

# 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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### November 1962 — *A cold spell mid-month; some snow*

Weather was predominantly cyclonic in character until the 24th apart from the period 10th-13th when a ridge of high pressure extended westwards from Scandinavia over the British Isles. An anticyclone covered much of the country during the last six days of the month.

The month opened with strong to gale force winds and widespread rain as the fronts of an intense depression to the north-west of the British Isles moved eastwards across the country. The rain was prolonged and occasionally heavy, especially in south-east England during the evening of the 1st. A large anticyclone covered much of Russia, and the depression, declining in intensity, moved first south-east, reaching southern Ireland about noon on the 2nd, and then northwards, finally filling up near the Shetlands on the night of the 3rd/4th. Thundery showers and scattered thunderstorms, heavy at times with hail on the 2nd, followed the frontal rain, and persisted with decreasing frequency until the 4th in a generally mild southerly air stream; there were some good sunny periods. Another depression moving southward in the eastern Atlantic was centred off western Ireland on the 5th and off the Portuguese coast two days later. Troughs and small disturbances over the southern part of England maintained generally dull weather with occasional rain and light winds backing towards the east.

By the 8th a depression was centred over France, and easterly winds in its circulation extended over the British Isles. Weather over southern England remained mild and dull for another two days, temperatures of 14°C being recorded at Portland Bill on the 8th and at Ventnor on the 9th.

On the 10th, however, a ridge of high pressure extended from southern Scandinavia across the northern part of the British Isles and the easterly airstream became substantially colder. Early morning frosts on the 12th and 13th were followed by generally sunny days, but fronts associated with a low pressure area near northern Scandinavia brought widespread rain on the 14th as they moved southward over the country. Northerly winds from high latitudes followed, and the 15th was bright and cold with sleet and snow showers in the north. During the 16th and 17th a depression from western Scotland moved south-east across the country to northern France. Wind reached gale force in most districts and sleet or snow fell practically everywhere except in the south-west where rain was heavy and prolonged. Level snow was 7 inches deep in parts of Scotland and there were drifts up to 3 ft. deep. Cold northerly winds persisted for another two or three days with widespread frost early, but a depression moving quickly south-east across southern England on the 20th brought rain to the south-west and snow and sleet to south-east England.

The next two days were quiet and rather dull with fog forming in many areas, but on the 23rd frontal rain, with moderate to heavy falls at times, spread across the country in a mild south-westerly airstream. Slight rain persisted in some districts on the 24th, but with pressure rising rapidly the 25th was generally dry except for widespread fog which persisted throughout the day in places.

The remainder of the month was quiet and dull with an anticyclone covering much of the country. Widespread fog, dense in places, also occurred on the 26th, and there were patches of fog on most other days. Weak fronts gave a little rain in Scotland at times but most of the country remained dry.

**Pressure and Wind** — Mean pressure was considerably above average in the north but slightly below in parts of the south and south-east, the deviation at 0900 hr ranging from +6.8 mb at Lerwick to

–0.5 mb at Shoeburyness. Surface winds were mainly south-west to south at first, easterly on the 6th-12th, becoming north-westerly on the 14th and remaining predominantly northerly until the 19th, after which winds were very variable in direction until the end of the month. Wind reached gale force in Scotland on 16 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 15th and 17th-20th (9 days) where gales were widespread on the 17th and 18th. A gust of 65 kt was recorded at the Lizard on the 4th and one of 66 kt at Scilly on the 18th.

**Temperature** — Mean temperature was everywhere below the 1921-50 average, the deficit being 1.0°C in England and Wales, 0.7°C in Scotland and 0.3°C in Northern Ireland. The first ten days of the month, however, were rather mild, but temperatures were considerably below the average from about the 11th to the 23rd and average or a little above during the last week.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 16.1°C at Moreton Morrell on the 5th, –11.7°C at Moorhouse on the 21st; (Scotland) 15.6°C at Kinlochewe on the 5th, –15.0°C at West Linton on the 21st; (Northern Ireland) 13.3°C at Ballyhalbert on the 5th, –6.6°C at Aldergrove on the 19th.

**Precipitation** — The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 76 over England and Wales, 75 over Scotland and 66 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland there was an excess of rainfall over much of the eastern side of the mainland but a deficit over the rest of the country. More than average rainfall was recorded in the coastal regions of north-east England, in south Lincolnshire, in Kent, in the coastal regions of Sussex and locally in Dorset and Cornwall. Less than half the average occurred in Brecknockshire, Snowdonia, Bedfordshire and in the Pennines. Unusually large hailstones fell during thunderstorms on the 2nd; at Camborne and Hurn stones of 19 mm diameter were measured while Culdrose reported stones of up to 50 mm diameter.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 10 days, and in England and Wales on the 1st-5th, 7th, 14th and 19th (8 days). Thunderstorms were widespread on the 2nd and 3rd.

Snow or sleet was observed at one place or another in Scotland on the 1st and the 12th-24th; snow was reported as lying at 9 hr on the 14th-27th and snowfalls were widespread on the 16th-19th. In England and Wales snow fell on the 14th-23rd and ground was snow-covered in some areas on the 16th-23rd. The observing station at Tredegar was unapproachable on the 18th due to 10ft deep drifts of snow.

**Sunshine** — The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 76 over England and Wales, 81 over Scotland, and 51 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales percentages ranged from 111 at Manchester Airport to 43 at Rothamsted, deficits being generally greatest in the south and east. At Worthing it was the dullest November since records began in 1899.

**Fog** — Fog was reported at one place or another in Scotland on 21 days and in England and Wales on every day of the month except the 5th, 11th, 12th and 18th (26 days). It occurred at many stations in the Midlands on 8 days and at Pontefract on 16 days; and was widespread, dense in places, on the 25th and 26th persisting all day in many districts.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena** — The aurora was visible in Scotland on 14 nights.