

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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JUNE, 1944.—Mainly unsettled, dull and cool

The month was dull generally: broadly speaking it was wet in the west and north of Britain and dry in the south-east of England and the Midlands. It was windier than usual in England, particularly in the south-east.

On the 1st a trough of low pressure, extending from westward of Scotland to south-east England, moved east; rain fell in most areas except Ireland and south-west England and was heavy locally. During the following days pressure continued high south-west of the British Isles and troughs of low pressure moved south-east over the northern half of the country: rain occurred, chiefly in Ireland and the northern half of Britain. On the 4th a depression north-west of Ireland moved to the Shetlands, becoming exceptionally deep for the season: it remained almost stationary near the Shetlands for a period and then moved south-east and became less deep. Gales were reported in the north-west on the 4th, 5th and 6th and general rain, heavy in the north-west and north, occurred on the 4th and showers on the 5th and 6th. A ridge of high pressure moving slowly east over the British Isles was associated with fair weather in most areas on the 7th. Thereafter a shallow depression west of Scotland and an associated trough moved south-east: slight rain was registered at most places on the 8th and 9th, but it was heavier in south-east England on the 9th, while little or none occurred on the 10th. From the 11th-16th, a rather unsettled, westerly type of weather prevailed, with pressure high for the most part south-west of the British Isles and depressions moving east, northward of Scotland, with associated troughs or secondary depressions crossing the British Isles. Rainfall during this period was excessive in the north and west of Scotland and in Northern Ireland but it was below the average in England and east Scotland.

Subsequently the Azores anticyclone moved slowly north-east to the north-west of Scotland and then a little westward and maintained mainly dry, sunny, anticyclonic conditions over the British Isles from the 17th-23rd inclusive.

On the 24th a depression near the Faeroes moved southward and thereafter a complex low pressure area covered the British Isles for the remainder of the month. Weather was unsettled, dull and wet, with frequent thunderstorms. On the 30th a new depression off south-west Ireland moving east-north-east caused heavy rain in south-west England.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average, the deviation at 7 h. ranging from -5.2 mb. at Sumburgh, in the Shetlands, to -1.5 mb. at Plymouth. Westerly and northerly winds were more prevalent than usual. The month was windier than the average in England but less windy than usual in north-east Scotland. It was exceptionally windy in south-east England: for example at Oxford, the mean velocity of the wind was greater in June 1944 than in any other June except 1917 since before 1895. In June 1917 the mean velocity was slightly higher. Local gales occurred from the 4th-6th, 13th, 15th, 21st, 28th and 30th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 66 m.p.h. at St. Ann's Head and Spurn and 60 m.p.h. at Paisley on the 4th and 63 m.p.h. at Stornoway on the 5th.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was somewhat below the average, the deviation being -0.2°F . in Scotland, -0.6°F . in England and Wales and -0.4°F . in Northern Ireland (see Table I). The highest day temperatures occurred during the period 19th-24th. Low night minima were reported at times, particularly on the 11th, 15th, 17th-19th and 24th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 80°F . at Prestwood on the 22nd, 30°F . at Bellingham on the 11th and 19th and at Santon Downham on the 24th; (Scotland) 79°F . at Ardtornish on the 21st, 33°F . at Dalwhinnie on the 17th; (Northern Ireland) 76°F . at Armagh on the 22nd, 36°F . at Castle Archdale on the 8th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 104 over England and Wales, 153 over Scotland and 119 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland rainfall equalled the average at Edinburgh and was somewhat below the average at Kettins but elsewhere it was excessive. More than twice the average occurred over areas in western Inverness, Ross-shire and Sutherland. In England and Wales, less than the average occurred over much of south-east and east England and the Midlands, and part of Wales as well as in rather isolated places elsewhere. More than 150 per cent. of the average was registered over Dartmoor, locally in Somerset and Dorset and more than 200 per cent. locally in the Lake District. In Northern Ireland percentages of the average ranged from 76 at Ballymena to 164 at Armagh.

Among the heaviest falls in 24 hours were:—

- 3rd. 2.78 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth), 2.77 in. at Borrowdale and 2.00 in. at Watendlath Farm (Cumberland).
- 4th. 2.34 in. at Glencoe (Argyll), 2.34 in. at Strathfillan Manse (Perthshire) and 2.32 in. at Borrowdale.
- 27th. 1.82 in. at Canonbie (Dumfries-shire).
- 28th. 1.37 in. at Tortworth School (Glos.).

Thunderstorms were reported fairly frequently, particularly on the 1st, 4th, 12th-14th and daily from 25th-30th. On the 25th lightning caused considerable damage at a farm near Haddo House, Aberdeenshire, and the church at Dunbar was struck by lightning on the 27th.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was substantially below the average. The deficiency was general, and was most marked in Northern Ireland and the north of Scotland. The percentages of the average for the districts ranged from 64 in Northern Ireland to 90 in England, S.E. At Gorleston it was the dullest June since records were started in 1908.

Fog.—Fog developed locally at times mainly on the 1st-3rd, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 24th and 27th-30th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 10 days.