

Generally Dry and Warm

Although it was not a spectacularly good month, this July proved the best summer month since 1984. It was notable for two very fine spells: during the first eight days of the month and from the 20th to the 24th. Pressure was high enough to hold off any significant amounts of rain from 1st to 8th as westerly or southwesterly winds prevailed. During 9th conditions became close and humid and during Friday the 10th rain affected all areas. Westerly winds backed southerly between 11th and 13th and as a high pressure centre developed to the east of Ireland, amounts of rain were small. An active front brought rain to the west during the later part of the 14th and the period 15th to 17th was very disturbed as low pressure centres moved eastwards across Ireland; these contributed to the formation of the deep depression which caused the atrocious conditions at the British Open.

Conditions picked up after this as winds over the country swung from northwesterly to northeasterly and amounts of rain were small. Towards the end of the month, as people in Greece and Turkey died from the severe heat of up to 46°C, we were in a more modest, humid, west to northwest airflow from the Atlantic giving us maximum temperatures of around 22°C.

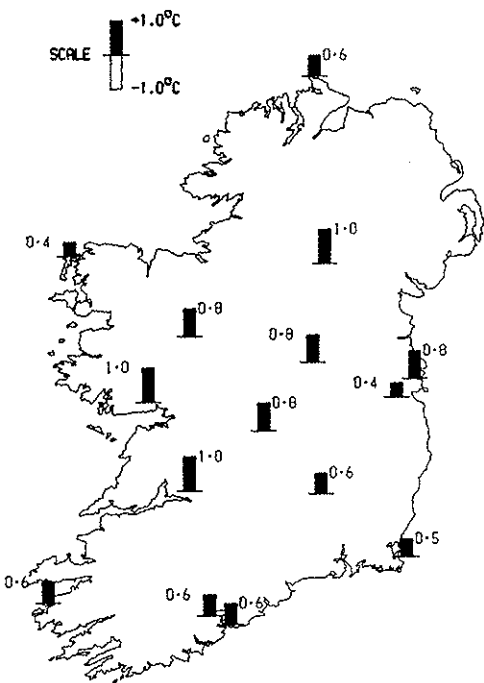
TEMPERATURES ABOVE NORMAL

Both maximum and minimum air temperatures were above normal. Maximum air temperatures for the month ranged from 20.1°C at Kilkenny and Shannon Airport to 16.7°C at Malin Head and Belmullet. Values in excess of 21°C were recorded in the periods 3rd to 6th, 9th/10th, 13th/14th, 20th to 23rd, 26th to 28th and on 31st. Highest air temperature for the month was 25.6°C recorded at Casement Aerodrome (Baldonnel) on Friday the 10th. Mean minimum air temperatures for July varied between 11.0°C at Casement Aerodrome and 12.8°C at Shannon Airport. Lowest air temperatures were recorded on the first two days of the month and between 7th and 9th when both Clere Morris (4.6°C) and Cahirciveen (7.0°C), recorded their lowest July temperature in seven years.

