

# MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

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## OCTOBER, 1945.—Very mild; fair at first; very unsettled and stormy 23rd-27th.

The weather of the month was distinguished by unusual mildness. Dry, anticyclonic conditions prevailed for the most part for the first nineteen days. Subsequently unsettled weather set in and persisted until the end of the month.

During the opening days a large anticyclone, centred over England, dominated conditions over the British Isles. Mainly dry weather, with considerable fog prevailed until the 9th, though some rain occurred at times in the west and north. On the 9th and 10th a trough of low pressure moved slowly south-east from the north of Scotland becoming less deep; by the morning of the 12th it was stationary over the Midlands and south-west Ireland and had almost filled up. There was considerable rainfall in Scotland and Ireland, but many places in southern England had none. Subsequently anticyclonic conditions were re-established over the British Isles, with widespread morning and evening fog and little or no rainfall until the 20th.

A change of type occurred on the 20th and a period of very unsettled weather ensued. From the 20th-23rd a large depression centred on the Atlantic south-west of Iceland remained almost stationary, while associated troughs moved slowly east over the British Isles; rainfall was rather heavy on each of these days. On the 23rd a secondary depression developed north of the Azores and moved rapidly north-east; on the 24th it was centred over Northern Ireland and by the 25th over north-east Scotland. Widespread and severe gales were reported, notably in England, from the 24th-26th. A feature of the gale was its persistence, particularly on the south-west coasts, where it blew for over 48 hours. Heavy rain fell at times during this spell and there were local thunderstorms. Another deep depression approached west Ireland on the 27th and thereafter moved slowly south-east causing heavy rain from the 27th-29th. During the closing days of the month a trough of low pressure off our west coasts moving north-east was associated with rain in Ireland and Scotland, while fair weather prevailed in England and Wales.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure exceeded the average, the excess at 9 h. ranging roughly between 3 and 5 mb. Widespread and severe gales were reported in England and Wales from the 24th-26th. At St. Ann's Head, Pembrokeshire, a mean hourly velocity of more than 38 m.p.h. was registered continuously from 9 h. on the 24th to 16 h. on the 26th, a period of 56 hours. Local gales were reported also on the 10th, 17th, 18th, 23rd, 27th and 29th. Among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 87 m.p.h. at Pendennis and Scilly and 81 m.p.h. at Point of Ayre and Boscombe Down on the 24th and 84 m.p.h. at Scilly on the 25th. The gales caused considerable damage in southern England.

**Temperature.**—Mean temperature was unusually high for the time of year, the excess over the average being 2.4°F. in Scotland, 3.4°F. in England and Wales and 3.2°F. in Northern Ireland. It was the warmest October since the exceptionally warm month of that name in 1921. It was also the ninth month in succession with a mean temperature above the average. At Hampstead, the absolute maximum, 73°F. on the 16th, was also the highest for October since 1921. Among warm days, when temperature rose to 70°F. or above locally were the 3rd, 5th, 7th and 18th in Scotland and the 1st, 10th-12th and 17th in England and Wales. In particular, the 10th and 11th were very warm days in England and Wales. The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 76°F. at Totnes on the 11th, 29°F. at Houghall on the 14th; (Scotland)

71°F. at Balmoral on the 3rd and Kilmarnock on the 5th, 26°F. at Dalwhinnie, Braemar and Logie Coldstone on the 7th and at Eskdalemuir on the 14th; (Northern Ireland) 69°F. at Castlerock and Lisburn on the 2nd and 33°F. at Aldergrove on the 13th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881-1915 was 105 over England and Wales, 109 over Scotland and 119 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland less than the average occurred in the north-west from Mull to Cape Wrath, in the Shetlands and at a few scattered stations. In two areas one on the Angus and Fifeshire coasts and the other covering parts of Stirling, Lanark and Renfrew, the months rainfall exceeded 150 per cent. In England and Wales less than the average occurred in a coastal belt extending roughly from Northumberland to east Dorset and from Cornwall to Anglesea. Less than 50 per cent. was received over east Kent and locally in south-east Suffolk. More than 150 per cent. of the average was measured locally in the Lake District, in a large area stretching from north Herefordshire to south Lancashire and around Sheffield; about twice the average occurred in the neighbourhood of Church Stretton, Shropshire. In Northern Ireland percentages of the average ranged from 99 at Ballymena to 168 at Londonderry. Falls of 1 in. or more were reported daily from the 20th-29th.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

20th	2.86 in. at Princetown, S. Devon.
23rd	2.19 in. at Bramley, Surrey and 2.19 in. at Sherborne St. John (Hants.).
24th	4.85 in. at Borrowdale and 4.20 in. at Watendlath Farm, Cumberland and 2.87 in. at Kaim Dam, near Lochwinnoch.
25th	2.65 in. at Lake Vyrnwy and 2.45 in. at Oughtershaw Hall, Yorkshire.
28th	2.85 in. at Craigiebuckler, 2.78 in. at Craibstone and 2.78 in. at Craigton.

No measurable rain was registered at numerous places in the southern half of England and Wales from the 1st-20th inclusive.

Local thunderstorms occurred in England rather frequently for October, being recorded on each day from the 22nd to the 26th. In Scotland, however, thunderstorms were recorded on one day only, the 25th.

**Sunshine.**—Broadly speaking the duration of bright sunshine was below the average in Northern Ireland and somewhat above the average in Scotland, though there was a marked deficiency in the Shetland Isles. Over England and Wales as a whole the duration was about average; in southern England, however, there was an appreciable excess, while in the Midlands, north-west and east England there was a deficiency.

**Fog.**—Fog developed frequently, particularly at inland towns; it was reported at the 9 h. observation hour on 10 or more days at numerous stations and on 16 days at Nottingham and 15 at Pontefract, Manchester and Nelson. Least fog was reported during the unsettled period from the 22nd-28th.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed at some northern stations in Scotland on 14 nights and was seen as far south as Dungavel, Lanarkshire, on the 12th. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on nine days. A whirlwind occurred at Wivelsfield and Newtimber in mid-Sussex on the 24th and caused considerable damage.