

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

Met.O. 763

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

Volume 82 Number 7

Published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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July 1965 — Cold, dull and wet

Weather was mainly cyclonic in character throughout the month except during the first five days when the country was under the influence of an anticyclone to the west of Ireland and on the 15th-17th when a ridge of high pressure moved slowly east across the British Isles.

The fine sunny weather over England and Wales at the end of June continued on the 1st, but during the next four days northerly winds between high pressure to the west and low pressure to the east of the British Isles brought scattered showers and a progressive fall of temperature in most areas. Early on the 4th ground frost was widespread and temperature fell to 1°C in parts of the Midlands. Troughs moving southwards over the country brought periods of rain on the 6th and thunderstorms broke out over southern England on the 7th as a small depression moved rapidly east along the English Channel. Behind these disturbances showers and sunny intervals continued for another two days but the northerly airstream backed towards the west during the afternoon of the 9th.

A very wet period followed. Rain from the Atlantic spread to all districts on the 10th becoming heavy in many places on the 11th as a vigorous depression moved across Scotland to the North Sea and small wave disturbances on an associated trailing cold front moved across southern England where more than an inch of rain fell over wide areas. On the 12th-14th a belt of low pressure extended from south-west England to southern Scandinavia giving heavy and prolonged rain in many places. In the Cardiff area almost 3 inches of rain fell in about 70 hours of more or less continuous rain starting in the early hours of the 11th, and at Nottingham 2½ inches were recorded on the 13th. With pressure rising over the British Isles there were good sunny periods on the 14th especially in southern England but there were also scattered thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rain locally; at Wadebridge 5½ inches of rain were recorded in about 3 hrs. 40 mins.

A ridge of high pressure extending from south-west England to the Norwegian Sea gave three mainly dry days, 15th-17th, as it moved slowly eastwards across the British Isles. In the north weather was sunny with day temperatures about normal, many places in northern Scotland having more than 14 hours of sunshine on each of these days.

The dry spell gave place to a week of thundery rain and thunderstorms. On the 18th a small depression moving south-eastwards towards Cornwall gave some heavy rain in the Scilly Isles and the next day thunderstorms broke out over southern England as a trough from the depression developed along the English Channel, and these storms became heavy and frequent south-east of a line from the Humber to the Severn as the depression moved eastwards across southern England. They were particularly heavy just north of London where there was considerable flooding; at Stansted more than 1 inch of rain was recorded in 17 minutes. A complex depression centred over the British Isles on the 21st-23rd maintained the thundery weather for another few days, the rain becoming heavy again in south-east England on the 23rd as the depression deepened and moved eastwards across central England. On the 24th-27th the depression was centred over southern Scandinavia and the thundery activity over the British Isles slowly died out in the northerly airstream on its western flank.

A depression from the Atlantic gave prolonged and, in a number of districts, heavy rain on the 28th and 29th, the rain continuing in

southern England for much of the 30th but the month ended with a fine sunny day over most of England though there were reports of snow showers over the higher ground in Scotland.

Pressure and Wind — Mean pressure was below the average except in northern and western Scotland, the deviation at 9hr. from the 1921-50 average ranging from +1.8 at Stornoway to -2.6 mb at Gorleston. Surface winds were mainly northerly at first becoming south-westerly on the 10th, variable and mainly light on the 13th-23rd, mostly between north and north-west on the 24th-26th and west to south-west during the last five days of the month. It was a quiet month, wind reaching gale force in Scotland on 3 days only and in England and Wales on the 11th, 12th, 23rd, 28th and 29th. Wind reached 54 kt in gusts at Cardington on the 23rd and at Bidston on the 29th.

Temperature — The mean temperature for the principal towns in Scotland was 12.3°C, 2.7°C below the average and the lowest in July records going back to 1856. In England and Wales day temperatures were below the average throughout the month except for a short period around the 19th. The coldest period was towards the end of the first week. At Ross on Wye there has been only one cooler July in 90 years of temperature records.

