and 23rd.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was everywhere below the average except locally in north-west and west Scotland. In England and Wales the deficiency was great, the percentage of the average being only 63. The percentages for the districts ranged from 46 in England, N.W. and N. Wales, to 89 in Scotland, N. At Eskdalemuir it was the dullest November on record.

Fog.—Fog occurred at times chiefly from the 2nd-7th, 11th, 14th-17th, and 29th. Fog was rather widespread from the 5th-7th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed at northern stations in Scotland on 11 nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 11 days.