

WEATHER ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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Atmospheric pressure.—The pressure, as far as available information shows, tended to fall below normal. Near the Azores it averaged considerably less than normal, and it was somewhat deficient over waters adjacent to Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces. On the other hand, pressure averaged slightly above normal near the coasts of the Middle and South Atlantic States.

The extremes of pressure noted in vessel reports at hand were 1032.0 and 985.8 millibars (30.47 and 29.11 inches). The high mark was noted during the forenoon of the 14th about 200 miles to eastward of the Chesapeake Capes, while the low mark was recorded over the western Gulf of Mexico, about 27° N., 94° W., where the second of the Gulf disturbances was prevailing early in the evening of the 22d. Somewhat later, when this storm center crossed the Texas coastline, lower pressure was noted at certain land stations.

Over the main North Atlantic the lowest mark was 995.3 millibars (29.39 inches), during early forenoon of the 20th, at about 30° N., 70° W., under the influence of the storm of tropical origin which affected waters east of the Southeastern States.

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

Station	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Millibars	Millibars	Millibars		Millibars	
Lisbon, Portugal ¹			1,021	13	1,013	7
Horta, Azores.....	1,018.3	-3.4	1,026	27	1,009	13
Belle Isle, Newfoundland.....	1,009.6	-2.6	1,025	10	990	18
Halifax, Nova Scotia.....	1,016.3	-1.3	1,030	20	998	2
Nantucket.....	1,018.6	0.0	1,031	14	1,004	6
Hatteras.....	1,019.0	+1.0	1,028	14	1,006	23
Key West.....	1,014.6	+0.7	1,020	4	1,008	20
New Orleans.....	1,015.2	0.0	1,024	28	1,005	24

¹For 16 days.

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

Extratropical cyclones and gales.—North Atlantic waters seem to have been scarcely more affected by lows other than those of tropical origin than they had been during August just preceding. There were a few fresh gales encountered either during the first week or about the end of the month, and one strong gale (force 9) was met on the morning of the 7th, near 37° N., 62° W., in the south-

eastern portion of an extensive LOW system which was advancing eastward from the continent over the ocean.

Tropical disturbances.—Four storms originating within the Tropics are discussed elsewhere in this REVIEW. Two of these affected mainly the Gulf of Mexico and lands adjacent, especially Texas, where they moved inland. The earlier of these, noticed from the 11th, when it was centered over the north-central Gulf, to the 15th, was relatively unimportant, the barometer readings apparently never being more than moderately low and the wind force probably nowhere greater than a fresh gale.

The second Gulf LOW was far more important, moving irregularly from the 18th, near Yucatan, to the 23d, near Matagorda Bay, Tex., and thereafter advancing swiftly north-northeastward over the land. It developed marked strength over the western Gulf of Mexico, where two vessels met winds of hurricane force.

During the life period of the second Gulf storm a vigorous tropical disturbance followed an unusual course, mainly to northward, then to eastward, off the coast of the South Atlantic States and the southernmost Middle Atlantic States. No hurricane winds (force 12) have been reported in connection with this storm, but the accompanying table shows that force 11 was noted by 4 vessels, 3 of these meeting the high winds well to eastward of the mainland coast in latitudes not far from 30°, while the other encountered the storm somewhat later, in the vicinity of Cape Hatteras.

The final tropical storm of September was followed from the 23d, near Barbados, till about the end of September, when it dissipated over Mexico. The waters affected by this disturbance were mostly southern and western portions of the Caribbean Sea. Vessel reports at hand indicate notable intensity for this storm over the Gulf of Honduras, on the 28th, one ship estimating the wind force it met as 12, and another estimating 11.

Fog.—But little fog has been reported, less than came to notice for August just preceding. The information at hand indicates occurrence only over waters near the coasts of the Middle Atlantic and New England States and Nova Scotia, also they fail to show any fog whatever during the period 12th to 21st inclusive.

The 5°-square, 40° to 45° N., 65° to 70° W., leads all other squares, having fog on 4 days. Normally there are more than 10 days with fog in this square during September; past records indicate that no other Atlantic waters close to the North American coast have so much early autumn fog as this area.

On September 22 two steamships collided in New York harbor, during fog, with considerable damage resulting. During the night of the 25th-26th a vessel grounded near the south end of Block Island, probably because of fog.