WEATHER ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

By H. C. HUNTER

Atmospheric pressure.—March 1941, was the third successive month with pressure usually averaging lower than normal over such North Atlantic waters as are covered by reports received here. The deficiency was marked over the ocean areas near Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New England; the readings received from Halifax are computed to show an average pressure 6.9 millibars (0.20 inch) less than that station's normal for March.

Near the Azores the pressure deficiency was considerably smaller. On the coast of Portugal the average pressure was very close to normal, while some northern Gulf of Mexico and northern West Indies stations computed slightly above normal.

The pressure extremes in available vessel reports were 1,031.5 and 984.1 millibars (30.46 and 29.06 inches). The high mark was noted near 35° N., 46° W., at a late hour of the 9th, by the American liner *Siboney;* while the low was recorded about 200 miles to eastward of Hatteras, soon after noon of the 28th, on the American liner *Borinquen.*

TABLE 1.—*Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure (sea level) at selected stations for the North Atlantic Ocean and its shores, March 1941*

Station	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Millibars	*Millibars*	*Millibars*		*Millibars*	
Lisbon, Portugal	1,016.0	+0.1	1,027	1	999	12
Horta, Azores	1,020.4	−1.6	1,029	7	1,002	9
Belle Isle, Newfoundland	1,005.1	−5.1	1,028	9	976	31
Halifax, Nova Scotia	1,007.7	−6.9	1,027	8	992	19
Nantucket	1,010.5	−4.7	1,030	7	992	9
Hatteras	1,015.9	−1.4	1,028	6	996	8
Turks Island	1,016.7	+0.1	1,022	3	1,010	28
Key West	1,016.6	−1.0	1,026	2	1,008	26
New Orleans	1,017.6	+0.3	1,030	18	1,005	6

NOTE.—All data based on available observations, 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.—Those portions of the North Atlantic from which plenty of reports have come seem to have been somewhat less affected by vigorous storms than during an average March. No advices indicating hurricane winds (force 12) have come to hand, but several vessels met force 11, only one of these encounters, however, being after the 18th. The least disturbed periods were apparently the 10th to 12th and the 21st to 23d.

At the beginning of March a LOW of considerable energy was centered to southeastward of Nantucket, whence it moved toward the east-northeast, causing high winds over a large ocean area, though there was apparently some decrease of strength within the next day or two.

Soon afterward a vigorous storm of rapid motion came eastward from the Lake region, where it was located on the morning of the 3d, to the New England coast, then turned more toward the northeast till beyond the field of observation. The American steamship *West Kyska* and the cutter *Cayuga* reported force 11 winds as connected with this storm.

A LOW of moderate strength a few days afterward traveled nearly along the coast line to northeastward from a position over South Carolina early on the 8th to a location not far from Nantucket on the morning of the 9th, whence it continued northeastward. This LOW appears to have been the cause of the winds and waves which led to the foundering off Hatteras, probably during the night of the 7–8th, of the American schooner *George E. Klinck,* lumber laden. The crew was rescued.

On the 13th a strong LOW was central over the Carolinas, whence it took an unusual course toward the east-southeast for about 500 miles, then slowly turned more toward the northeast with increase in energy. Beyond the forty-fifth meridian this LOW was lost to observation, after three vessels, the American liner *Excambion* and the Coast Guard cutters *Bibb* and *Spencer,* had experienced winds estimated of force 11.

The steamship *Mahukona,* recently transferred to the Brazilian flag as the *Santa Clara,* while bound from Newport News to Rio de Janeiro, when between Bermuda and the northern Bahamas, in about 30°48′ N., 68°42′ W., radioed a distress call, probably early on the 15th. The vessels which responded found a little wreckage but no sign of any survivor. This ship may have been lost as a result of the strong weather in the LOW just mentioned, and another result of the LOW was a duststorm reported in a later paragraph, at a position far to the south-southeastward of the scene of the *Santa Clara* disaster.

The final important storm of the month was centered near the Carolina coast during the latter part of the 27th, and advanced till near Newfoundland on the morning of the 31st. This storm was notable for considerable wind force, and brought the lowest vessel-barometer reading of the month, as already mentioned.

Duststorm near the West Indies.—From the United States Army transport *John R. R. Hannay,* C. W. Lorin, master; second officer S. Elliot, observer; the following account of a duststorm met at sea has been received:

> On March 15, 10 a. m., G. C. T. (about 5.30 a. m. ship's time), in latitude 21°42′ N., longitude 66°45′ W., experienced a duststorm which left a black, gritty, residue on the vessel. The dust appeared in patches much the same as rain squalls, this condition lasting for about 1 hour. Wind northwest, force 5.

Fog.—The reports at hand imply that there was about as much fog during March over the portions of the North Atlantic which are well covered by reports as there had been during the preceding February. A little was noted over the northern Gulf of Mexico, and some was encountered near the eastern coast of the United States from North Carolina to Maine. March usually brings more fog to these regions than was reported during this month.

Near midocean some fog was observed on the 29th and 30th within the square 35° to 40° N., 45° to 50° W. Over the main North Atlantic the fortnight from 10th to 23d yielded no report whatever of fog, but within the north-central portion of the Gulf of Mexico some was observed during the 16th and 17th.

The leading 5° square for fogginess was that from 35° to 40° N., 70° to 75° W., with a count of 4 days. The normal March occurrence there is 8 days.