

February weather averages out

In contrast to last February which was one of the coldest in history with temperatures 3°C to 4°C below normal and absolute droughts throughout the country, this month was quite average. February 1987 consisted of two spells of relatively mild, changeable weather; one from the 1st to the 12th and the second from the 25th to the end of the month. Separating these two was a spell of cold, settled weather which brought widespread, sometimes severe ground frost and some snow flurrines, but none of any note. The resulting values deviated little from their respective averages.

WEATHER PATTERNS OF FEBRUARY

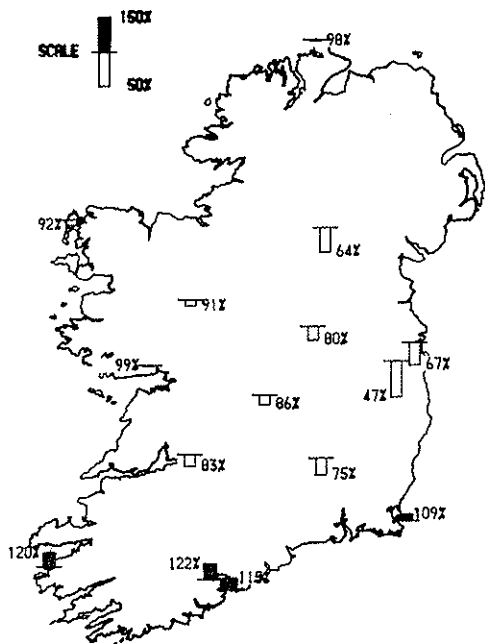
From 1st to 8th winds were predominantly from the sector between south and west and rain belts crossed the country from time to time. Conditions were mostly cloudy, with daytime temperatures above normal; air frosts on 1st and 7th were neither widespread nor sharp. Showery conditions prevailed between 9th and 11th as the track of the Atlantic depressions, hitherto passing to the north of Ireland, shifted gradually southwards.

On the 12th we were in a slack ridge of high pressure, while on 13th an easterly airflow developed as a depression passed by near the south coast. Pressure rose over the north of the country and while the Atlantic systems occasionally approached the southwest, we had anticyclonic conditions until the 24th. On 25th, rain, preceded by sleet, spread slowly up from the southwest and from 26th to 28th it was mild but unsettled with winds again from between south and west in direction.

AIR TEMPERATURES, FROST AND FOG

Mean air temperatures which were above normal from 1st to 8th, fell gradually on 9th and 10th and were below normal from 11th to 25th. On 25th the milder Atlantic air moved into the southwest and the maximum temperature was 13°C at Cahircivean (Valentia Observatory) but only 4°C at Malin Head. From 26th to 28th mean air temperatures were above normal. The monthly values ranged from 6.7°C at Cahircivean, Co Kerry to 4.0°C at Mullingar. At Casement Aerodrome (Baldonnall) mean air temperatures were below 0°C on each day

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Rainfall percentage of (1951-1980) normals

February 1987

Distribution of Daily Values

Max
 Mean
 Min

Max
 Mean
 Min

Rainfall

Sunshine

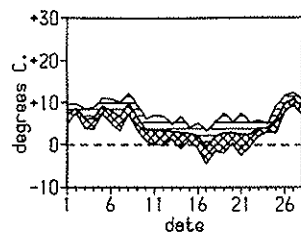
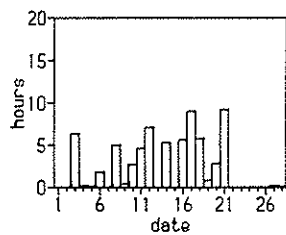
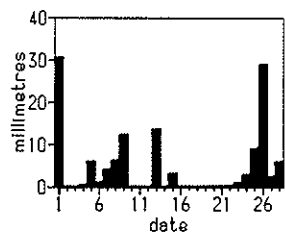
Temperature

