

MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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APRIL, 1941.—Dry, dull and rather cold.

The weather of the month was dry, dull and rather cold, with an excess of north-easterly or easterly winds.

During the opening days a deep depression centred off south-west England on the 1st moved east and then north and became less deep. This disturbance maintained unsettled weather over the country, with some precipitation which was rather heavy at times; snow and sleet were widespread on the 1st and local thunderstorms occurred in England between the 3rd and 5th; gales were reported at exposed stations on the 1st.

Subsequently an anticyclone moved slowly south-south-east from Iceland and a spell of cold, mainly dry weather prevailed apart from a few scattered wintry showers. On the 8th and 9th a shallow trough of low pressure approached our north-west coasts and moved slowly south; some rain occurred in Ireland and the extreme west of Scotland on the night of the 8th-9th and also in south-west England and Ireland on the 9th. By the 10th an anticyclone was centred over the Irish Sea and subsequently it retreated southward while depressions moved north-east or east along our northern sea-board. Rather unsettled, milder weather prevailed, though rainfall was slight in the south-east. On the 17th and 18th a depression situated off north Scotland became less deep, while another off north-west Spain moved north-east; rain occurred, chiefly in the west on the 17th and mainly in the south on the 18th. During the next two days a depression west of Ireland moved north, while an associated trough of low pressure moved slowly north over the British Isles; rain occurred generally on the 19th and showers and local thunderstorms were reported on the 20th.

A wedge of high pressure moved east over England on the 21st and on the 22nd was connected with an anticyclone over Scandinavia; these days were warm in England and Ireland, temperature rising to 60°F. or above at numerous places in England. Subsequently the anticyclone over Scandinavia moved slowly westward and maintained mainly dry, cold weather with easterly or north-easterly winds over the British Isles until the 29th.

On the 29th a depression off north-west Spain moved north-north-east and was associated with a rise of temperature and rain in southern England on the 30th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure exceeded the average except in the extreme south; the deviation from the average at 7h. ranged from +6.3 mb. at Lerwick to -0.7 mb. at St. Mary's, Scilly. The average pressure distribution was thus reversed, the highest pressure being situated to the north of Scotland. Winds from north-east or east were more prevalent than usual. Winds reached gale force at exposed places on a few occasions and gales were rather widely reported on the 1st. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 63 m.p.h. at Scilly, 57 m.p.h. at Boscombe Down, 56 m.p.h. at Bidston Observatory and 55 m.p.h. at Larkhill all on the 1st.

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average, the deviation from the average for the districts ranging from -1.5°F. in Scotland, N. to -2.4°F. in England, S.W. In Scotland the general mean temperature for the country as a whole was the lowest for April since 1922. At Torquay the mean temperature, 45.7°F., was

the lowest for April since 1917, although the Aprils of 1922 and 1936 were nearly as cold. A relatively mild spell occurred roughly from the 11th-22nd and it was mild again in the south on the 30th. Screen minima of 25°F. or below were registered on the 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 24th, 28th and 29th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 65°F. at Scarborough, Holton Heath and Poole on the 12th and at Cheltenham, Stonehouse, Milford (Surrey) and Newport, Isle of Wight, on the 22nd, 21°F. at Rhayader on the 7th and Houghall on the 10th; (Scotland) 63°F. at Perth on the 12th, 16°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 24th; (Northern Ireland) 59°F. at Castlerock on the 22nd, 25°F. at Garvagh on the 10th and 29th.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation of England and Wales expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 76 over England and Wales, 80 over Scotland and 75 over Northern Ireland.

The deficiency was almost general, but more than the average occurred along the east coast of Scotland from Aberdeen to the Tay, in scattered areas in north-east and south-east England and the Midlands and at a few stations elsewhere. Less than half the average was received in an area covering part of south Wales and a part of Devon and Cornwall, locally in north-west England and at one or two stations in north-east England. In Northern Ireland the percentage of the average ranged from 64 at Newtownbutler to 93 at Aldergrove.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 1st. 1.55 in. at Broughshane (Antrim).
- 10th. 1.64 in. at Achfary (Loch More).
- 13th. 1.67 in. at Oakley Quarries, Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth).
- 16th. 1.78 in. at Glenbranter and 1.60 in. at Achnacarry, near Loch Arkaig.

Local thunderstorms were reported at times, mainly from the 3rd-5th, 15th, 18th, 20th, 21st and 24th. Snow or sleet (mostly in the form of scattered showers) was reported at times mainly during the first 10 days and on the 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th. It was widespread on the 1st, and five to six inches of snow fell on Deeside in the first few days.

Sunshine.—The deficiency of sunshine was a notable feature of the weather of the month. An excess above the average was confined to a few stations in south-west England. The percentages of the average for the districts ranged from 63 in the Midlands to 82 in Scotland, N. At Aberdeen the total for the month, 78 hours, was the lowest for April in a record which goes back to 1881.

Fog.—Local fog occurred at times, mainly in the south-east on the 5th, in the west of Scotland and north of Ireland on the 11th and 12th and more widely on the 21st-22nd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed on 11 nights at northern stations in Scotland; a display on the 24th was also seen from Kettins and from Skye. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 13 days.