

WEATHER ON THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS

[The Marine Division, WILLIS E. HURD, acting in charge]

NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN, AUGUST 1937

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—The departures of average pressure from normal were more pronounced than is usual in the case of a summer month. Over waters near Greenland and western Iceland the deficiency was large, Julianehaab, Greenland, reporting 0.20 inch. On the other hand, the vicinity of the British Isles had a marked excess; at Lerwick it was 0.22 inch.

The waters near the American coast from the Carolinas to southern Labrador had pressure moderately above normal. In general, portions of the North Atlantic near or to southward of the 40th parallel had pressure averages slightly greater than normal, save the Antilles-Caribbean region.

The pressure extremes of vessel reports at hand for the month are 30.47 and 29.06 inches. The higher reading was noted approximately 400 miles to south-southwestward of Horta, during the forenoon of the 23d, on the French steamship *Capitaine Paul Lemerle*. The lower reading was radioed by an unidentified steamer during the final evening of the month, the position being about latitude 56° north, longitude 31° west. Other readings very nearly as low were reported earlier in the day by vessels in that vicinity.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, August 1937

Stations	Average pressure	Departure	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
Julianehaab, Greenland.....	29.62	-0.20	29.94	7	29.20	18
Reykjavik, Iceland.....	29.69	- .12	30.09	29	29.06	12
Lerwick, Shetland Islands....	30.02	+ .22	30.39	26	29.53	17
Valencia, Ireland.....	30.08	+ .16	30.42	26	29.65	16
Lisbon, Portugal.....	30.02	.00	30.18	19	29.80	16
Madeira.....	30.05	+ .02	30.21	24	29.89	17
Horta, Azores.....	30.22	+ .02	30.42	15	29.82	3
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	29.96	+ .07	30.42	31	29.36	17
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	30.09	+ .08	30.40	23	29.78	18
Nantucket.....	30.07	+ .08	30.31	30	29.81	13
Hatteras.....	30.10	+ .10	30.29	30	29.90	5
Bermuda.....	30.19	+ .05	30.30	22	30.08	28
Turks Island.....	30.00	- .04	30.08	7	29.85	26
Key West.....	29.98	.00	30.12	15	29.82	28
New Orleans.....	30.00	+ .02	30.22	16	29.78	29

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.

Extra-tropical cyclones and gales.—Gales connected with low-pressure areas of extra-tropical origin were not numerous, and were noted chiefly during the final 9 days of the month. Low pressure covered many northern regions for days in succession during this period and especially low readings were noted during the last day in a section about midway between the southern tip of Greenland and southwestern Ireland. For vessels operating along the chief steamship lanes the strong winds connected with these low-pressure areas blew mainly from a southerly or southwesterly direction.

In just one instance was a wind force as great as 10 recorded in connection with any low-pressure area to northward of the 45th parallel. This was on the 25th or 26th, when the Belgian steamship *Emile Franquii*, westbound, was near midocean.

Tropical disturbances.—No phenomenally strong winds occurred in connection with the disturbances which started within or close to the Tropics. The first of these, forming in July, was discussed in the REVIEW of that month. It was centered not far to southeastward or eastward of the New England coast on August 1, and the first 5 gales shown in the accompanying table occurred in connection with that storm. A somewhat similar path was taken by the second disturbance, which advanced from the Bahamas to near Sable Island during the 2d to 8th. Four resulting gales during the period 5th-8th are included in the table.

The third disturbance moved from northeast of the Lesser Antilles, on the 30th, to the northeast coast of Florida, which it crossed on the 30th. Five reports of gale-force winds, met in no case before the 28th, are connected with this storm and may be found in the accompanying table.

A special report on the latter two disturbances appears elsewhere in this issue of the REVIEW.

Fog.—Reports at hand mostly indicate less fog during August than there had been during the July preceding, especially around the British Isles. However, near Nova Scotia and New England August is indicated as the foggiest month of the two. These waters adjacent to New England, in fact, had much more fog than the average amount in previous Augusts. The 5° square, 40° to 45° N., 65° to 70° W., led all other North Atlantic squares in frequency, with 23 days.

Near the Grand Banks and Newfoundland the leading square was that from 40° to 45° N., 45° to 50° W., where 14 days had fog. The first week of August was nearly free from fog in the Grand Banks area.

Near Delaware Bay and to southward there was practically nowhere any fog. To southward of the 35th parallel of latitude no part of the North Atlantic has reported fog or an atmospheric condition resembling fog, save that on the 12th there was very limited visibility in a section to southward of the Canary Islands, close to the west coast of Africa. Such a condition in that section seems usually due to very fine sand blown from the African mainland.

At a late hour of the 11th, in dense fog, the British steamship *Duchess of Atholl* and the Danish steamship *Maine* collided about 180 miles to southeastward of Boston. The latter presently sank, after her crew abandoned her, while the former made port, somewhat damaged. On the 12th the steam drifter *Oswy* was sunk in the North Sea, off Tynemouth, by collision during prevalence of fog, and 3 of her crew of 9 were reported missing.