

# Monthly Weather Report

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### September—1947. Rather warm; unsettled and wet in the north-west; dry in the east and south.

The month was remarkable for unusual warmth over most of England and Wales: broadly speaking it was wet and rather dull in the north-west of the British Isles and dry and somewhat sunnier than usual in the south-east.

During the opening days pressure was high in a belt extending from north of the Azores across the British Isles to northern Scandinavia, while a shallow trough of low pressure approached the west of Scotland and moved away north-east. Weather was mainly fair, apart from morning fog, in most districts but some rain was reported in north Scotland on the 2nd and locally in north and west Scotland and Ireland on the 3rd. In the next few days a depression off south-west Iceland moved very slowly east and decreased in intensity, while associated troughs of low pressure crossed the British Isles; rain occurred at times in the west and north but fair weather persisted in eastern and Midland districts of England. On the 7th and 8th further troughs of low pressure moved east across the country giving rather heavy rain locally in Scotland particularly on the 8th; slight, scattered rain occurred in England and Wales on the 7th and heavier rain in north-west England and north Wales on the 8th. A small secondary depression over the Hebrides moved quickly east on the 9th and, on the 10th, a complex depression in mid-Atlantic approached south-west Iceland; gales were reported locally and rain occurred in the west and north but the fair weather continued over most of England. From the 11th–13th a deep depression was centred near Iceland, while troughs of low pressure moved east over the British Isles; rain occurred in most areas and the long drought was terminated at many stations in England on the 11th. On the 14th a disturbance west of Scotland moved north-east to the Faeroes, where it remained almost stationary while becoming less deep. On the 16th an associated secondary depression over the Irish Sea moved quickly north-north-east. During this period gales occurred locally in the north of Scotland and rain was fairly general except in the south-east of the country; high temperatures were registered in England on the 15th and 16th. On the 17th a small depression approached western France from the Atlantic; thereafter it moved eastward causing considerable rain in south and east England, with local thunderstorms. By the 18th a ridge of high pressure was situated over our northern districts and a depression off Portugal was spreading north; rain fell in south and east England and south Scotland on the 18th and more generally on the 19th and 20th. Subsequently a ridge of high pressure moving east over the country maintained fair weather in most areas on the 21st but further rain on the 22nd, heavy locally in Scotland, was associated with a depression, which moved rapidly east-north-east off the north of Scotland.

Subsequently an anticyclone was situated north of the Azores, while depressions in the far north moved east and minor troughs crossed the British Isles. The weather was considerably cooler and, except in the north and west, conditions were mainly fair. On the 29th the anticyclone spread north-east and by the 30th was centred over south Ireland, rainfall on that day being mainly confined to the north of Scotland.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Broadly speaking mean pressure was somewhat below the average in the north of Scotland and somewhat exceeded the average in England and Wales and south Scotland; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from  $-1.7$  mb. at Lerwick to  $+2.0$  mb. at Plymouth. Wind from some westerly point predominated on the whole. Gales were fairly frequent in the north of Scotland, being reported on 8 days at Lerwick and 7 days at Stornoway. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 66 m.p.h. at Paisley and Durham on the 9th, 69 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head on the 16th and 75 m.p.h. at Edinburgh and 76 m.p.h. at Bell Rock on the 22nd.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in eastern districts of England and the Midlands, where it amounted to more than  $3^{\circ}\text{F}$ . (See Table I.) The first three weeks were generally warm but the last week was cool on the whole. As far as can be estimated mean temperature over England and Wales was, with two exceptions namely 1929 and 1933, the highest for September since before 1901; in 1929 the mean temperature was higher than in 1947 but in 1933 it was about the same.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales)  $88^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Norwich on the 16th,  $30^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Santon Downham on the 25th and at Houghall on the 30th; (Scotland)  $78^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Glenbranter on the 2nd,  $26^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Peebles on the 30th; (Northern Ireland)  $76^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Lisburn on the 2nd,  $39^{\circ}\text{F}$ . at Ballykelly on the 26th and 30th and at Lisburn, Hillsborough, Armagh and Castle Archdale on the 30th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 78 over England and Wales, 135 over Scotland and 110 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average occurred in western, northern and central districts and less than the average over much of the eastern districts. More than twice the average occurred in part of Sutherland and at Renfrew, while totals were only about half the average on the coast of East Lothian and Berwickshire. In England and Wales more than the average was received over most of north-west England, locally in north Wales, in the Tees valley and in a mainly inland area in south Devon. On the other hand, less than 50 per cent. occurred near the Northumbrian coast, locally on the north coast of Cornwall, locally in Worcestershire and over the eastern part of East Anglia, while less than 25 per cent. was received at Lowestoft. In northern Ireland percentages of the average ranged from 97 at Garvagh and Seaford to 121 at Londonderry and Ballymena.

Measurable rain occurred very frequently in the north-west and north; for example, on 28 days at Colonsay, and 27 days at Stornoway, Duntuil, Cape Wrath, Benbecula, Fort William and Tiree.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 8th  | 2.11 in. at Glenquoy Reservoir, Glendevon.                           |
| 14th | 2.40 in. at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon.                                       |
| 22nd | 2.74 in. at Achfary, Sutherland.                                     |
| 30th | 2.52 in. at Arienskill and 2.17 in. at Inverailort, Inverness-shire. |

Thunderstorms occurred fairly frequently for the time of year; for instance on four days at Earl's Colne and East Malling. They occurred mainly on the 8th, 16th–20th and 23rd.

The long drought which occurred throughout the greater part of August was not terminated in parts of England until the 11th or even the 17th. At Wye, Kent, there was no measurable rainfall from July 29th–September 16th inclusive, a period of 50 days. At Oxford an absolute drought prevailed for 37 days ending on September 11th, being the longest ever recorded, that is, since 1815.

**Sunshine.**—Sunshine exceeded the average in the Shetland Isles and in eastern and Midland districts of England but was below the average in the west of the British Isles. The percentages for the districts ranged from 78 in Northern Ireland to 113 in England, N.E. The sunniest periods on the whole were the 1st–6th and 21st–30th.

**Fog.**—Morning fog occurred at times, particularly on the 1st–7th, 18th–20th and 25th–27th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed at northern stations in Scotland on 20 nights. The display on the 23rd was seen as far south as Linlithgow. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on four days.