

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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AUGUST, 1944.—Warm generally, sunny on the whole

The weather of the month was warm, mainly sunny except in east Scotland and north-east England and dry on the whole, particularly in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The month opened with an anticyclone centred between Jan Mayen and north Norway and a ridge extending south over the eastern districts of Britain and the North Sea. During the following days this system moved very slowly east, and on the 2nd a trough of low pressure slowly approaching the west of Ireland caused slight rain there and at the Lizard. Thereafter the Azores anticyclone moved north-north-east and from the 4th-6th, a belt of high pressure extended from north-east to south-west across the British Isles, maintaining warm, mainly fair weather, apart from a few scattered thunderstorms, chiefly in the southern half of England. Subsequently the ridge of high pressure over England moved slowly away south-east and troughs of low pressure moved east or east-south-east over the British Isles. Rain occurred, chiefly in the north and west, and there were somewhat widespread thunderstorms on the 8th. On the 10th and 11th a depression south-west of Iceland moved north-east while associated troughs moved east over the British Isles. Rain fell again in the north and west but there was little or none over much of England. Subsequently an anticyclone south-west of Ireland moved north-east over the British Isles and then east to the Baltic and another spell of mainly fair weather prevailed until the 16th, although slight falls of rain were measured locally in Scotland and Ireland. There ensued a spell of rather unsettled weather from the 16th-18th: on the 16th and 17th depressions moved north-east off our northern seaboard; rain occurred in the west and north and was heavy in north-west Scotland on the 17th. On the 18th a vigorous depression off north-west Scotland moved quickly north-east, while a trough extending to south-west Ireland moved east. There was a gale in the north of Scotland and rain fell in most localities except the south-east and was heavy in the west of England. Numerous places in east and south-east England had no measurable rainfall from the 1st-18th inclusive.

A change occurred on the 19th, when a shallow depression over south-west England moved north-east and was associated with heavy rain at many places in England. Subsequently an anticyclone south of Iceland moved south-east over Scotland and then eastward to Scandinavia; meanwhile a trough of low pressure over south-east England moved slowly south-east and later a depression over west France moved north-east and then north-west. Rain fell daily in most parts of England and was heavy locally particularly with thunderstorms on the early morning of the 23rd, but fair weather prevailed for the most part in Scotland. On the 24th and 25th a trough of low pressure extending from a depression near Iceland to south-west of Ireland moved east; rain occurred in many places on the 24th and was heavy locally, and thunderstorms were reported in the south-east. A belt of high pressure moved east over the British Isles on the 26th giving a short, fair period but renewed rain fell in Ireland and west and north-west Scotland. On the 27th and 28th a secondary depression developing off north Ireland moved east over Scotland: heavy rain occurred in many places, particularly on the 27th. On the 29th and 30th a depression west of Iceland moved east-south-east and secondary disturbances crossed the British Isles causing further rain. On the closing day of the month a complex depression west of Scotland, moving east, was associated with showers and widely scattered thunderstorms.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the deviation at 6 h. ranging from +0.2 mb. at Scilly to +4.4 mb. at Tynemouth: pressure was thus very uniform over England. On the whole the month was less windy than the average and winds from between north and east were somewhat more frequent than usual. A fairly widespread gale occurred in Scotland on the 18th, a local gale in north-west England during the early hours of the 23rd and gales were recorded locally in north Wales on the 28th and 31st. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 63 m.p.h. at

Lerwick, 62 m.p.h. at Tiree and 61 m.p.h. at Kirkwall on the 18th and 63 m.p.h. at Boscombe Down, Hampshire, early on the 23rd.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 2.6°F. in England and Wales, 2.0°F. in Scotland and 2.1°F. in Northern Ireland. (See Table I.) The warmest days occurred during the first week in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In England and Wales day temperature reached or somewhat exceeded 80°F. locally on most days between the 4th and 19th and 23rd and 24th, the hottest day occurring most widely on the 16th. Rather cool spells occurred from the 20th-22nd and 28th-31st. Some low night minima were registered on the 22nd particularly on high ground in Scotland.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 88°F. at Maldon, Farnham, Preston (Kent) and London (Camden Square and Greenwich) on the 16th, 38°F. at Newton Rigg on the 22nd; (Scotland) 81°F. at Fort Augustus on the 2nd, 27°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 22nd; (Northern Ireland) 78°F. at Armagh on the 5th, 33°F. at Garvagh on the 22nd.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 95 over England and Wales, 76 over Scotland and 81 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland the deficiency was practically general; it was only at a few isolated stations that more than the average occurred. Locally on the east coast less than 50 per cent. of the average was registered. In England, the distribution was very variable but broadly speaking more than the average occurred over much of the south and most of an irregular area covering the greater part of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Stafford and Shropshire. Less than the average occurred over Wales, most of north-west England, Durham and Northumberland and in an area over West Sussex extending north to Oxford and Woburn, Bedfordshire. In Northern Ireland rainfall was deficient except in the neighbourhood of Armagh. Numerous places in south-east and east England had no measurable rain until the 18th or 19th, but subsequently there were frequent heavy local falls in England.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

10th	2.12 in. at Kinlochquoich (Inverness.).
19th	2.23 in. at Mansfield.
20th	2.76 in. at Lockwood Reservoir (Yorks.).
22nd	2.67 in. at Sway (Hants), 2.51 in. at Totland Bay and 2.23 in. at Middleton-in-Teesdale.
27th	2.74 in. at Oakley Slate Quarries (Merioneth), 2.64 in. at Loch-cote Reservoir (West Lothian) and 2.60 in. at Borrowdale.

Local thunderstorms occurred fairly frequently and were severe at times. They were reported from the 4th-8th, 10th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 28th, and 30th-31st.

Sunshine.—Sunshine appreciably exceeded the average on the whole, the percentages of the average being 107 over England and Wales, 113 over Scotland and 119 over Northern Ireland. In the east of Scotland and in north-east England and locally in the Midlands, however, there was a deficiency which was pronounced in the east of Scotland, where Montrose registered only 63 per cent. of the average, Arbroath 66 and Dundee 69. The mean daily sunshine in hours ranged from three or less locally on the east coast of Scotland to 8 hours locally on the south-east coast of England.

Fog.—Fog (mainly morning) occurred rather frequently, chiefly from the 1st-11th and 22nd-28th. It was rather persistent locally at times on the south-west and north-east coasts.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed locally in Scotland on six nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days. A funnel cloud was observed at Shandon (Dumbarton) on the 19th and a small whirlwind accompanied by thunder and heavy local rain occurred in the neighbourhood of the Ribble estuary on the morning of the 23rd; a Beaufort force 9 wind was reported at Hutton at 9 h.