Extremes included: (England and Wales) 25.0°C at Hoddesdon on the 14th, -1.7°C at Kielder Castle on the 17th; (Scotland) 26.1°C at Fort William on the 20th, -0.6°C at Balmoral and Glenshee Lodge on the 6th, Strachan on the 17th and at Cannich and Cairngorm on the 30th; (Northern Ireland) 22.3°C at Ely Lodge on the 20th, 2.2°C at Lisnafillan on the 17th and at Lislap Forest on the 30th.

Precipitation — Rainfall was above the average over most of Scotland and approached 2½ times the average in parts of the Lothians, Peebleshire and around Inverness. It was little more than half the average in Shetland and locally in the north-west. South of the border rainfall was below average over much of central and south-west Wales, over Cumberland and Westmorland and thence in a narrow corridor to the estuary of the Humber. It was more than twice the average locally in South Wales, the Midlands, Cornwall, Wiltshire and along the Sussex coast.

Thunder was heard in Scotland on 9 days and in England and Wales on the 1st, 2nd, 8th-9th, 13th-15th, 19th-26th, 30th and 31st.

Snow or sleet was reported in the Cairngorms on the 3rd, 27th and 29th, ground being snow-covered above 3000ft. on the 30th and 31st.

Sunshine — It was a dull month generally except in the extreme north-west of Scotland where sunshine exceeded the average by 20 hours in several places. There were, however, deficits of 40-70 hours near the east coast south of Aberdeen. In England and Wales sunshine was mainly below the average being mostly 50-70 per cent of the average in the east and 70-90 per cent in the west.

Fog — In Scotland fog was reported at 9h at one place or another on 19 days and in England and Wales on 16 days, mainly between the 11th and 15th or the 18th and the 23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena — The aurora was not seen during the month.

TABLE I—DISTRICT VALUES— JULY,

1965

(1908, revised 1928, 1941, 1956 and 1964)

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
0 SCOTLAND, N.	21.1	2.2	-1.8	-2.3	-2.0	-	-	-3	103	115
1 SCOTLAND, E.	21.7	1.7	-3.7	-2.0	-2.9	-	-	+3	140	75
2 ENGLAND, N.E.	22.1	3.9	-3.3	-2.1	-2.7	-1.7	-0.7	+3	113	54
3 ENGLAND, E.	23.3	2.8	-2.9	-1.6	-2.3	-1.8	-0.7	+6	123	59
4 MIDLANDS	23.3	3.4	-3.1	-1.5	-2.	-1.3	-0.3	+3	141	60
5 ENGLAND, S.E.	23.6	2.8	-2.6	-1.2	-1.8	-1.9	-1.0	+3	128	63

*Highest Max. and Lowest Min. of the District Value Stations.

DISTRICTS	AIR TEMPERATURE					EARTH TEMP.		RAIN DAYS	RAIN-FALL	SUN-SHINE
	*Highest Max.	*Lowest Min.	Max.	Min.	Mean	Mean 1 ft.	Mean 4 ft.			
			Difference from Average							
6 SCOTLAND, W.	20.7	0.4	-2.2	-2.1	-2.2	-1.0	-0.6	-4	107	95
7 ENGLAND, N.W. and N. Wales	22.0	1.7	-2.4	-1.3	-1.9	-1.5	-0.9	0	98	78
8 ENGLAND, S.W. and S. Wales	22.8	1.1	-2.2	-1.3	-1.7	-0.9	+0.2	+4	143	75
N. IRELAND	21.7	3.5	-1.7	-1.9	-1.8	-	-	-1	80	91
SCOTLAND	21.7	0.4	-2.6	-2.1	-2.4	-	-	-1	110	95
ENG. and WALES	23.6	1.1	-2.7	-1.5	-2.1	-	-	+3	122	65

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