

## MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses: YORK HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON W.C.2; 13A CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH 2; 39-41 KING STREET, MANCHESTER 2; 1 ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF; 80 CHICHESTER STREET, BELFAST; or through any bookseller.

VOL. 62. No. 4.

ISSUED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Price 1s. 0d. net, Post-free 1s. 1d.  
 Annual Subscription, including  
 Annual Summary and Introduction,  
 15s. 0d. post-free.

**APRIL, 1945.—Sunny; dry; unusually large variations of temperature.**

The weather of the month was sunny and dry in most areas: the period 16th–19th was notably warm and the closing days unusually cold.

The month opened with an almost stationary depression centred east of Iceland while small secondary depressions crossed the British Isles: widespread gales were reported and almost general rain. Later the depression moved east and became less deep and a ridge of high pressure moved across this country. Showery weather, with long bright periods, prevailed on the 2nd and 3rd, with sleet or snow showers in parts of Scotland and local thunder in England. On the 4th and 5th a trough of low pressure crossed the British Isles giving rain in most districts on the 4th and showers on the 5th. By the 7th an anticyclone was centred over the North Sea: subsequently it moved south and dominated conditions over the British Isles from the 7th–9th. Apart from slight rain in the extreme north of Scotland and morning fog, fair weather prevailed. The fair weather was broken on the 10th when a large depression centred south-west of the British Isles spread first north-east and then north. Rain fell in most places on the 10th and 11th and in Scotland also on the 12th. On the 13th a ridge of high pressure moved east over Great Britain and ultimately an anticyclone built up over Scandinavia. Meanwhile pressure continued low on the north Atlantic. Rain was experienced in the west and north of the British Isles on the 13th and occurred fairly generally over the country on the 14th and gales were reported locally in the north-west and north on the 14th.

Subsequently more settled conditions were established: on the 15th and 16th pressure was high east and south-east of the British Isles and later an anticyclone over southern England moved north; a spell of fair, very warm weather ensued with good sunshine records and little or no rain except at times in the extreme north and north-west. On the 20th a trough of low pressure over Scotland moving south caused showers and rather widespread thunderstorms, but the dry weather persisted at many places in the south. By the 21st the region of highest pressure was westward of Ireland, and from the 23rd to 24th a belt of high pressure extended from north-west to south-east across the country. Fair weather was maintained in most districts but conditions were cooler.

From the 25th to 27th a depression off our south-west coasts moved east while another north of Iceland moved south-east. Some slight rain was registered in south-west England and in east Scotland on the 25th and rain was moderately heavy locally in the south-east on the 26th. In the rear of these disturbances cold, polar air flowed over England and a spell of really cold weather prevailed with widespread sleet or snow showers: there was also widespread thunder on the 28th. Sunshine records were, however, fairly good. Low screen minimum temperatures were registered, particularly on the 30th when readings of 25°F. or below were recorded at numerous stations in Britain.

**Pressure and Wind.**—Mean pressure exceeded the average generally, the excess at 9h. ranging from 3.5 mb. at Stornoway to 5.9 mb. at Portland Bill. Winds from between south-west and north-west were more than usually frequent in Scotland and northern England but they were more variable in the south of England. Except in the north of Scotland the month was less windy than the average. A widespread gale occurred on the 1st and local gales were reported mainly in the extreme north on the 11th, 14th, 16th, 21st and 28th–30th. Among the highest speeds registered in gusts were 66 m.p.h. at Stornoway and 65 m.p.h. at Thornaby both on the 1st.

**Temperature.**—For the third successive April mean temperature considerably exceeded the average, the excess being 2.8°F. in Scotland, 3.9°F. in Northern Ireland and 4.2°F. in England and

Wales. The most remarkable feature of the temperature in April 1945 was the large variation which occurred. The period 16th–19th was unusually warm while the 27th–30th was very cold. The absolute maximum temperature was notable in some parts, particularly in the south of England. At a number of places, for example London, Southampton, Oxford, it was the highest for April since before 1901, while at Falmouth the maximum, 73°F. on the 19th was the highest for April in a record back to 1871. On the other hand the last few days of the month were unusually cold: a minimum temperature in the screen of 25°F. or below was recorded at numerous stations in Great Britain on the 30th.

The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 81°F. at Peterborough and in London (Camden Square) on the 16th, 23°F. at Bellingham on the 28th; (Scotland) 73°F. at Penicuik and Edinburgh University on the 19th, 19°F. at Kilmarnock on the 30th;—(Northern Ireland) 71°F. at Lisburn on the 19th, 27°F. at Lisburn on the 30th.

**Precipitation.**—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 81 over England and Wales, 79 over Scotland and 70 over Northern Ireland. In Scotland more than the average was registered in the Shetland Islands, in Sutherland and around Paisley and North Berwick. Less than 50 per cent. occurred at a few scattered stations. In England and Wales more than the average occurred over practically the whole of a coastal strip extending from just south of Berwick-on-Tweed to Campsie Ashe, Suffolk, over much of Wales and in a fairly large area covering the Pennines and a part of the northern Midlands. More than 175 per cent. was registered at Spurn Head and Cromer. Less than 50 per cent. was received over the south-western peninsula including Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset and most of Wiltshire. In Northern Ireland the deficiency was general.

Absolute droughts of from 15 to 20 days were experienced at many places in the southern districts of England during the period 7th–27th. An absolute drought was registered also at Stirling from the 15th–30th.

Among the heaviest falls of rain in 24 hours were:—

1st 3.12 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth), 3.11 in. at Crickhowell, 2.87 in. at Machynlleth (Montgomery) and 2.60 in. at Borrowdale.

Thunderstorms were somewhat widespread on the 20th and 28th. They occurred locally also on the 3rd, 5th, 10th, 11th, 16th, 21st and 27th.

Snow or sleet showers were widely reported during the cold spell from the 27th–30th. In most places the snow quickly disappeared but it lay to a depth of two or three inches over Deeside on the 29th and 30th. At Oxford the depth of the snow was three to four inches at 03.30h. on the 29th.

**Sunshine.**—Generally speaking there was a substantial excess of bright sunshine except in the Great Glen and Scotland, N. The general values expressed as percentages of the average were 108 over Scotland, 117 over Northern Ireland and 128 over England and Wales. The mean daily duration of bright sunshine ranged from less than 4 hours in the Great Glen and further north-west to more than 7.5 hours over parts of south-west and south-east England and somewhat more than 8 hours on the south coast of Devon in the neighbourhood of Sidmouth and Exmouth.

**Fog.**—Fog occurred at times mainly on the 1st, 6th–10th and 12th–20th. It developed rather frequently on the south-west coasts of England and Wales, and was thick and fairly persistent at times there.

**Miscellaneous Phenomena.**—The aurora was observed in Scotland on seven nights. Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 12 days.