DRY SPELLS BUT SOME HEAVY RAIN

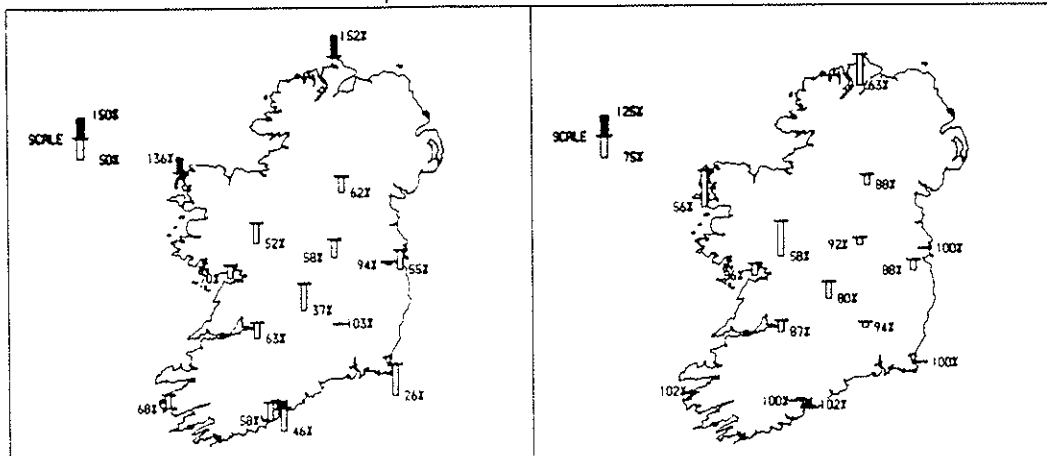
Monthly totals ranged from 121.8mm at Malin Head (152% of normal) to 15.5mm at Rosslare (26% of normal). The general pattern was of high rainfall on coasts in west Ulster and north Connaught but a sharp decrease in rainfall with distance inland, as the totals for Belmullet and Clere Morris illustrate. The general pattern was complicated by