Rainfall

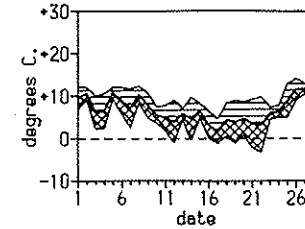
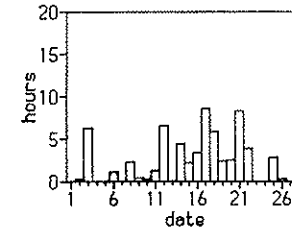
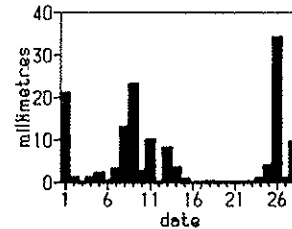
Sunshine

Temperature

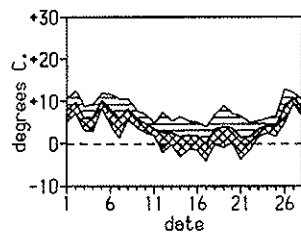
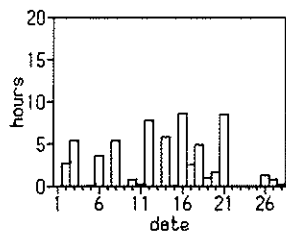
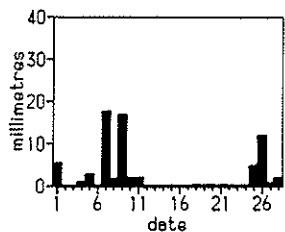
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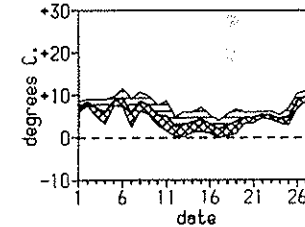
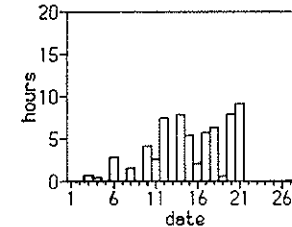
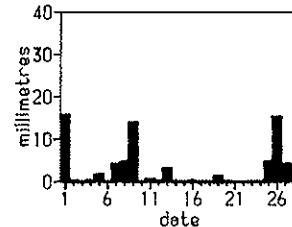
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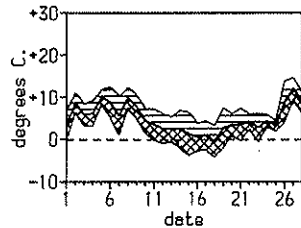
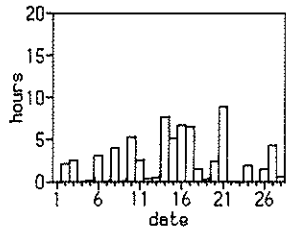
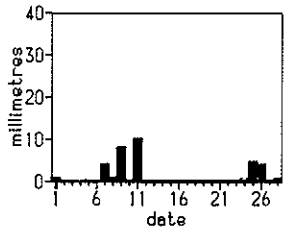
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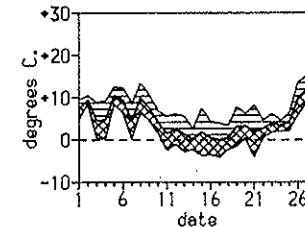
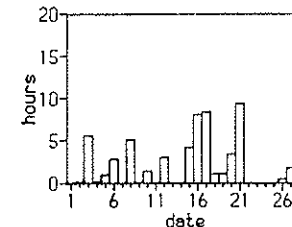
