

# 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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### October, 1950 - Dry in the east and south; cold spell during the last week.

The month was dry in the east and south of the British Isles but rainfall exceeded the average on the whole in the north-west.

The tracks of the main depressions were almost all to the north of the British Isles (see chart 2). In the opening days a depression moved north-east across north Scotland causing rain or showers generally, with thunderstorms at a number of places in England and Wales. On the following days a very deep Atlantic depression moved north-north-east to the south of Iceland and an associated trough crossed the British Isles; rain fell in the west but little or none occurred in eastern and Midland districts of England. The 5th, in particular, was a warm, sunny day, with temperatures reaching 70°F. over most of England. On the 6th and 7th another Atlantic depression approached the Faeroes and then turned north-north-east, while a trough crossed the British Isles causing showers in western districts. On the 8th a cold front, moving east, was associated with widespread thunderstorms in the northern half of the country. Thereafter a depression north-west of Scotland moved a little north-east and then turned east along our northern seaboard; rain fell generally on the 9th, mainly slight in east Britain but heavy, with local thunderstorms in the north-west. Subsequently a ridge of high pressure moved east over the British Isles and combined with an anticyclone over northern Scandinavia. A mainly fair day, with good records of bright sunshine was experienced in Britain on the 11th but more rain occurred later in Scotland and Northern Ireland. A deep Atlantic depression moved north-east to Thorshavn from the 12th to the 14th causing further rain, chiefly in the north and west but slight rain occurred in eastern England also on the 13th. On the 16th a trough of low pressure off our western seaboard moved east and heavy rain was registered locally in the north-west.

Subsequently the Azores anticyclone moved north-east and later a ridge of high-pressure moved in over Scotland from the west. Anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part in the British Isles from the 18th to the 20th, with considerable fog, particularly in England and Wales, on the 19th and 20th. On the 21st and 22nd the anticyclone moved east to southern Scandinavia and Denmark, while a trough of low pressure moved in over our western districts giving further rain there. Subsequently another anticyclone off our west coasts moved north-east to southern Scandinavia and a dry spell set in, which lasted until the 25th. On the 25th and 26th a slow moving, shallow trough, associated with a depression off south-west Iceland, moved over the British Isles and caused rain or showers in many places. On the 29th a depression over Holland, moving irregularly south-east, was associated with showers in eastern England. In the closing days of the month troughs of low pressure moved east over the British Isles. Rain, fairly heavy in places, fell on the 30th and scattered rain or showers, chiefly in the west, on the 31st. The last week was cold and unusually low minimum temperatures for the season occurred, particularly from the 27th to the 29th; fog was also widespread at times.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure somewhat exceeded the average except in the extreme north of Scotland, the deviation from the average at 9h. ranging from  $-1.2$  mb. at Stornoway to  $+4.5$  mb. at Newquay and Portland Bill. Gales occurred rather frequently at exposed stations in Scotland and north-west England particularly during the first 17 days and, in Scotland, also on the 26th to 27th and 29th to 30th. The predominating winds were from between south and west, but easterly winds became more prevalent from the 21st to the 29th. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 69 at Lerwick and 68 at Stornoway on the 7th and 60 at Tiree on the 10th.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was not very different from the average for the period 1906–35, the deviation for the districts ranging

from  $-0.3^{\circ}\text{F.}$  in England, N.W. and N. Wales and England, S.E. to  $+0.5^{\circ}\text{F.}$  in Scotland, N. The last week was cold and some unusually low minimum temperatures for the time of year were registered on the 28th and 29th. Rather warm days occurred at times during the first 19 days, notably on the 5th, when temperatures reached or exceeded 70°F. at a large number of places in England and Wales.

Extremes for the month included:—(England and Wales) 75°F. in London, Camden Square, on the 5th, 20°F. at Porton on the 28th; (Scotland) 66°F. at Gordon Castle, Banff, Edinburgh, North Berwick and Auchincruive on the 5th, 18°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 29th; (Northern Ireland) 64°F. at Castlerock and Garvagh on the 18th, 27°F. at Garvagh on the 29th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 44 over England and Wales, 98 over Scotland and 109 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in the west, north-west and the Shetland Islands, more than 150 per cent. of the average being registered over most of Argyll, the south-west of Inverness-shire and at Lerwick, in the Shetlands. On the other hand less than half the average was received in much of a coastal belt from Nairn round to the Firth of Tay. In England and Wales the deficiency was general, apart from small areas in north Wales and north-west England. In most of south-east England, Essex, Suffolk and much of the southern Midlands less than 25 per cent. of the average was registered and locally in Kent only 5 per cent. In Northern Ireland somewhat less than the average occurred in south Antrim, east Down, and at Newtownbutler, County Fermanagh.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

1st 1.44 in. at Keswick.  
3rd 3.76 in. at Glenquoich, 2.81 in. at Kinlochourn (both in Inverness-shire) and 2.01 in. at Fort William.  
9th 2.13 in. at Glencoe and 2.10 in. at Conaglen (both in Argyll).

16th 1.75 in. at Glenbranter (Argyll) and 1.38 in. at Ambleside. Thunderstorms occurred on 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 28th; they were rather widespread in England and Wales on the 1st and 2nd and in the northern half of the British Isles on the 8th and 9th.

Snow or sleet showers occurred in Scotland on the 8th to 10th, 14th, 26th to 28th and 30th. In England and Wales snow or sleet showers occurred at a number of places on the 27th and 28th and locally in the extreme northeast on the 9th; at Castlerock, in Northern Ireland, snow was recorded on the 8th.

**Sunshine.**—The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906–35 was 100 in England and Wales and 98 both in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The values for the districts ranged from 84 in south-west England to 106 in east Scotland and east England. Sunshine was plentiful in north-east Scotland, northward from the valley of the Dee to the Moray Firth, but at most places elsewhere in Scotland it was rather dull. Only in this area and locally on or near the coast from Cromer to Eastbourne was the mean daily sunshine as much as 4.0 hours.

**Fog.**—Little or no fog occurred in the first 14 days except at Lerwick on the 1st and locally on the 12th and 13th. In the latter half of the month fog occurred rather frequently, for example, on the 15th–20th and 23rd–31st. It was widespread in England and Wales and thick locally on the 31st, when an air liner crashed on landing at London Airport.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on seven nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days.