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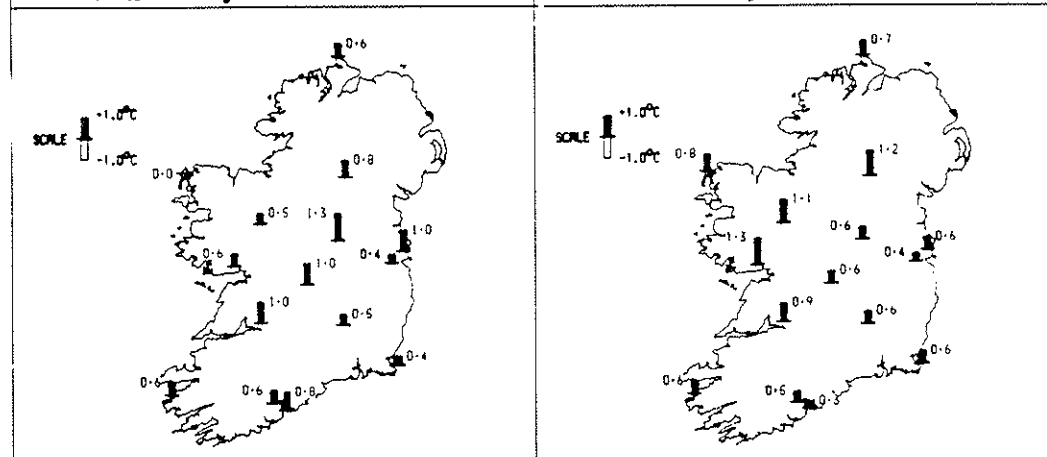
Temperature deviation from (1951-1980) normals

July 1987 Totals, Means and Extremes



RAINFALL (Percentage of 1951-1980 normals)

SUNSHINE (Percentage of 1951-1980 normals)



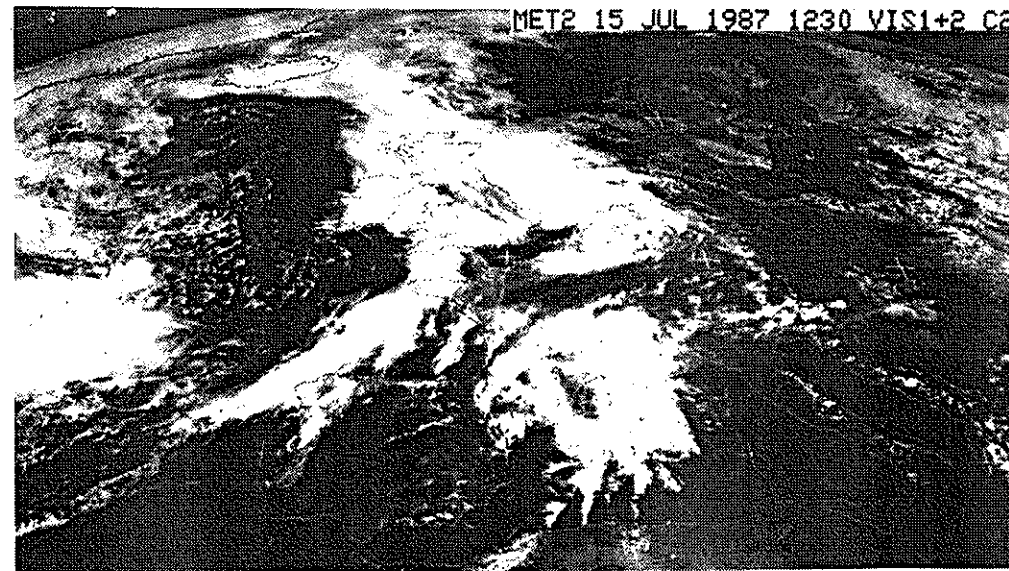
MEAN MAX. TEMPERATURE (Deviation from 1951-1980 normals)

