

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1953—Mainly dull; severe thunderstorms; cold at first; warm from 22nd onwards.

The weather of the month was dull in most areas, particularly in the east of Great Britain and the Midlands. The distribution of rainfall was variable, partly owing to intense falls during thunderstorms. The first week was cold and the warmest spell occurred from the 22nd or 23rd to the end of the month. Winds from some northerly point were frequent and the month was quieter than usual, particularly in northern districts.

Early in the month pressure was high over the Atlantic and low over southern Scandinavia and the Low Countries giving cold northerly winds and showery weather in the British Isles, with widespread thunderstorms on the 1st and heavy rain locally in north-east England on the 2nd. From the 5th to the 8th a belt of high pressure moved slowly east over the country maintaining dry weather, with varying amounts of bright sunshine; temperature rose in the west on the 6th but not until the 9th in the east and even then it was cool over much of East Anglia. On the 9th and 10th a trough of low pressure moved slowly east across the country giving rain in most parts. On the 11th a depression moved south-west from a position near Heligoland to the coast of East Anglia bringing rain to much of east England and the Midlands. This depression became almost stationary and filled slowly. On the 14th a depression moved into the British Isles from the Atlantic and was centred over the northern part of Great Britain from the 15th to the 17th, maintaining cool, unsettled weather, with varying amounts of rain, heavy locally, and rather widespread thunderstorms. On the 18th and 19th a trough of low pressure moved east over the country giving more rain. Another depression moved east-south-east from south-west Ireland on the 21st–22nd causing heavy rain in the south-west on the 21st and thunderstorms near the east coast from Kent to Norfolk during the following night. On the 23rd an anticyclone built up over Scandinavia and pressure became relatively low over France and central Europe. Low pressure persisted over France and central Europe for the remainder of the month, and winds over the British Isles were mainly from north or north-east; the weather became warm and close and low stratus cloud and fog were prevalent in the mornings in eastern and Midland districts but it cleared during the day except locally on the coast. Severe thunderstorms occurred at times from the 25th onwards, particularly on the 25th–27th, when they were accompanied by very heavy rain causing locally severe floods and considerable damage. Temperature reached 80°F. locally on most days from the 23rd to the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure slightly exceeded the average in the north and was somewhat below the average in the south, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from +2.1 mb. at Lerwick to -3.9 mb. at Lympne. In consequence the distribution was different from the normal, the highest pressure being found to the north and west of the British Isles, and winds from some northerly point were frequent. The total run of the wind was below the average, particularly in northern districts; at Lerwick it was the lowest since records are available, namely 1931, and at Southport the lowest since 1932. Gales occurred locally on the 1st–3rd, 21st and 22nd. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 54 kt. at Speke and 49 kt. at Bidston on the 1st, 51 kt. at South Shields on the 2nd and 49 kt. at St. Mary's, Scilly on the 22nd.

Temperature.—The deviation from the average for the period 1921–50 was -0.4°F. in England and Wales, +1.4°F. in Scotland and +0.2°F. in Northern Ireland. Broadly, temperature exceeded the average in the west and north and was somewhat below the average

in the south and east (See Table I). The first week was cold, the 3rd being an exceptionally cold day; for example, at Oxford, apart from June 4, 1909, it was the coldest June day on record. Temperature in the screen fell to 32°F. or somewhat below at a few places on the mornings of the 5th–7th. It was rather warm in some western districts from about the 6th to 12th but in the east it continued cold until the 9th. Temperature rose again in the west on the 22nd and warm weather became almost general from the 24th until the end of the month, with maxima of 80°F. locally at times.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 84°F. at Leicester on the 29th, 30°F. at Keilder Castle on the 6th; (Scotland) 83°F. at Onich and Achnashellach on the 23rd and at Prestwick Airport on the 24th, 29°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 6th; (Northern Ireland) 78°F. at Castle Archdale on the 30th, 35°F. at Nutts Corner on the 6th and at Aldergrove and Garvagh on the 7th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 98 over England and Wales, 87 over Scotland and 77 over Northern Ireland. The distribution was very variable, partly owing to heavy local rain during thunderstorms. Broadly, the rainfall was considerably more than average in most eastern and some central districts of Great Britain and less than average in the west, though it was more than average over much of south-west England and locally in south Wales. Less than half the average was registered in the Shetland Islands, over most of the mainland of west Scotland and locally on the coast of Cumberland. In Northern Ireland rainfall was somewhat more than the average locally in counties Londonderry and Antrim but less than half the average in the south-east of the Province.

Among the many heavy falls in 24 hours or less were:—

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| 2nd | 2.69 in. at Uswayford, Northumberland and 2.55 in. at Sourhope, Cheviot Hills. |
| 16th | 4.16 in at Sedburgh, Yorkshire. |
| 21st | 2.25 in at Princetown, Dartmoor. |
| 25th | 1.54 in. in 79 minutes at Ruscombe, Gloucestershire and 2.10 in. in 35 minutes at Langham Waterworks, Essex. |
| 26th | 4.17 in. at Eskdalemuir, 3.15 in. of which fell in 30 minutes, 3.31 in. at Crookburn, Lanarkshire, 2.09 in. in 39 minutes at Langley, Cheshire, 1.72 in. in 15 minutes at Nelson and 2.84 in. in 55 minutes at Holehird, Windermere. |
| 30th | 0.85 in. in 30 minutes at Ryde, Isle of Wight. |

Thunderstorms occurred rather frequently mainly on the 1st, 8th, 10th, 14th–18th and 21st–30th; they were widespread on the 1st, 16th, 25th and 26th. The storms of the 16th, 25th and 26th were accompanied in some parts by exceptionally heavy rain, causing severe flooding and considerable damage.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 74 over England and Wales, 86 over Scotland and 100 over Northern Ireland. In eastern districts of Great Britain and in the Midlands the deficiency was great but locally in the west of Scotland and Northern Ireland there was a considerable excess.

Fog.—Fog, mainly at night or in the early morning, occurred rather frequently for the time of year, chiefly on the 9th–17th and 20th–30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 8 days.