

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 1954—Mainly dull and cool; periods of rain, heavy at times.

At the beginning of the month an anticyclone to northward of Scotland gave rise to dry weather almost everywhere. From the 5th to the 13th the whole country, but the south especially, was affected by slow moving depressions with frequent, widespread and sometimes heavy rainfall. From the 14th to the 24th the weather continued changeable with depressions from the Atlantic now moving over Scotland; southern districts were affected by only weak frontal troughs and periods of fine, rather warm, weather occurred in the intervening ridges. Behind a depression which moved from the south of Iceland to Scandinavia cool northerly winds spread to all districts on the 26th and 27th and persisted until the 29th.

Early in the month the weather was dry almost everywhere; it was dull and cool in eastern districts with morning drizzle but in the west it was sunny and warm. Brighter weather occurred in parts of eastern England on the 3rd and 4th but on the 4th there were isolated thunderstorms in the south Midlands. On the 5th a trough of low pressure moved into the British Isles from the Atlantic and it was preceded by an extensive outbreak of thunderstorms, particularly in the Midlands and the south-east. A depression formed in the trough and became slow moving over England giving rise to widespread rain, heavy in places, over the Whitsun holidays. During the ensuing week further depressions moved from the Atlantic into the south of the British Isles bringing much rain, particularly to southern and western districts of England and Wales, with thunderstorms in places, but there were sunny periods especially in east England and north-west Scotland. Strong winds occurred in the English Channel on the 9th. Following an outbreak of thunderstorms during the night of the 12th–13th, the 13th was a cold, rather wet day in east and south-east England. From the 14th to the 24th a sequence of small but active depressions moving east brought cloudy, rainy weather with only brief intermissions to much of Scotland, with rain at times also to northern England and Northern Ireland; on the 15th the rainfall was heavy in north-west England and west Scotland. In the south the associated fronts were very weak and in the intervening ridges of high pressure fine, rather warm weather occurred in many places. On the 25th one of the fronts became more active over southern England and gave rise to several hours of rain. A depression formed south of Iceland on the 25th and moved slowly to Scandinavia; cool northerly winds spread to all districts on the 26th and 27th and lasted until the 29th, with some rain or showers in places. Long sunny periods were recorded on the 26th and 27th but it was mainly cloudy on the 28th and 29th though there were bright periods in the west. On the 29th a warm front approached north-west Scotland and later moved south-east across the country; winds backed to west or southwest and temperature rose somewhat, particularly in eastern districts. Rain fell in Scotland on the 29th and spread south but it did not reach the south-east until the night of the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was roughly from 2.5 mb. to 3.5 mb. below the average for the period 1921–50. At anemograph stations no mean hourly speeds greater than 33 kt. were registered but winds reached gale force locally at times mainly on the 7th–10th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 26th, 27th and 30th. Among the highest gusts, registered in knots, were 50 at Stornoway on the 18th and 51 at Millport and 55 at Durham on the 26th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature differed from the average for the period 1921–50 by -1.4°F . in England and Wales, -0.6°F . in Scotland and -1.3°F . in Northern Ireland. The rather low mean

temperature was almost wholly due to cool days, the mean minimum temperature in many places being about or rather above the average, whereas the mean maximum temperature was 4°F . or more below the average at some places in England. The highest maximum for the month at Ross-on-Wye and Hampstead was the lowest at these places since 1916 and at Edinburgh since 1927. Screen minima fell to 32°F . or somewhat below at some places in Scotland on the 12th and at one or two places in England on the 13th or 30th.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 77°F . at Southend on the 20th and at Camden Square, London and Southend on the 24th, 30°F . at Moor House on the 13th; (Scotland) 79°F . at Achnashellach on the 3rd and at Strathy, Achnashellach and Kinlochewe on the 4th, 28°F . at Dalwhinnie and Budden Ness on the 12th; (Northern Ireland) 70°F . at Castle Archdale on the 1st and at Ballykelly on the 4th, 37°F . at Nutts Corner on the 13th and 14th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 142 over England and Wales, 143 over Scotland and 111 over Northern Ireland. It was less than average locally in central Scotland, in the south of Northern Ireland and in fairly large areas in eastern districts of England and the north Midlands and less than 75 per cent of average locally in Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and at Margate; at Wakefield it was slightly less than 50 per cent of average. More than average rainfall was registered elsewhere and more than twice the average in the Shetlands, on the extreme north-west coast of Scotland and in much of an area extending from mid Wales across Monmouthshire, south Gloucestershire and Berkshire to north-west Kent, and locally in south Devon. In the south much of the rain fell between the 5th and 13th.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours or less were:—

- 5th 3.46 in. at Long Newnton, Gloucestershire, 3.56 in. (of which 3.15 in. is estimated to have fallen in 105 minutes) at Wyton, Huntingdonshire, 2.70 in. at Hampton Bishop (Herefordshire) and 2.70 in. at Anchor, Shropshire.
- 6th 2.21 in. at Treherbert, Glamorgan.
- 12th 2.47 in. at Blaen-y-cwm, Brecknockshire and 2.22 in. at Hertford Sewage Works (1.98 in. fell in 36 minutes beginning at 0130h. on the 13th).
- 15th 4.37 in. at Grasmere, 4.33 in. at Langdale, both in Westmorland and 3.81 in. at Borrowdale, Cumberland.

Thunderstorms occurred on the 4th–16th, 20th, 21st, 25th–27th and 29th; they were rather widespread on the 5th, 6th, 8th, 12th and 13th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 70 in England and Wales, 78 in Scotland and 71 in Northern Ireland. The deficiency of sunshine was a marked feature of the weather of the month and less than the average was registered throughout the country except in the Outer Hebrides. Some places had their lowest June total on record; for example, at Southport, Scarborough and Newton Rigg since records began respectively in 1896, 1898 and 1883.

Fog.—Fog occurred at times, particularly on the coasts or on high land, mainly on the 1st–9th, 15th–20th, 25th and 26th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on eight days. A partial eclipse of the sun was observed in the British Isles on the 30th.