MEAN MIN. TEMPERATURE (Deviation from 1951-1980 normals)

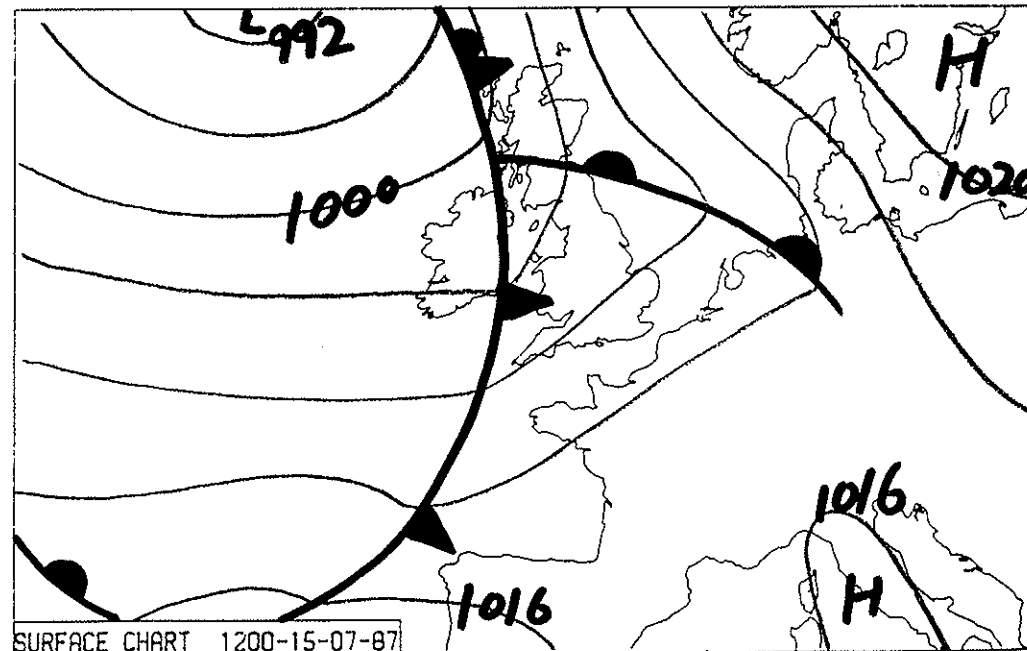
Station	Rainfall		Air Temperature					Sunshine		Wind		Number of days with									
	Total	Most in a Day (Amount/Date)	Means of		Extreme Temperature			Total	Most in a Day (Amount/Date)	Max Gale Gust	Rein*	Snow	Frost	Hail	Thunder	Fog	Gale Gusts				
			Max	Min	Mean	Highest (Date)	Lowest (Date)														
Belmullet	97.7	44.9	10	16.7	12.2	14.5	19.5	13	9.8	7	77.5	11.8	15	41	18	-	-	-	-	6	1
Birr	25.2	7.7	15	19.8	11.4	15.6	24.6	5.10	6.5	2	108.6	15.2	5	-	12	-	-	-	1	2	-
Cahiriveean	58.5	29.0	14	18.3	12.5	15.4	22.2	22	7.0	8	146.6	14.1	22	38	16	-	-	-	1	4	1
Casement	50.5	16.7	16	19.6	11.0	15.3	25.6	10	6.2	2	133.6	15.2	5	35	10	-	-	-	1	2	1
Claremorris	39.2	9.2	15	18.6	11.4	15.0	21.3	13	4.6	7	70.2	14.1	22	-	13	-	-	-	1	1	-
Clones	44.5	16.7	10	19.0	11.6	15.3	24.3	5	7.2	2	109.0	13.2	5	37	14	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cork Airport	42.0	14.4	16	19.0	11.7	15.4	22.0	31	8.0	1	168.1	15.2	4	39	9	-	-	-	-	7	2
Dublin Airport	32.4	16.1	15	19.6	12.0	15.8	24.7	5.10	7.7	2	163.1	15.0	5	38	11	-	-	-	-	1	2
Galway	52.1	14.0	10	18.9	12.6	15.8	22.3	10	7.0	7	125.3	14.2	22	-	9	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kilkenny	60.5	31.8	16	20.1	11.2	15.7	24.8	5	5.1	2	136.4	14.1	4	39	10	-	-	1	1	3	1
Malin Head	121.8	25.2	10	16.7	12.1	14.4	22.2	13	6.9	9	85.5	9.3	21	49	23	-	-	-	-	3	6
Mullingar	41.6	20.1	10	19.2	11.1	15.2	24.7	5	5.9	2	127.3	14.8	5	-	13	-	-	-	1	1	-
Roche's Point	27.3	13.8	15	18.9	12.4	15.7	22.5	28	8.5	1	177.2	14.8	4	42	8	-	-	-	-	3	2
Rosslare	15.5	8.2	15	18.3	12.7	15.5	22.9	31	9.0	1	194.6	13.5	4	38	8	-	-	-	-	6	1
Shannon Airport	41.7	12.6	16	20.1	12.8	16.5	25.5	10	9.7	2.17	125.3	14.4	5	-	16	-	-	-	1	1	-

