

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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June 1955—Cool and changeable.

With pressure low to the west and southwest of the British Isles, a southerly or south-easterly type of weather prevailed during the first week, but on the 7th a colder airstream swept southward from the region of Greenland and northerly winds were maintained over the country until the 10th. A period of milder south-westerly winds followed as depressions moved in eastwards from the Atlantic, but from the 16th to the 19th an anticyclone became established over the North Sea and winds reverted temporarily to the south-east. During the remainder of the month the weather was of a generally westerly type.

The sunny weather experienced at the end of May continued during the first two days of the month, except locally on the east coast. On the 3rd, a secondary to the main Atlantic depression formed in the Bay of Biscay and moved northward, giving widespread and in places heavy rain, particularly in the west country, where nearly 2½ in. fell at Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, in 24 hr.; there were frequent thunderstorms the following day as the depression passed over Ireland. Thunderstorms and outbreaks of heavy rain also occurred on the 6th, 7th and 8th, especially in the southern half of England. The 6th was, as yet, the warmest day of the year at many places; 79°F. was reached at West Kirby Park, Cheshire. The next day an anticyclone near Greenland increased in intensity; troughs in the north became retrograde and were brought south over the country again by the cold north-easterly airstream flowing round the east side of the anticyclone; their passage was marked by widespread, and sometimes heavy, rain many places recording more than 1 in. in 24 hr. Temperatures in the north fell sharply; maximum temperatures were often 20°F. lower than those reported the previous day, and minimum temperatures set up new records for June: 22°F. at Dalwhinnie early on the 9th was the lowest screen temperature recorded during June in the British Isles since at least 1856, while further south at Kew, temperature fell next morning to 40.2°F., the lowest recorded there in June for 32 years. The cold weather was short-lived however, for on the 12th a depression from the Atlantic moved eastward across northern England giving little short of 1 in. of rain in many places, and widespread thunderstorms in eastern England. As pressure rose behind this depression an anticyclone developed over France, and the resulting circulation brought subtropical air from near the coast of Spain to our south-western districts on the 14th, with considerable drizzle, low cloud and sea fog. The high pressure systems off Greenland and over France amalgamated to form an anticyclone over the North Sea, which brought cool weather to much of the British Isles, particularly near the east coast, during the third week; it was mainly dry apart from thundery outbreaks in Cornwall. On the 19th weak low pressure systems moving north from France brought some rain to most of England and Wales, but thereafter a westerly type of weather set in and persisted for the rest of the month. Weather was fairly dry and sunny over most of the country, but rain was more prolonged in the west and north.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the 1921–50 average in Scotland, but was mostly below the average elsewhere, the deviation at 9h. ranging from +2.5 mb. at Lerwick to –2.5 mb. at Scilly. Winds were south-easterly during the first and third weeks but otherwise mainly south-west to west apart from a brief spell of northerly winds from 7th to 10th. Winds reached gale force, mostly

in the north and west, on 10 days during the month, but gales were fairly widespread in the south on the 12th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature almost everywhere was below the average for the period 1921–50 from which it differed by –1.1°F. in England and Wales, –0.3°F. in Scotland and –1.0°F. in Northern Ireland. Unusually low minimum temperatures for the time of year were recorded in Scotland on the 9th: 24°F. and 22°F. in the screen, and 19°F. and 13°F. on the grass, at Glenlivet and Dalwhinnie respectively.

Extreme temperatures for the month included:—(England and Wales) 79°F. at West Kirby Park on the 6th, 24°F. at Moor House on the 10th; (Scotland) 76°F. at Achnashellach and Findhorn on the 1st and at Largs, Woodbank, on the 3rd, 22°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 9th; (Northern Ireland) 70°F. at Garvagh and Ballykelly on the 6th, 33°F. at Ballykelly on the 10th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 143 for England and Wales, 87 for Scotland and 154 for Northern Ireland. Rainfall was well below the average in central and east Scotland where some totals were less than half the usual June amounts. Most western districts however received a moderate excess; Duntulm, North Skye, had the wettest June since 1934. In England and Wales there was less than average rainfall in parts of south-east England, south and east Yorkshire and the extreme north of England. More than 150 per cent occurred over most of Wales, the south-west Midlands and south-west England except Dartmoor. There was also 150 per cent in a belt from Leicestershire across southern Lincolnshire. Within these regions considerable areas had more than 200 per cent including much of central and south Wales and small areas in the Leicestershire–Lincolnshire belt.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hr. or less were:—

3rd	2.81 in. at Black Mountains (Blaen-y-cwm), Brecknock.
7th	2.40 in. at Carrickfergus (Lough Morne), Co. Antrim.
11th	2.05 in. at Rhondda Waterworks (Llyn Fawr Reservoir), Glamorgan.
23rd	2.90 in. at Duntulm, North Skye.

Thunderstorms.—In Scotland thunder occurred on the 5th, 11th and 12th. In England and Wales there were thunderstorms on 12 days during the month; they were frequent during the first week and widespread on the 7th, 8th and 12th.

Sunshine.—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1921–50 was 81 over England and Wales, 103 over Scotland and 63 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland records were above average north of a line drawn from Oban to Arbroath, and were exceptionally good in Orkney and Shetland; Lerwick and Forres had their best June totals since 1936. Sunshine at most places in England and Wales was well below the average, particularly over Wales and the Midlands. It was the dullest June on record at Ross on Wye.

Fog.—Fog occurred occasionally in the early morning during the first week; it was fairly frequent in the south-west from 15th–23rd where it occasionally persisted all day on the coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were reported at Oxford on 5 days.