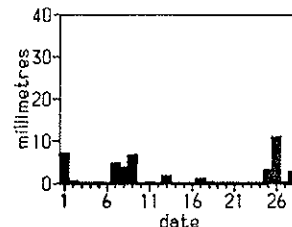
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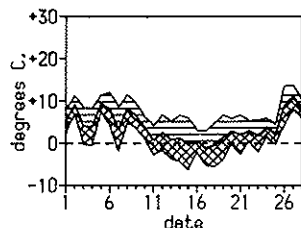
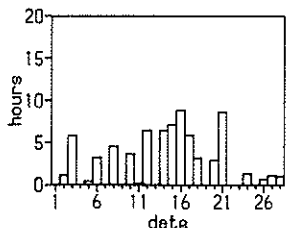
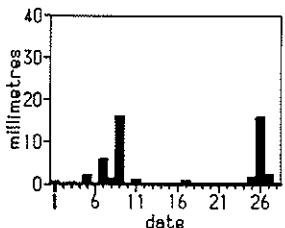
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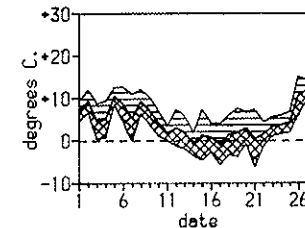
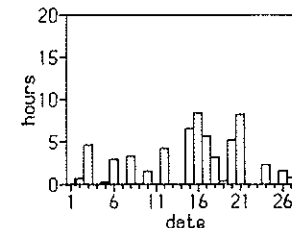
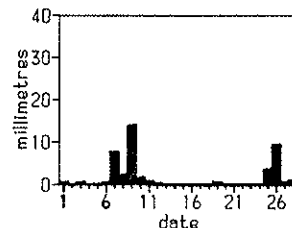
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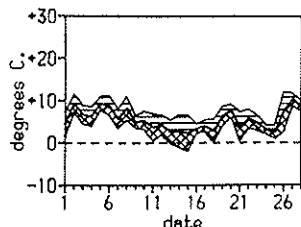
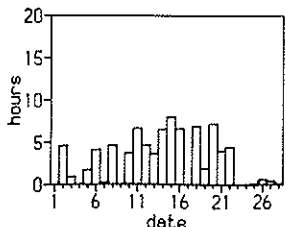
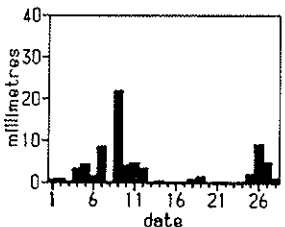
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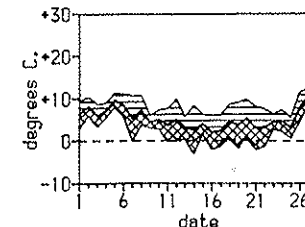
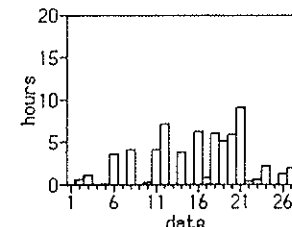
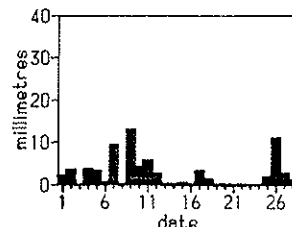
BIRR



