

Monthly Weather Report

M.O. 672

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

Volume 77 Number 11

Published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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November 1960—*Mild. Frequent rain, heavy in England and Wales.*

Apart from the 6th and 7th when an anticyclone covered the British Isles, weather during the month was mostly cyclonic in character with a well developed frontal system crossing the country every few days.

Vigorous depressions over northern Britain maintained stormy weather with widespread gales and heavy rain in many parts of the country during the first three days of the month. On the 1st a tornado did considerable local damage in Cheshire and Lancashire while on the 2nd winds reached 70 kt. in gusts at a number of places. Rainfall was particularly heavy in Wales, north-west England and north-east Scotland on the 1st, in Kent and Sussex on the 2nd, which led to extensive flooding in these areas, and in western Ulster on the 3rd.

By the 5th the low pressure area had moved to Scandinavia and northerly winds covered the British Isles. The next two days were cold but generally dry apart from a few scattered showers and there was a good deal of sunshine as an anticyclone from the Atlantic moved east and became centred over the country on the 7th. At night ground frost was widespread and there was air frost in many places while overnight fog became dense in parts of central and northern England on the morning of the 8th and persisted locally for much of the day.

The fair spell was short-lived, however, for on the morning of the 9th winds freshened from the south-west and rain associated with a deepening depression to the west of Ireland spread over the country during the day. Pressure was persistently low to the west and north-west of the British Isles during the next two weeks, and an active front moved eastward across the country every two or three days. Rain was frequent, and although amounts were not always large, few places escaped without some rain on most days during this period. The heavy rain which fell on the 17th, as a small intensifying depression moved from Cornwall to the southern North Sea, led to renewed flooding particularly in the west country. Winds fell light that night and fog became widespread over England and Wales and persisted in many places throughout the 18th and 19th. Overnight fog persisted over much of the country throughout the 22nd as well.

Cold northerly winds spread over the British Isles behind a filling depression as it moved eastwards across central England on the 26th causing a second temporary break in the mild south-westerly type. On the 29th a mild south-westerly airstream was restored and the month ended, as it began, with widespread rain, heavy in the south-west, and strong to gale force winds in most districts.

Pressure and Wind. Mean pressure was everywhere below the average, the deficit at 9h. ranging from 13.4 mb. at Aldergrove to 7.6 mb. at Lerwick. Surface winds were mainly south-westerly until the 3rd, north to north-west on the 4th-7th and light and variable on the 8th. Subsequently, apart from the variable winds of the 20th-21st and the mainly northerly winds of the 26th-27th, south-westerly winds predominated until the end of the month. Winds reached gale force at one place or another on the 1st-4th, 9th-15th and 27th-30th in Scotland and on the 1st-4th, 9th-15th, 18th, 20th, 23rd-26th and 30th in England and Wales. Gales were widespread and severe on the 1st-3rd; a gust of 78 kt was recorded at Holyhead on the 2nd.

Temperature. Mean temperatures were above the average nearly everywhere, especially in the south; the excess being 1.3°F. in England and Wales, 0.2°F. in Scotland and 0.4°F. in Northern Ireland. The warmest day over most of England and Wales was the 1st when afternoon temperatures exceeded 60°F. at many places, but in Scotland the 30th was the mildest day nearly everywhere with temperatures reaching the upper fifties. Mean maximum temperatures for the month were above the average in England and Wales for the first time since June, but there were two short cold spells, on the 6th-8th and 26th-27th.

Extremes included:- (England and Wales) 66°F. at Bromley on the 1st, 19°F. at Alwen on the 8th; (Scotland) 59°F. at Kinlochewe and Gordon Castle on the 30th, 16°F. at Glenlivet on the 29th; (Northern Ireland) 58°F. at Armagh on the 1st and 2nd and at Loughgall on the 1st, 23°F. at Loughgall on the 8th.

Precipitation. The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the 1916-50 average was 153 over England and Wales, 110 over Scotland and 102 over Northern Ireland. It was the wettest November over England and Wales since 1954 and the total rainfall for the five months July to November 1960 was greater than that for any previous July to November period over England and Wales since 1727. Less than half the average was recorded in western Sutherland while twice the average was exceeded in the Ilfracombe area, a large part of Wales, the Dee and Mersey estuaries and the Fylde. Some of the heaviest rainfall of the month occurred during the first three days; during this period 3.23 in. fell at Brighton. At Stanmore, Middlesex, 1.1 in. fell in 35 min. on the 3rd.

Thunder was heard at one place or another in England and Wales on the 1st-5th, 8th-11th, 15th-19th and 24th, (15 days) and thunderstorms were widespread on the 1st and 3rd. In Scotland local thunder was heard on the 2nd and 11th only.

Snow or sleet occurred locally in Scotland on the 3rd-9th and 26th-29th. In England and Wales it was reported locally on 10 days mainly over high ground in the north and west.

Sunshine. The general sunshine expressed as a percentage of the 1921-50 average was 114 over England and Wales (the first month since June with above average sunshine) 110 over Scotland and 104 over Northern Ireland. Some places in the Midlands and the London area had more than 150 per cent of the average; at Hampstead it was the sunniest November since 1925.

Fog. There was a good deal of early morning fog, mainly during the second half of the month; it was reported at one place or another on 12 days in Scotland and on 24 days in England and Wales. Fog was widespread and persisted all day in places on the 8th, 18th, 19th and 22nd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena. The aurora was visible in Scotland on the 8th, 9th, 12th-28th and 30th. Displays were unusually brilliant on the nights of the 12th/13th, 13th/14th and 14th/15th and were seen as far south as the Channel Islands. A tornado, some 200 ft. wide, did considerable structural damage locally in its passage from Crewe to the Manchester area on the 1st.