

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

Price 2s. 0d. net
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VOL. 70 No. 8

PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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August 1953—Mainly fair, then changeable.

Anticyclonic conditions prevailed over England and Wales until the 11th and at times over Scotland and Ireland also. It then became less settled with troughs moving eastward across the country. Subsequently there was a pronounced westerly type which persisted until the end of the month. The weather was mainly fair and warm until the 12th when it became less settled with local thunderstorms. The latter half of the month was rather cool with frequent rain, heavy at times in some areas.

In the first three days a ridge of high pressure moved slowly across the British Isles maintaining fair weather apart from scattered showers, chiefly in the north or on the east coast. On the 4th and 5th a depression moved east across Iceland and an associated westerly airstream brought a good deal of cloud generally, with appreciable rainfall locally in the north of Scotland in the early hours of the 4th, and some light rain in places on the 4th to 6th. On the 6th an anticyclone off our south-west coasts extended north-eastwards and dry weather prevailed until the 12th apart from slight rain at times in the extreme west and north-west. By the 12th pressure was high over southern Scandinavia, while a trough of low pressure moved in over the British Isles from the west giving local thunderstorms on the 12th and 13th; the storms were heavy locally in north-east England on the 13th. A warm south-south-easterly airstream in front of the trough was accompanied by notably high temperatures, 90°F. or a little above being reached at a number of places in the eastern half of England on the 12th. From the 14th to the 17th a depression south of Iceland moved very slowly north; on the 14th an associated trough gave rain in western districts of the British Isles and on the following day it moved east bringing thundery rain and local thunderstorms. On the 17th a secondary depression off west Scotland moved east giving general rain, heavy locally in the north and west. From this time onward a westerly type of weather persisted, with frequent rain; on the 19th troughs associated with a depression off the Hebrides crossed England and Wales bringing heavy rain, and on the 20th and 21st the main depression moved slowly east over Scotland giving varying amounts of rain and local thunderstorms. Further rain, heavy locally in the south, occurred on the 23rd and there were scattered thunderstorms on the 24th. Thereafter a wedge of high pressure moving east was accompanied by a short spell of fair weather over most of the country on the 25th and 26th. Subsequently troughs of low pressure brought renewed rain to northern districts on the 27th and to most parts on the 28th and 29th, the rainfall being heavy at times, particularly in England and Wales on the 29th. Mainly fair weather prevailed over much of southern England on the last two days, but showers and local thunderstorms occurred in Scotland and Northern Ireland on the 30th and widespread heavy rain in northern districts of England and Wales and southern Scotland on the 31st.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average generally, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from 0.0 mb. at Lerwick and +0.3 mb. at Stornoway and Wick to +3.6 mb. at Newquay. Winds from between south-west and north-west predominated; at Southport there were more westerly winds than in any August since 1923. The only mean hourly wind speeds of 34 kt. or above were registered at Lizard on the 21st and Southport on the 30th and 31st but wind reached gale force locally on the 4th, 5th, 21st, 22nd, 30th and 31st. Among the highest gusts registered, in knots, were 47 at Lerwick on the 5th, 57 at Shoeburyness on the 24th, 47 at Southport on the 30th and 50 at Bidston on the 31st.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 0.6°F. in England and Wales, 0.4°F. in Scotland and 0.3°F. in Northern Ireland. Apart from the first day or two warm weather prevailed for the first fortnight, the warmest days occurring generally from the 8th to the 12th. In most places the warm spell reached its peak on the 12th, when temperature reached 90°F. at many places in eastern and central districts of England. There was a rapid fall in day temperature on the 13th and the latter half of the month was rather cool.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 93°F. at Camden Square, London on the 12th, 36°F. at Kielder Castle on the 29th; (Scotland) 83°F. at Dunbar, North Berwick and Kelso on the 12th, 32°F. at Glenmore Lodge and Glenlivet on the 29th; (Northern Ireland) 74°F. at Aldergrove, Armagh and Hillsborough on the 8th, 43°F. at Aldergrove on the 1st and 2nd and at Nutt's Corner on the 1st.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 99 over England and Wales, 91 over Scotland and 93 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland it was less than average in the south and east and more than average at most places in the west and north. In England and Wales the distribution was variable; it was more than average over much of northern England, in a large area stretching from the Bristol Channel to the Wash, in parts of Wales and at some places on the coast of Kent and East Anglia; it was less than average elsewhere and less than half the average around Cranwell and Mansfield. In Northern Ireland rainfall was less than average in the central region and slightly more than average locally in the north and at Armagh. Rather heavy daily falls were numerous from the 12th onwards, among the heaviest being:—

14th	2.21 in. at Kingairloch, Argyllshire.
17th	2.13 in. at Patterdale, Westmorland.
19th	2.87 in. at Welfare Park, Maesteg, Glamorganshire and 2.55 in. at Tredegar, Monmouthshire.
29th	2.78 in. at Isolation Hospital, Maesteg, 2.50 in. at Rhondda Waterworks, Glamorganshire and 2.25 in. at Walton-in-Gordano, near Clevedon, Somerset.
31st	2.63 in. at Ulverston, Lancashire, 2.52 in. at Ulpha, Cumberland, 2.51 in. at Oughtershaw, Yorkshire and 2.47 in. at Ambleside, Westmorland.

Thunderstorms occurred on the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 12th–16th, 20th–25th and 30th; they were widespread and severe locally on the 12th–13th, 20th–21st, 24th and 30th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 115 in England and Wales, 102 in Scotland and 97 in Northern Ireland; it exceeded the average almost everywhere in England, Wales and east Scotland but in north and west Scotland and Northern Ireland it was mostly below average.

Fog.—Fog, chiefly at night or in the early morning, occurred at times, chiefly on the 1st–9th, 11th, 13th–14th, 20th–23rd and 29th–30th. It was rather persistent locally on the south-west coasts between the 4th and 7th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on two nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 18 days.