MALIN HEAD

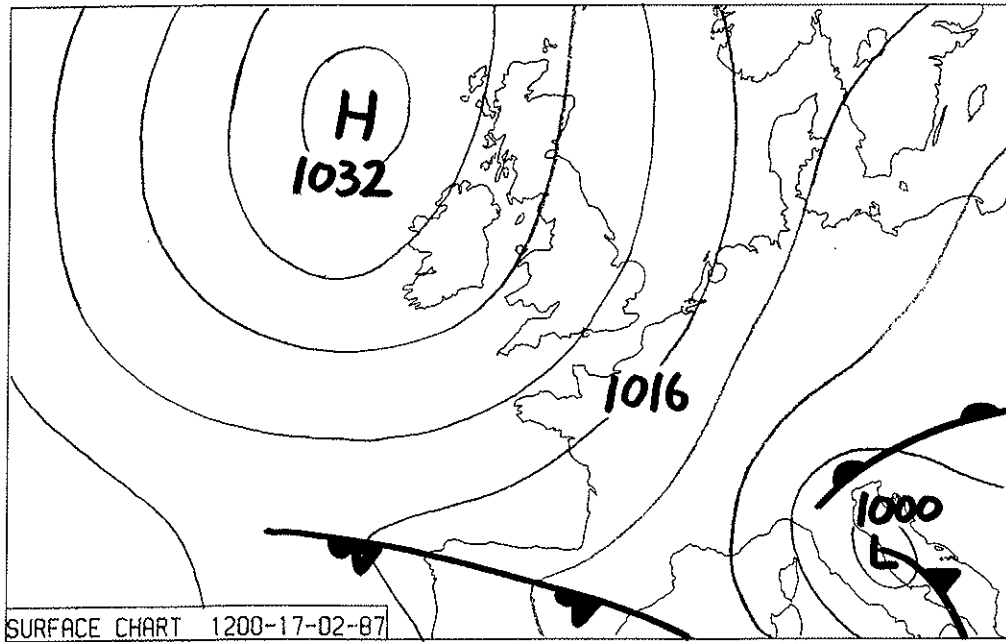
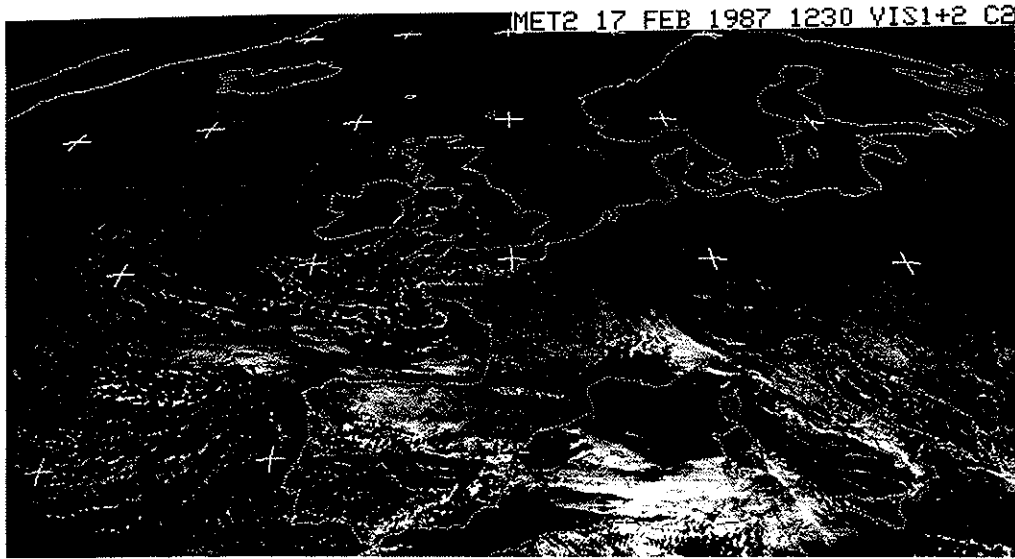


