

Monthly Weather Report

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OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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June 1958—*Very wet in most areas; rather cool*

Frequent and often heavy outbreaks of thundery rain associated with slow moving troughs or fronts characterised most of the first half of the month. On the 13th high pressure from the Azores spread north-eastwards over the British Isles and weather was drier for several days, but on the 19th depressions from the Atlantic brought a return to unsettled weather which lasted until the end of the month.

The month opened with a pronounced blocking pattern over the Atlantic at 500 mb. comprising an unusually warm high off south Greenland and a cut-off low in our South-west Approaches. Associated with the latter feature surface pressure remained low to the south-west of the British Isles for about a week and thundery rainbelts moved north-east across the country. Thunderstorms were wide-spread over England and Wales on the 1st, and after a night of extensive fog a depression over the Midlands gave exceptionally heavy rain the following day over a broad area from Wales to Kent, many places recording more than 2 in. in 24 hr. Meanwhile, much of Scotland was sunny and dry. Apart from heavy local rain in south-west England on the 3rd, resulting in severe flooding in the Boscastle area, weather from 3rd to 5th was relatively dry, warm and sunny; 70°F. was exceeded in many places and parts of East Anglia had over 15 hr. sunshine.

By the 7th deep lows were established at 500 mb. in the Canadian and Russian Arctic regions while an upper ridge extended from Europe to Greenland north of a cut-off low over the central Atlantic. Rising pressure in the south-west left the British Isles in rather a flat pressure area and for some days weather was mostly cool with occasional rain and sunny periods. Heavier outbreaks of rain on the nights of the 9th/10th and 11th/12th accompanied the extension of an upper trough from the Norwegian Sea to the area of the British Isles.

A warm upper ridge developed over the British Isles on the 13th as an anticyclone from the region of the Azores became centred over southern England, and for the first time since the beginning of the month there was no appreciable frontal activity over the country. Weather became fine and warm for several days with afternoon temperatures reaching the middle seventies in many parts of England on the 15th and 16th. Meanwhile a deep depression with a circulation in depth, which had been situated off south-west Iceland for some days, moved north-east; associated polar maritime air reached Scotland and Ireland on the 15th and spread slowly south-east across the British Isles; maximum temperature at Kew Observatory, which was 77°F. on the 16th, was only 60°F. on the 17th and that night there was slight ground frost at places in the Midlands.

Subsequently the upper flow over the Atlantic became more westerly with upper lows over the British Isles and southern Scandinavia and off south Greenland. There was widespread and locally heavy rain on the 19th as a depression moved eastward across Ireland and southern Scotland. Thunderstorms became widespread over the country on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th with the persistence of the upper lows. The main depression track across the Atlantic, however, was well to the south, between 40°N. and 50°N., but rising pressure over Russia formed a block to the westerly flow into Europe, and a depression approaching from the west deepened considerably and turned north up the Irish Sea on the 25th bringing gales and heavy rain to many western districts. Another depression from the Atlantic reached central France before turning abruptly north to give heavy and widespread rain in south-east England on the night of the 26th/27th leading to severe flooding in East Anglia. A third depression turned north on the 29th and started to fill before reaching western Ireland. During the last two days of the month a warm anticyclone off

Scandinavia increased in intensity and rainfall over the British Isles was mainly slight.

Pressure and Wind. Mean pressure was generally below the average except in Scotland, the deviation ranging from +2.9 mb. at Lerwick to -4.3 mb. at Scilly. Wind direction was very variable during the month but winds from an easterly direction predominated in Scotland and north-east England and from between south-west and north-west over most of the remainder of the British Isles. Wind reached gale force on four days and gales were widespread in south-west England and the Irish Sea area on the 25th when gusts of 54 kt. were recorded at Kete and Scilly and 56 kt. at Plymouth.

Temperature. Mean temperature differed from the 1921-50 average by -1.1°F. in England and Wales, -0.2°F. in Scotland and -0.9°F. in Northern Ireland. The deficit was largely due to low maximum temperatures as mean minimum temperatures in most districts were above the average. The warmest days were about the middle of the month in England and Wales and at the end of the month in Scotland. Temperature rose to 74°F. at Lerwick on the 30th, the highest recorded there at any time this century.

Extreme temperatures included:—(England and Wales) 78°F. at Regent's Park, Kensington, Wealdstone and East Malling on the 16th, 33°F. at Moor House on the 24th and at Alwen on the 18th and 24th; (Scotland) 78°F. at Findhorn on the 29th, 28°F. at Strathyre on the 2nd and at Dalwhinnie on the 21st; (Northern Ireland) 71°F. at Ballykelly on the 28th, 38°F. at Parkmore on the 5th and Garvagh on the 24th.

Precipitation. The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 202 over England and Wales, where it was the wettest June since 1912, 103 over Scotland and 192 over Northern Ireland, where it was the wettest June since 1920. Rainfall was below the average over the greater part of Scotland north of a line from the Firth of Clyde to Montrose. Elsewhere over three times the average fell in the Mendip hills, over the east Midlands and the southern part of East Anglia. Four times the average fell locally in the Royston area. At Kew Observatory only once, in 1903, has there been a wetter June since records began in 1856, whereas at Lerwick it was the driest June since 1901.

Among falls of 2 in. or more in 24 hr. were:—

2nd 2.38 in. at Chippenham (Littleton Drew), Wiltshire.

3rd 2.34 in. at East Quantoxhead, Somerset.

8th 2.65 in. at Snowdon, Llydaw Intake, Caernarvon.

9th 2.01 in. at Regent's Park, London.

25th 4.25 in. at Mourne Mountains (Foffany Reservoir), Co. Down.

Thunder was heard on 16 days; thunderstorms were widespread on the 1st-3rd and 22nd-24th.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 70 over England and Wales, 76 over Scotland and 67 over Northern Ireland. Sunshine was slightly more than the average at Scilly and locally in north-west Scotland, but below the average in most other places; Leuchars had its lowest recorded June total since records began there in 1922.

Fog. Fog occurred at one place or other on 26 days in Scotland and 18 days in England and Wales; it was particularly prevalent near the east coast of Scotland.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was observed on 3 nights in Scotland—the 1st, 28th and 29th.