NOTES: Rainfall in millimetres, Temperatures in Degrees Celsius, Sunshine in Hours and Wind in Knots, Gale Gust = Gust of > 33.5 knots. * = days with 0.2mm or more

St. Swithin's day superstition proved wrong



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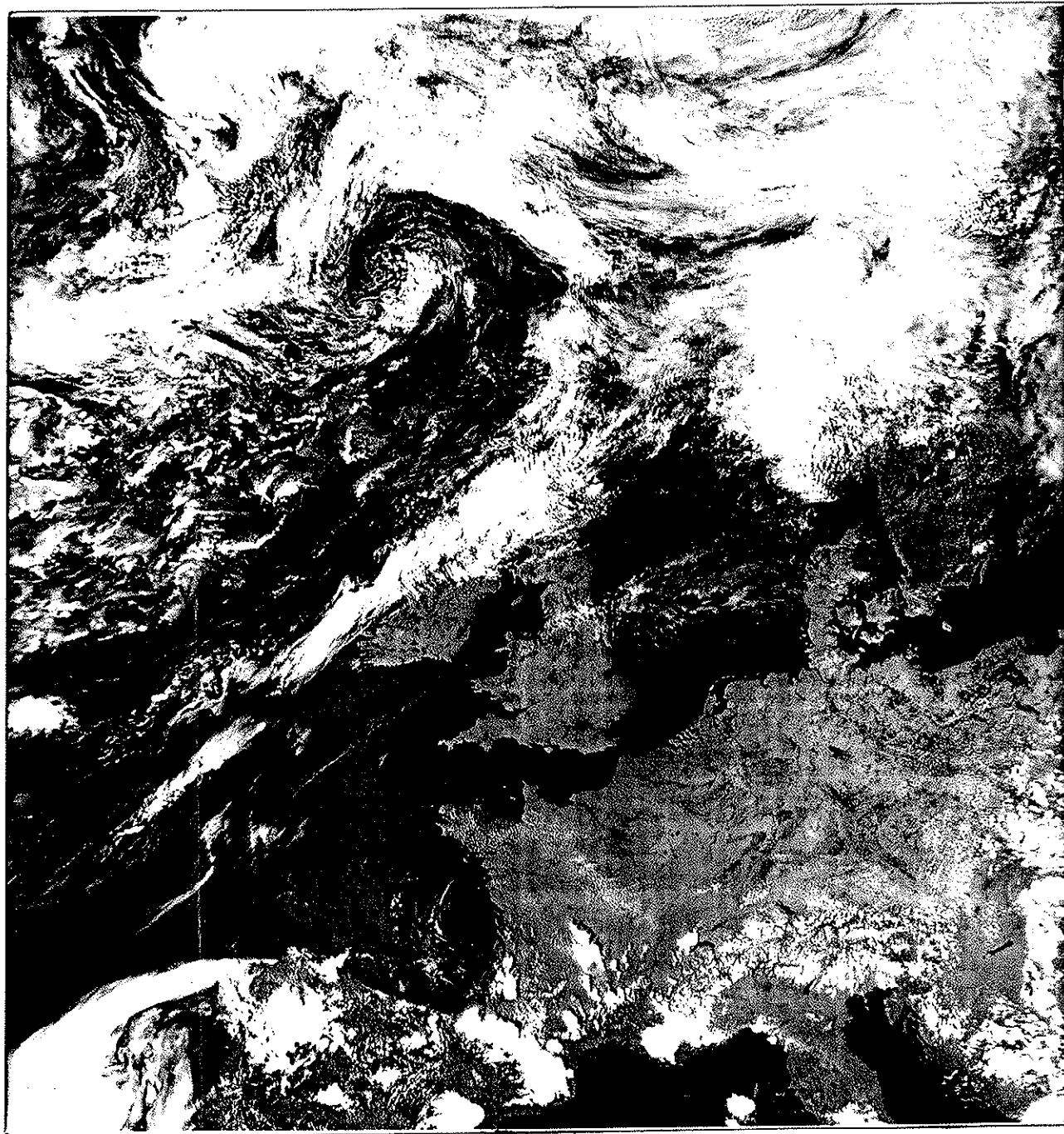
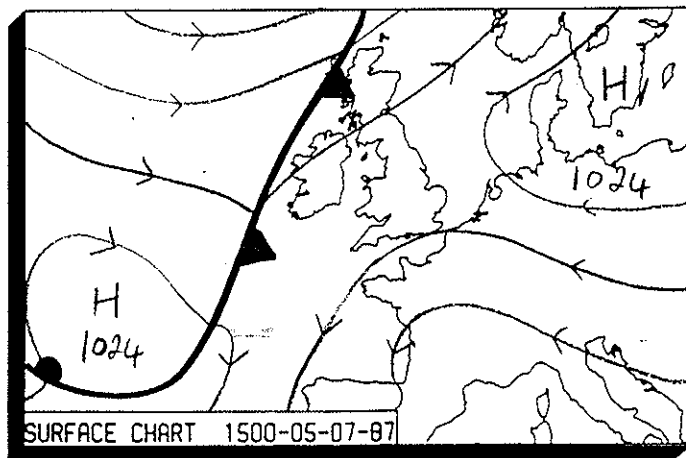
SURFACE CHART 1200-15-07-87

St. Swithin's day, the 15th of July is remembered in a rhyme dating back to the 10th century " St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain, for forty days it will remain ". This did not hold true this year for although the frontal system about to clear the country was followed by a series of low pressure areas on subsequent days, the weather soon picked up again. St. Swithin lived in the ninth century and was made bishop of Winchester in 852. He was canonised in the tenth century and tradition has it that when he was due to be transferred from the churchyard where he had been buried to the cathedral, heavy rain delayed for forty days the exhumation, which was to have taken place on July 15th 971.