BELMULLET



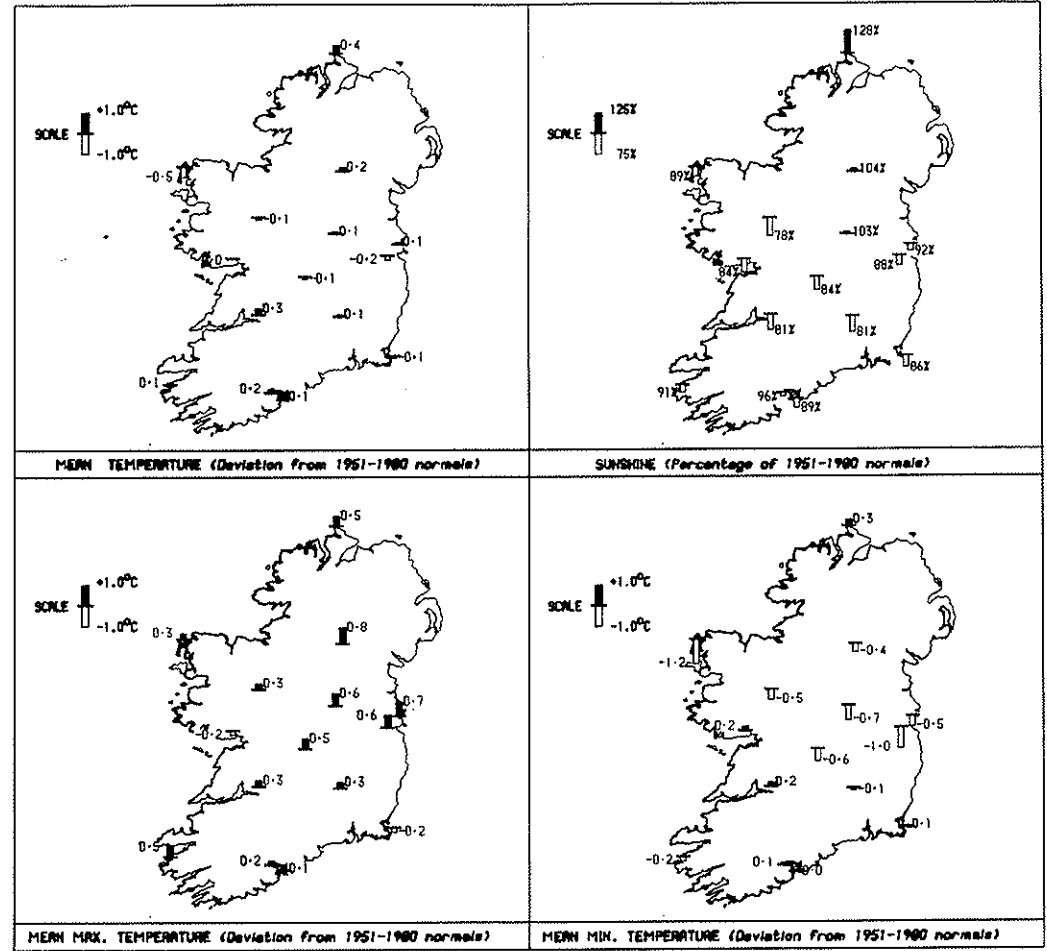
Polling Day, Tuesday 17th : Dry and Cold

February 1987 Totals, Means and Extremes



SURFACE CHART 1200-17-02-87

The satellite picture above was taken by the European METEOSAT at 1230 GMT on Tuesday, 17th February. The synoptic chart shows the country dominated by an anticyclone to the northwest, resulting in dry, cold and sunny weather with light northerly winds. Many stations recorded their lowest temperatures of the month on this day.



Station	Rainfall		Air Temperature					Sunshine		Wind		Number of days with									
	Total	Most in a Day Amount	Means of		Extreme Temperature			Total	Most in a Day Amount	Max Gale Gust	Min Gale Gust	Rain*	Snow	Frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale			
			Max	Min	Highest	Lowest	Days												Days		
Belmullet	70.1	13.1	9	8.6	2.0	5.3	12.5	27	-3.2	14	64.4	9.1	21	53	17	2	0	3	-	-	6
Birr	44.9	14.1	9	8.2	1.0	4.6	15.0	26	-6.2	21	60.1	8.4	16	43	14	3	12	1	-	5	4
Cahircoheen	141.8	34.3	26	9.8	3.6	6.7	14.1	26	-3.3	22	63.8	8.6	17	54	20	-	6	1	-	-	12
Cesement	23.9	7.5	11	8.0	0.5	4.3	14.7	27	-7.3	15	64.3	9.1	21	53	10	4	13	2	-	4	7
Claremorris	70.3	18.9	26	7.8	0.8	4.3	12.6	27	-4.9	17	52.7	7.8	21	43	13	4	13	-	-	1	5
Clones	42.5	16.3	26	7.8	0.8	4.3	14.0	27	-6.1	17	64.4	7.8	14	40	12	1	12	-	-	8	4
Cork Airport	129.3	30.7	1	7.8	2.5	5.2	12.3	27	-4.5	17	67.0	9.2	21	47	15	1	8	1	-	12	6
Dublin Airport	34.4	10.2	11	8.1	1.8	5.0	14.6	27	-4.2	18	68.4	8.9	21	57	12	5	11	1	-	0	3
Galway	69.4	17.7	7	8.1	2.0	5.1	12.9	26	-4.0	17	61.5	8.6	16	57	13	-	10	1	-	2	4
Kilkenny	44.8	11.1	26	8.1	1.5	4.8	15.1	27	-4.1	17,21	58.0	9.4	21	37	14	5	10	-	-	8	2
Malin Head	73.6	22.1	9	7.9	3.2	5.6	12.1	26	-2.0	15	81.3	8.0	15	68	18	3	3	6	-	-	12
Mullingar	48.2	16.1	9	7.6	0.3	4.0	13.7	27	-6.3	15	72.2	8.8	16	44	12	5	16	1	1	6	3
Roche's Point	91.7	22.6	26	8.4	3.9	6.2	12.7	8	-1.5	17	66.3	9.2	21	53	16	1	2	-	-	9	8
Rosslere	75.0	15.8	1	7.8	3.8	5.8	12.5	28	0.1	17	65.7	9.1	21	43	15	2	-	-	-	5	5
Shannon Airport	52.6	11.4	9	8.8	2.5	5.7	14.8	26	-5.0	17	59.4	8.6	21	37	15	-	8	-	-	2	2

