

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, I. R. TANNEHILL in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, APRIL 1936

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—There were marked fluctuations of pressure over most parts of the North Atlantic during April. On the average, pressure considerably exceeded normal over the northeastern portion, and it slightly exceeded normal in most waters near the American coast and eastward to well beyond Newfoundland and Bermuda, the excess here being of greater amount around latitudes 30° to 35° than either to northward or to southward. Near the Azores and to eastward and southeastward, pressure averaged a trifle less than normal.

The extremes of pressure so far reported are 30.74 and 28.87 inches. The higher was noted on two liners, the British *Empress of Australia* and the German *Hamburg*, at about latitude 45° N., longitude 48° W., during the forenoon of the 29th. The lower was recorded at a late hour of the 8th on the U. S. cutter *Champlain*, on ice patrol duty, near 49° N., 52° W.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, April 1936

Station	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	Inch	Inches		Inches	
Julianehaab, Greenland.....	29.75	30.39	15	29.02	9
Reykjavik, Iceland.....	29.94	+0.14	30.52	13	29.16	25
Lerwick, Shetland Islands.....	29.93	+ .13	30.29	5	29.45	25
Valencia, Ireland.....	30.01	+ .12	30.51	29	29.30	21
Lisbon, Portugal.....	29.96	-.03	30.32	21	29.38	14
Madeira.....	30.01	.00	30.34	21	29.57	6
Horta, Azores.....	30.13	-.02	30.53	29	29.51	2
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	29.86	+ .03	30.52	6	29.18	1
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	29.95	+ .02	30.48	28	29.32	8
Nantucket.....	30.00	+ .03	30.53	9	29.32	2
Hatteras.....	30.08	+ .07	30.52	9	29.49	2
Bermuda.....	30.14	+ .05	30.40	9	29.88	13, 19
Turks Island.....	30.03	+ .01	30.17	9	29.94	17, 18
Key West.....	30.04	+ .02	30.24	4	29.84	2
New Orleans.....	30.06	+ .06	30.41	3	29.63	1

NOTE.—All data based on a. m. observations only, with departures compiled from best available normals related to time of observation, except Hatteras, Key West, Nantucket, and New Orleans which are 24-hour corrected means.

Cyclones and gales.—Cyclonic activity was considerable in many parts of the North Atlantic area at scattered times, the periods from 6th to 10th and from 20th to 27th being the more noteworthy, while the last 3 days were particularly quiet. No instance of force-12 wind has been reported.

On the morning of the 6th a low-pressure system extended from western Greenland across the lower Lake

region to the west Gulf of Mexico, and in the last named area some sharp shifts of wind were experienced. This system moved eastward, and the situations on the 8th and 9th are indicated on charts IX and X. A well-marked cyclone was near Newfoundland on these days, and two vessels noted storm winds (force 11).

To westward and southwestward of the Iberian peninsula there was a notable LOW on the 14th and 15th, causing winds of greater force than are often met in those waters. This LOW, however, soon passed northeastward over Spain and France.

From the 21st to 27th there was considerable storminess along parts of the chief steamship route to northern Europe, and at times strong to whole gales were met not only along the routes but also to southward of them west of the 50th meridian, even to near the latitude of Bermuda. Two well-marked cyclones were associated with most of the gales, the preceding cyclone moving northeastward past Iceland on the 25th, about the time the following cyclone was close to eastern Newfoundland. Once on the 23d, and once on the 26th, force 11 was noted near the eastern edge of the Grand Banks.

Fog.—Over waters to westward of the 45th meridian, fog during April was as frequent as usual, for the most part, or somewhat more frequent. There was a little fog noted over the northern Gulf of Mexico at times, chiefly during the first few days of the month. Near the middle Atlantic coast there was more fog than normal for April, most of it occurring before the middle of the month; the fog here was especially dense and widespread about the 10th, when the fishing schooner *Thelma* was sunk by collision with the Danish steamship *Elft*, off the New Jersey coast, fortunately without loss of life. There was less fog than April usually brings over waters to the eastward of New England, about as far as meridian 60°; but from 60° to 45° there was an unusually large amount of fog, the 5°-square 45° to 50° N., 45° to 50° W. reporting fog on 14 days, the greatest amount indicated for any Atlantic area during the month. From the 13th to 25th scarcely any day was without fog.

About 300 miles to east-southeastward of Bermuda, where fog is decidedly uncommon, two vessels noted it on the 3d.

Between the 45th meridian and the coasts of the European continent and the British Isles fog was decidedly infrequent, most of the few reports received relating to the first 3 days of April.