

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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August, 1949 - Rather warm; dry except in the north and west of Scotland

The weather was rather warm generally, dry except in the north and west of Scotland and sunny in England, Wales and west Scotland.

Unsettled weather prevailed for the most part during the first ten days. From the 1st-3rd a complex depression moved across the northern half of the British Isles to Southern Scandinavia. Rain fell generally on the 1st and showers and local thunderstorms on the 2nd. In the rear of the depression strong north-westerly winds, reaching gale force locally, prevailed on the 2nd and 3rd and scattered showers were recorded mainly in the northern half of the country. Another deep depression moved north-east to Thorshavn by the 8th; meanwhile troughs of low pressure crossed the British Isles giving rain in the north and west. On the 7th and 8th a vigorous depression moved from north-east of the Azores across the British Isles to Scandinavia causing strong winds and gales on the 7th and 8th and heavy rain in the north and west on the 7th. On the 9th an anticyclone situated off our south-west coasts moved slowly east and on the 10th a shallow secondary depression off north-west Ireland moved south-east to the southern North Sea and thence to Germany where it filled. Rain occurred generally on the 10th. On the 11th a small anticyclone westward of Scotland moved south-east and fair weather prevailed apart from slight rain in the Hebrides and extreme north-west of Scotland.

Subsequently pressure was high in a belt extending from south-west of Ireland across southern England to Germany; meanwhile troughs or shallow secondary depressions moved east over the northern half of the country. Fair, warm weather prevailed in England and Wales but rain occurred at times in Scotland and Northern Ireland. On the 17th an anticyclone situated west of Ireland moved south and from the 17th to the 19th a trough of low pressure moved slowly east giving rain at times, chiefly in the western half of the country. From the 23rd to the 27th pressure was fairly uniform over the British Isles; on the 26th and 27th a shallow depression over the Bay of Biscay moved irregularly to Flushing and thence to Germany; apart from scattered rain and thunderstorms, mainly fair warm weather prevailed though there was considerable mist and fog. From the 28th to the 30th a complex Atlantic depression moved north-east across Iceland while a trough crossed the British Isles. Rain fell in the west on the night of the 28th-29th and more generally, apart from south-east England, on the 29th, while scattered rain and local thunderstorms were experienced on the 30th. On the last day of the month a trough of low pressure to the west of Ireland moved east giving rain generally and rather widespread thunderstorms in England and Wales.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average generally, the excess ranging roughly between 3.5 and 6 mb. On the whole the month was somewhat less windy than usual. Gales occurred locally on the 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th and 8th, the gale on the 7th-8th being widespread. Among the highest gusts registered in knots were 58 at Lizard and 56 at Scilly on the 7th and 67 at Bell Rock and 60 at Point of Ayre on the 8th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the 1906-35 average by 2.3°F. in England and Wales, 1.5°F. in Scotland and 1.8°F. in Northern Ireland. Broadly speaking the first 12 days and the period 16th-18th were somewhat cool, but it was warm in England from the 13th-15th and throughout the British Isles for the most part from the 19th-31st. In England and Wales temperature reached or exceeded 80°F. locally from the 13th-16th, 19th-24th and 31st.

The extreme temperatures in the screen were:—(England and Wales) 88°F. at Wisley, Greenwich and Camden Square, London, on the 15th, 36°F. at Woburn on the 12th; (Scotland) 81°F. at St. Andrews on the 19th, 33°F. at Glenlivet on the 18th; (Northern Ireland) 76°F. at Armagh on the 20th, 41°F. at Lisburn on the 4th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 63 over England and Wales, 112 over Scotland and 78 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the deficiency was general, while less than half the average occurred at many places on the coast from Falmouth to Gorleston, over part of the south-west Midlands and in small scattered areas elsewhere. In Scotland, broadly speaking, less than the average occurred in the south and in Perthshire, in the outer Hebrides and in the Shetlands. On the other hand more than the average occurred over most of the west and north, the greatest excess occurring in the neighbourhood of the Moray Firth (more than twice the average was received at Gordon Castle). In Northern Ireland less than the average was registered except in the south-east of County Down. Heavy rain fell locally, particularly in North Wales, on the 1st and widespread heavy rain occurred on the 7th, more than 2 in. being measured at a large number of stations in Scotland and Northern Ireland on that day.

In England and Wales the number of days with measureable rain was considerably below the average.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st 2.54 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth).
- 7th 3.46 in. at Kilbirnie (Ayrshire), 2.96 in. at Fintry (Stirlingshire).
- 2.90 in. at Loch Vennachar and at Kaim Dam (Renfrewshire) and
- 2.07 in. at Annalong, Mourne Mountains.
- 26th 2.50 in. at Totnes.

Thunderstorms occurred locally on the 1st-3rd, 9th-10th, 20th-27th and 30th-31st; they were rather widespread on the 2nd, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, and 31st.

Sunshine.—The duration of bright sunshine expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1906-35 was 117 over England and Wales, 97 over Scotland and 87 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales the excess was general except in the extreme north-east. In the north and east of Scotland, the duration was mainly below the average but in the south and west there was an excess at most places. In Northern Ireland the deficiency was general. The mean daily duration in hours ranged from less than four over much of north and central Scotland to eight or more at many places on the south coast of England.

Fog.—The first 12 days were almost wholly free from fog, though it occurred in the Channel Islands on the 1st and 2nd. Morning fog occurred at numerous stations on the 13th and on the south-west coasts on the 14th and 15th and it developed locally on the east coast of Scotland late on the 15th. From the 18th onwards widespread fog occurred in the morning and at night and it was rather persistent locally at times.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on two nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on eight days. A moon pillar was seen at Wrexham on the 6th.