Sunshine on Sunday the 5th

The satellite picture shows a band of cloud over the northwest of Ireland extending into Scotland. Most of the country basked in 12 to 15 hours sunshine and temperatures of up to 25°C on one of the nicest days of the year, but in the northwest it was generally dull, with the sun only appearing from time to time through breaks in the cloud. The strong high pressure area which kept mainland Europe virtually cloud-free, had blocked the progress of this band of cloud for some days, with the result that the north and west were the only parts of the country that missed the continuous sunshine and actually had some rain that weekend.

Also of note in the picture is the swirling vortex of the depression to the north of the country and the confusion of cloud around it. Over Europe a band of orographic cloud hangs over the Pyrenees and in southern France and Spain plenty of cumulonimbus cloud can be seen indicating showery, thundery activity. Notice also, just north of Italy the snow on the Alps. The picture was taken at 1445 GMT by the American satellite NOAA 9 and is reproduced by courtesy of the University of Dundee.



Weather situation on July 5th 1987 at 1445 GMT

JULY 1987

JULY 1987

Distribution of Daily Values



 Max

 Mean

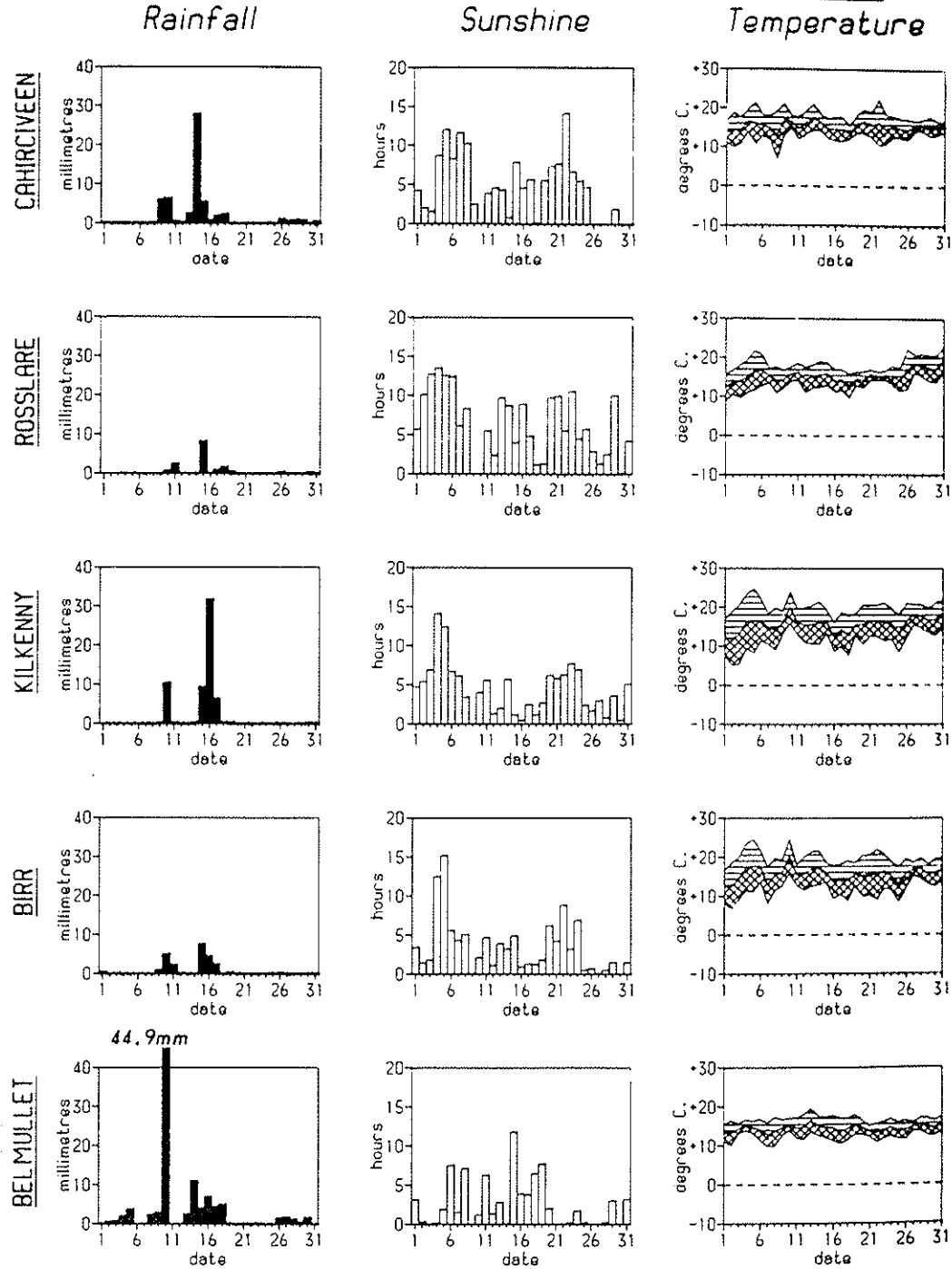
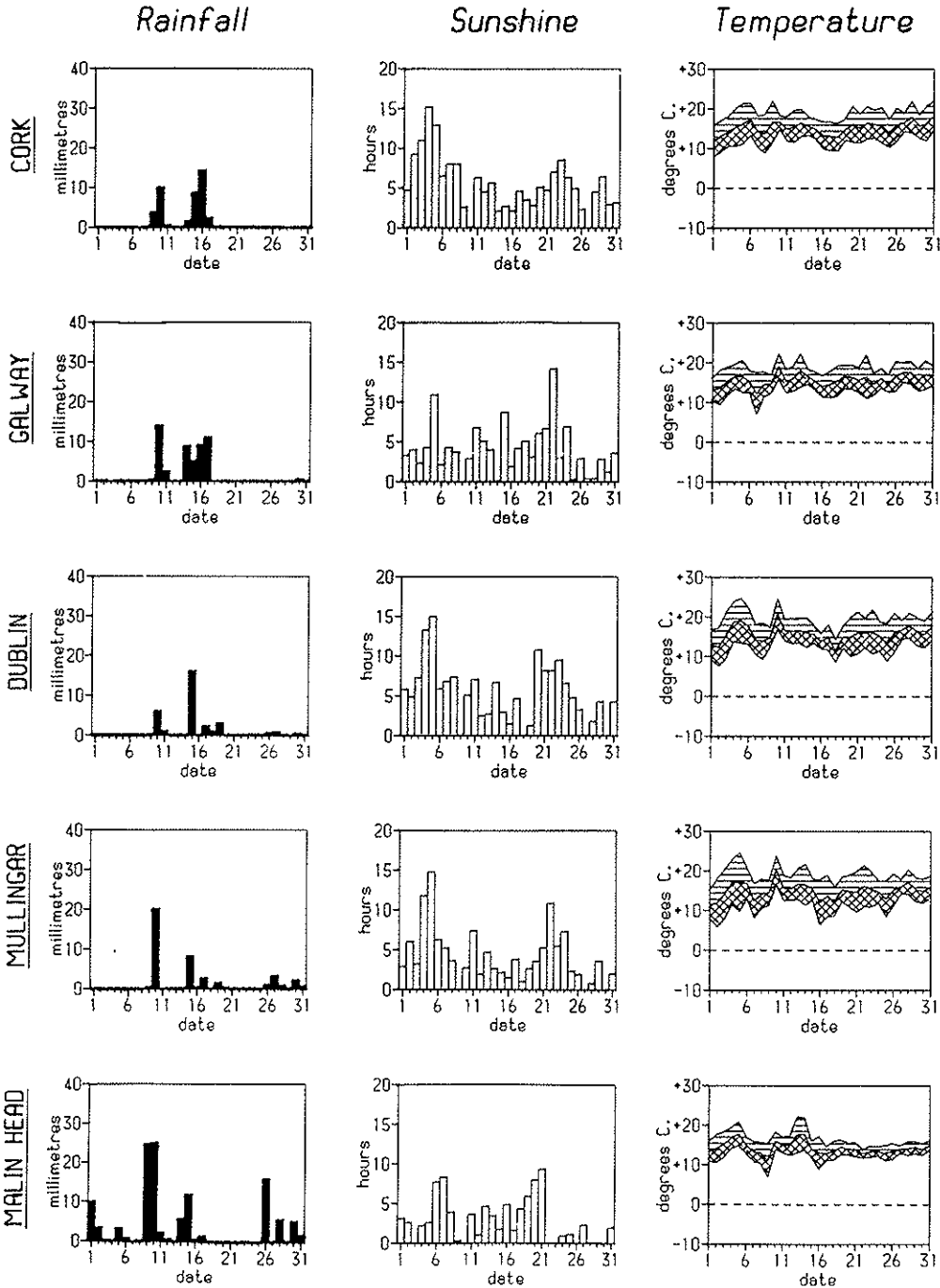
 Min