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius, Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots. Gale Gust = Gust of > 33 knots. * = days with 0.2mm or more

(Continued from front page)

WINTER - SPRING

between 14th and 18th and the lowest air temperature for the month (-7.3°C) was recorded there on 15th. By contrast Rossiere managed to escape air frost completely. Its lowest temperature was 0.1°C recorded on the 17th, by far the highest of all the extreme minimum values for the month.

Air frost was widespread in the period 12th to 23rd and was accompanied by radiation fog in many areas on 12th, 14th, 15th and 18th. The low-level temperature inversions during this spell of cold weather trapped smoke from fires and caused persistent smog in city areas. Mean minimum temperatures for the month ranged from 3.9°C at Roche's Point to 0.3°C at Mullinger. Mean maximum air temperatures varied between 9.8°C at Cahirciveen and 7.6°C at Mullinger. The highest temperature recorded was 15.1°C at Kilkenny on the 27th, the mildest February day since records started there in 1958.

RAINFALL

The unsettled, broken weather between 1st and 11th and again between 25th and 28th were offset by the dry spell in the middle of the month when precipitation was confined to brief showers (some of snow or hail), these mostly in coastal districts. For the month, percentages of normal rainfall ranged from 122% at Cork Airport to 47% at Casement Aerodrome. Rainfall was above normal along the south coast but below normal elsewhere. Wettest days were on 1st, 9th, 11th and 26th. Highest daily fall was 34.3 mm recorded at Cahirciveen on the 26th.

There were hail showers in quite a number of areas between 9th and 11th and thunder was recorded at Roche's Point on 9th.

SUNNIEST STATION WAS MALIN HEAD

Sunniest days were 12th, the period 14th to 18th and 21st when over 9 hours sunshine was recorded at a number of stations. The period 22nd-25th was dull. Totals for the month ranged from 81.3 hours at Malin Head to 52.7 hours at Clermorris. It was above normal at Mullinger, Clones and Malin Head (128%) and below normal over the rest of the country. At Malin Head it was the sunniest February since 1975. The highest daily sunshine recorded was 9.4 hours at Kilkenny on the 21st.

WINDS

Strong winds with gusts in the range 35-55 knots affected all areas on 1st. In the period 4th to 6th, 9th and on 26th. The highest gust of the month was 68 knots recorded at Malin Head on 6th.

Although December was generally mild, wet and windy the month brought to a close one of our coldest years this century. January was cold and dull with a spell of snowfall and widespread snowcover (11th to 17th). Apart from this spell of snow the winter was generally unremarkable.

Air and ground temperatures are higher than this time last year, with ground temperatures about 1 to 2 degrees higher. With this more optimistic start to Spring may we hope for a break in the recent cycle of cold wet Spring weather?

