

Monthly Weather Report

OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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October, 1947—A dry, quiet, mainly mild month.

The weather of the month was distinguished by an exceptional deficiency of rainfall over England and Wales. It was mild on the whole, particularly in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part and the month was generally less windy than usual.

During the first five days a belt of high pressure lay across the British Isles; fair weather prevailed apart from rather widespread fog night and morning and slight rain at times in the north of Scotland. On the 7th and 8th a depression south-south-west of Iceland moved north-north-east, while an associated trough of low pressure moved north-east across the British Isles giving rain in most areas except south-east and east England. On the 9th further minor troughs crossed the country and caused more rain in western districts. A spell of more unsettled weather ensued, with depressions moving rather rapidly north-east across Iceland and associated troughs crossing the British Isles. Gales were reported at times at exposed places in Scotland between the 10th and 12th, while considerable rain occurred in the west of Scotland on the 11th and locally in Scotland and Ireland on the 12th. A weak trough moved south-east over England on the 13th and 14th causing scattered slight rain there, and on the 14th another trough crossing our north-west districts was associated with fairly heavy local rain in the west of Scotland.

By the 16th an anticyclone was established south-west of the British Isles with a ridge extending northward to Iceland. Subsequently this system moved slowly east to Germany. Slight, scattered rain fell on the 16th and 17th and slight falls occurred in the west and north on the 18th but fair conditions prevailed generally on the 19th and 20th.

On the 21st a secondary depression developed off our south-west coasts and thereafter moved slowly east and later south-east. Gales were reported in the western English Channel on the 22nd-23rd, while heavy rain occurred in the south-west on the 21st and 22nd and more general rain on the 22nd. Thunder was recorded locally in south England on the 22nd and 23rd.

Subsequently a large anticyclone, which was situated over Scandinavia on the 24th, moved a little south and then west and dominated conditions over the British Isles during most of the last week. Cold easterly winds spread over the country and by the 26th day temperatures had fallen considerably. Dry weather was almost general on the 25th and 26th, while slight rain occurred on the 27th and 28th chiefly in eastern districts of Britain. On the 30th and 31st a depression off the north-west of Portugal moved north-east and then south-east giving rain in the south of England, while moderate rain in Ireland and west and north Scotland on the night of October 31st to November 1st was associated with a trough which approached from the Atlantic.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure substantially exceeded the average, the excess being greatest in the north; at 9h. the deviation from the average ranged from +11.0 mb. at Wick to +7.0 mb. at Portland Bill. The distribution was anticyclonic in type, the region of highest pressure being eastward of England. The month was quieter than usual for October, the run of the wind being appreciably below the average. Winds from some easterly point predominated in the south, while southerly winds were more frequent than usual in Scotland. Mean hourly velocities of more than 38 m.p.h. were registered at Lerwick on the 12th, Stornoway on the 11th and 12th and at Scilly and the Lizard on the 22nd and 23rd. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 65 m.p.h. at Lerwick and Stornoway on the 12th and 65 m.p.h. at the Lizard and 63 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 22nd.

Temperature.—Mean temperature exceeded the average by 1.6°F. in England and Wales, 2.8°F. in Scotland and 3.4°F. in Northern Ireland. Over Scotland as a whole, as far as can be estimated, the mean temperature for the month has only twice been exceeded in October, namely in 1908 and 1921, in the period back to 1901. Warm days occurred at times particularly from the 4th-13th. On the other hand cold easterly winds kept day temperatures low during the last six days while severe frosts were registered locally on the 21st, 22nd and 30th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 75°F. at Long Sutton, Blandford, Totnes and Ellbridge on the 6th and at Wilmington on the 13th, 22°F. at Milford, Surrey, on the 21st; (Scotland) 71°F. at Ruthwell on the 4th and Banff and Logie Coldstone on the 5th, 23°F. at Braemar on the 22nd; (Northern Ireland) 71°F. at Lisburn on the 4th and 31°F. at Castle Archdale on the 31st.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 20 over England and Wales, 56 over Scotland and 60 over Northern Ireland. In England and Wales it was the driest October in a record going back to 1869. In England and Wales also the period June to October 1947 was drier than any similar period back to 1869; it ranked with 1921, the total for the five months being 8.7 in. in 1947 as compared with 9.1 in. in 1921. In Scotland, the month, though dry, was not nearly so dry as October, 1946.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

11th	2.94 in. at Glenleven (Argyllshire), 2.67 in. at Kinlochourn (Inverness-shire) and 2.30 in. at Ardgour (Argyllshire).
12th	1.65 in. at Cochno Filters (Dumbartonshire).
14th	1.44 in. at Knoydart (Inverness-shire).
21st	1.99 in. at St. Mary's, Scilly
22nd	1.30 in. at St. Eval (Cornwall) and 1.19 in. at Falmouth and 1.12 ins. at Princetown.

Thunderstorms were reported locally in south-east England on the 22nd, in south-west England on the 23rd and in North Wales and Northern Ireland on the 30th. There were no reports of thunder in Scotland.

Sunshine.—Broadly speaking sunshine appreciably exceeded the average in the south and west of England and Wales but was deficient on the whole in north-east England. In Scotland, the duration was generally deficient, but there was an excess in the extreme north-west, round the Moray Firth and in south Ayrshire. In Northern Ireland it slightly exceeded the average.

Fog.—Fog developed rather frequently, particularly in the morning and at night, mainly from the 1st-9th, 11th-14th, 17th-25th and 30th-31st. Thick fog on the 4th-5th interfered with air services in the west of Scotland and a steamer ran aground in the Clyde. Tay ferry services were delayed by fog on the 21st-22nd, while traffic dislocation occurred in some districts in Perthshire. Much fog, dense in places, occurred in England on the 24th.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—The aurora was observed in Scotland on 15 nights; the brilliant display on the 9th was seen as far south as Edinburgh. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 10 days and a sun pillar on the evening of the 7th.