

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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September 1965 — *Wet, dull and rather cold*

Generally cyclonic weather was broken on the 13th-14th by a ridge of high pressure over southern England, and also on the 19th-21st when most of the country came under the influence of an anticyclone which intensified as it moved from the Bay of Biscay to become centered over Germany.

During the first twelve days pressure was generally low to the east or south-east of the British Isles with winds predominantly from a northerly direction and day temperatures well below the September average. Individual depressions in this persistent low pressure area brought considerable rainfall to the eastern half of the country.

The month opened with two sunny, mainly dry days, with a ridge of high pressure over northern districts, but this gave way on the 3rd before an active depression moving northwards from France which brought exceptionally heavy rain to east and south-east England; many places recorded more than 2 inches. The depression became complex as it moved further northwards and weather over the country during the next three or four days remained mostly cloudy with rain at times, though there were sunny periods especially in south-east England on the 4th and 7th.

A depression from the Atlantic deepened as it moved across southern districts on the 8th. Wind reached gale force over much of east and south-east England, and some parts of the Midlands had more than two inches of rain. In the wake of the depression showers were frequent on the 9th and became thundery on the 10th with periods of heavier and more continuous rain as a trough moved southwards over the country. This more continuous rain was renewed in southern England on the night of the 12th/13th as a small depression moved eastwards along the English Channel.

Two brighter and mainly dry days followed as a ridge of high pressure moved slowly eastwards across southern districts though the rain was slow to clear in south-east England on the 13th and frontal rain from the Atlantic reached some northern and western districts on the 14th.

From the 15th to the 25th pressure was low mainly to the west and north-west of the British Isles with high pressure building up first to the south and then to the east of the country. Southwesterly winds predominated and day temperatures were about average.

Reverting to the 15th, belts of frontal rain from the Atlantic crossing the country on the 15th and 16th heralded one of the deepest depressions of recent years to cross England and Wales during September. As it moved north-eastwards from southern Ireland to the North Sea on the night of the 17th/18th gales became widespread with winds reaching 70 kt or more in gusts off our south-west coasts. Rain was heavy locally and persisted for much of the following day.

The only sustained spell of warm sunny weather during the month was ushered in on the 19th by rapidly rising pressure behind the depression. This was associated with an anticyclone moving eastwards over northern France and which later became established over Germany. During the next few days the clearance of early morning fog was followed by progressively increasing afternoon temperatures which reached 23°C locally on the 21st and 22nd.

The fine spell was brought to an end on the 23rd by frontal rain, associated with a deepening depression near Iceland, moving in from the west. A prolonged fall of pressure the next day led to the formation

on the 28th of a complex area of low pressure over the British Isles which persisted until the end of the month. Weather became very unsettled. Many parts of the Midlands had more than an inch of rain on the 25th and thundery showers were frequent on the 26th. The 27th, however, was a generally sunny day with depressions to the east and west of the country, but a trough moving southwards brought rain to northern districts on the 28th and the rain spread to the remainder of the country during the last two days of the month as a depression moved from the North Sea across central England to northern France.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was considerably below the 1921-50 average everywhere, the deficit at 9h ranging from 3.9 mb at Stornoway to 7.0 mb at Ross-on-Wye. Surface winds were mainly northerly until the 11th and predominantly south-westerly thereafter, except for periods of variable and mostly light winds on the 6th-7th, 12th-14th and 26th-30th. Winds reached gale force in Scotland on 15 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 17th, 18th, 21st and 28th (8 days). Gales were widespread on the 17th and 18th; a gust of 73 kt was recorded at Portland Bill on the 17th.

Temperature — Temperatures were well below the average during the first 11 days, especially during the afternoons, the deficit being 6-7°C around the 9th. Maximum temperatures were above the average for a few days around the 21st but were mainly below the average again after the 25th.

Extremes included:— (England and Wales) 22.9°C at Dishforth on the 22nd, -0.6°C at Corwen on the 2nd and at Stanstead Abbots on the 6th; (Scotland) 21.7°C at Dinnet on the 15th and at Banff on the 21st, -2.2°C at Strachan on the 2nd; (Northern Ireland) 20.2°C at Ballykelly on the 21st, -0.6°C at Loughermore Forest on the 24th.

Precipitation — Rainfall was considerably above the average over most of the British Isles. In Scotland it was twice the average in parts of the south-east between the Firth of Forth and the Border, but only 75 per cent of the average over Tiree and adjacent islands. In England rainfall was twice the average within an area bounded by a line from the estuary of the Tees across the Midlands including Shropshire and Warwickshire and thence to the Wash, and also east of a line from Gorleston to Reading and Littlehampton. It was 350 per cent of the average locally in the West Riding. Rainfall was a little below the average in parts of south-east Devon, the north coast of Wales and also in the southern countries of Northern Ireland.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 6 days and in England and Wales on the 2nd, 11th, 25th, 26th and 28th (13 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 26th.

Sunshine — It was a dull month generally. In England and Wales sunshine was mainly 60-80 per cent of the average; at a few places around the Thames Estuary there was a slight excess. Percentages ranged from 114 at Ramsgate to 58 at Scarborough.

Fog — Fog was reported from one place or another at 9h in Scotland on 24 days and in England and Wales on the 2nd-6th, 10th, 11th, 13th-17th, 19th-25th and 27th-30th; it was most frequent during the last week of the month.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was seen in Scotland on 5 nights.

TABLE 1—DISTRICT VALUES— SEPTEMBER,

1965

(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	19.3	3.2	-0.9	-0.3	-0.6	-	-	+1	130	71
1 SCOTLAND, E.	20.0	3.3	-1.3	-0.2	-0.7	-	-	+5	164	66
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	22.9	2.8	-1.7	-0.2	-0.9	-0.7	-0.9	+6	234	63
3 ENGLAND, E.	21.7	2.8	-1.4	-1.3	-1.4	-1.0	-0.8	+1	188	91
4 MIDLANDS	21.7	2.8	-1.9	-0.9	-1.5	-1.1	-0.7	+4	209	84
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	21.1	0.7	-1.6	-1.5	-1.6	-1.5	-1.4	+3	215	92

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
Difference from Average									% of Average	
6 SCOTLAND, W.	18.7	-0.2	-1.2	-0.3	-0.8	-0.3	-0.7	-1	118	66
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	19.8	2.8	-1.7	-1.0	-1.4	-1.2	-0.7	+1	174	74
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	20.6	1.1	-2.0	-1.7	-1.9	-1.1	-0.5	+4	138	77
N. IRELAND	20.2	0.2	-1.5	-1.3	-1.4	-	-	+1	108	67
SCOTLAND	-	-	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	-	-	+2	135	68
ENG. and WALES	-	-	-1.7	-1.1	-1.5	-	-	+3	187	81

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.

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