 Max

 Mean

 Min



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locally heavy falls chiefly on 10th, 16th and 17th when thunder was reported at some stations. The 44.9 millimetre fall at Balmullet on Friday the 10th was the highest daily total ever recorded there in July and constituted almost 50% of the monthly total. On Thursday the 16th, thundary showers developed as a complex area of low pressure moved slowly eastwards over the country. Kilkenny recorded nearly 32 millimetres and while Casement Aerodrome had a fall of 16.7 millimetres, Dublin Airport nearby, only had a trace of rainfall.

Near northern coasts, in the humid westerly airflow which prevailed from Sunday the 26th (the day Stephen Roche rode to victory in the Tour de France) to the end of the month, Malin Head recorded some 30 millimetres of rain, Mullingar had 8 millimetres while Kilkenny had less than 0.5 millimetres. The number of days with rainfalls of at least one millimetre ranged from 23 at Malin Head to 8 at Rosslare and Roche's Point. Driest spells were 1st to 8th, 12th/13th and 20th to 25th.

SUNSHINE

Totals varied from 70.2 hours at Claremorris to 194.6 hours at Rosslare. In west Ulster and north Connaught, many areas had less than 65% of normal sunshine while near the east, south and southeast coasts totals were normal or just above. Sunniest days were Wednesday the 22nd and both Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th, the best weekend of the month weatherwise for the whole country, except the northwest (see centre page). Totals of over 14 hours were recorded at a number of stations around the country on all three days.

The highest daily sunshine for the month was 15.2 hours recorded at Cork Airport on the 4th and again the day after at Birr and Casement Aerodrome on the 5th. For both Birr and Cork Airport it was the highest daily total for July since the early seventies. Notably dull days were the 9th, 27th and 30th but all in all it was a reasonably good month for sunshine especially compared with last year when we had our dulllest July on record.

WINDS

Windiest days were the 19th, 26th, 27th and the 31st. Highest gust of the month was the 49 knots recorded at Malin Head on the 31st.

FOG

Although fog was reported on over half the days of the month it was very scattered and usually light. It was most widespread on the 5th, 10th and 23rd.

HAIL AND THUNDER

Hail was reported at Kilkenny on Thursday the 16th and thunder was reported on 10th and on 16th/17th.

4th of July 1862

The story of Alice in Wonderland was first told on a boating expedition from Oxford to Godstow, on the River Isis on this date. Present were Lewis Carroll, his friend Robinson Duckworth and of course the real Alice, Alice Liddell and her two sisters. In the verses before the book Lewis Carroll refers to the "golden afternoon" and the "dreamy weather". Alice Liddell and Duckworth have also left statements about the weather on record. The former wrote of the "burning sun" and "that blazing summer afternoon with the heat haze shimmering over the meadows". The latter referred to "that beautiful summer afternoon... described in the introductory verses to the story."

The same day this year in Ireland, seems to have been very similar to the one described above, with the exception of the northwest. The same band of cloud seen in the satellite picture on the centre page, made for a rather overcast 4th of July there, while the rest of Ireland had up to 15 hours sunshine. So 'Alice in wonderland day' 125 years on, proved not so wonderful for the northwest of the country.

FOR LATEST FORECAST RING

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