

= Hurricane Carrie =

Hurricane Carrie was the strongest tropical cyclone of the 1957 Atlantic hurricane season . The third named storm and second hurricane of the year , Carrie formed from an easterly tropical wave off the western coast of Africa on September 2 , a type of tropical cyclogenesis typical of Cape Verde @-@ type hurricanes . Moving to the west , the storm gradually intensified , reaching hurricane strength on September 5 . Carrie intensified further , before reaching peak intensity on September 8 as a Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 155 mph ( 249 km / h ) in the open Atlantic Ocean . The hurricane curved northwards and fluctuated intensity before recurving to the west and restrengthening , attaining Category 4 intensity for a second time as it neared Bermuda on September 14 . However , Carrie passed well north of the island and turned to the northeast towards Europe . Weakening as it reached higher latitudes , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone on September 23 , prior to affecting areas of the British Isles .

Due to its distance away from any major land masses , Carrie caused relatively minor damage along its path . On September 16 , the hurricane passed well north of Bermuda , causing minimal damage despite its intensity at the time , though hurricane reconnaissance flights in the area were postponed due to damage sustained by one of the aircraft . As it was transitioning to an extratropical cyclone southwest of the Azores , the German ship Pamir encountered the storm and capsized on September 21 , resulting in the deaths of 80 crew members on board . As an extratropical storm , Carrie brought strong storm surge and heavy rain to the British Isles , which claimed three lives . The hurricane 's long duration and path in open water also helped it attain a number of Atlantic hurricane records .

= = Meteorological history = =

In early September , a trough was identified along the western coast of Africa . Moving towards the west as a result of a strong Azores High , the disturbance passed over Cape Verde on September 2 . Observations from weather stations evidenced cyclonic rotation in the region . An airplane belonging to Panair do Brasil passed within the vicinity of the vorticity and as a result reported the formation of a tropical storm . In HURDAT ? the official database listing all known Atlantic tropical cyclones since 1851 ? the system was listed to have reached tropical depression intensity at 0600 UTC that day .

The depression continued to steadily intensify as it moved westwards , later reaching the equivalent of a modern @-@ day Category 1 hurricane by 0600 UTC on September 5 . On September 6 , the ship African Star encountered the hurricane 700 mi ( 1 @, @ 100 km ) west of Cape Verde . Reported winds of 92 mph ( 148 km / h ) and a minimum pressure of 1001 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @. @ 56 inHg ) confirmed the existence of the tropical cyclone . A Weather Bureau forecaster remarked that the hurricane was in a " blind spot " at the time due to its location outside of shipping lanes and Hurricane Hunter reconnaissance missions . Throughout the day , the hurricane intensified , reaching major hurricane intensity by 0000 UTC on September 7 . Shortly after , a United States Air Force reconnaissance flight headed for Bermuda was diverted to observe the hurricane . The flight reported a well @-@ defined eye measuring 20 mi ( 32 km ) across and a minimum pressure of 945 mbar ( hPa ; 27 @. @ 91 inHg ) , the lowest measured in relation to the hurricane . At the time , Carrie had maximum sustained winds of 135 mph ( 217 km / h ) , equivalent to a modern @-@ day Category 4 hurricane . Further strengthening ensued , and the hurricane peaked in intensity on September 8 with winds of 155 mph ( 249 km / h ) .

After reaching peak intensity on September 8 , Carrie began to gradually weaken due to a decreasing pressure gradient caused by a trough that had cut through the Azores High . By September 11 , the hurricane had degenerated into a Category 1 hurricane . A reconnaissance flight reported a minimum pressure of 984 mbar ( hPa ; 29 @. @ 06 inHg ) . At the same time , Carrie began to slowly curve towards the north in response to the trough . The storm later began to slowly reintensify , reattaining major hurricane strength by 1200 UTC on September 13 . The restrengthening of the subtropical ridge on September 14 caused the hurricane to quickly curve

towards the northwest . This was accompanied by additional strengthening , and Carrie reached Category 4 hurricane intensity for a second time by 1800 UTC that day , later reaching a secondary peak intensity with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph ( 240 km / h ) . National Hurricane Research Project ( NHRP ) observers described the hurricane as " one of the most perfectly formed hurricanes they had seen . " Carrie began to steadily weaken again beginning on September 15 . As it passed north of Bermuda the following day , weather radar imagery from the island indicated that the hurricane had an ill @-@ defined structure , with its eye having expanded to 40 ? 70 mi ( 64 ? 113 km ) in diameter . However , as it curved and accelerated eastward in response to a second trough of low pressure , Carrie maintained hurricane intensity up until September 23 , when it transitioned into an extratropical cyclone . The remnant system continued eastwards until it dissipated over Ireland by 1800 UTC on September 28 .

= = Preparations , impact , and records = =

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After reports confirmed the existence of a hurricane in the eastern Atlantic , the Weather Bureau warned shipping lanes in the storm 's path . Small craft warnings were issued for offshore areas from Block Island , Rhode Island south to Savannah , Georgia on September 7 due to the threat of rough seas . After Carrie stalled on September 11 , the Weather Bureau gave Florida a slight chance of being affected by the storm , but the possibilities of the storm affecting the peninsula decreased after the hurricane curved northwards . After the storm was forecast to potentially impact Bermuda , schools were closed in preparation for Carrie , while vessels were warned of the oncoming hurricane . Most planes in Kindley Air Force Base on the island were evacuated , with the remaining planes weighted down by sandbags . After passing Bermuda , the storm was forecast to strike Nova Scotia , but instead Carrie curved towards the northeast .

As the U.S. Air Force was maintaining continuous reconnaissance of the hurricane using converted Boeing B @-@ 50 Superfortresses , one of the planes lost an engine and was forced to fly back to West Palm Beach , Florida for repairs . Four other undamaged aircraft were called back to West Palm Beach , including a crippled ship , while two other B @-@ 50s were held at Bermuda . Passing well north of the island on September 16 , effects of Carrie on Bermuda were minimal , with peak gusts reaching only 35 mph ( 56 km / h ) .

The German barque Pamir , en route from Buenos Aires to Hamburg , Germany , encountered the hurricane southwest of the Azores on September 21 while carrying barley cargo . The ship sunk due to the effects of Carrie , and 80 people out of the 86 crew members on board the ship perished . The final message received from the Pamir was a distress call and indicated that the ship had lost all of its sails and had been listing at a 45 ° angle . A search and rescue operation ensued after the loss of the ship was reported , involving the U.S. Air Force and Navy , as well as the British Air Force and Navy . Other ships from Canada and Portugal were also involved in the search . All associated groups were inconclusive in their findings , with no sign of debris left from the ship . However , two lifeboats and a raft were found , but they were empty . As an extratropical storm , Carrie impacted the Azores , though damages , if any , remain unknown . The extratropical remnants of Carrie later struck the British Isles on September 24 and 25 , causing strong winds , waves , and severe flooding . Winds from the system were estimated at 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) . The strong waves caused extensive property damage and killed three .

= = = Records = = =

Lasting as a hurricane for 20 @.@ 75 days , Carrie was at the time tied for second in terms of longest @-@ existing Atlantic tropical cyclones , alongside the ninth hurricane of the 1893 Atlantic hurricane season and behind the 1899 San Ciriaco hurricane . Due to the hurricane 's long duration , the Weather Bureau office in San Juan , Puerto Rico issued 62 advisories on the storm , which was

at the time the most ever issued in association with an Atlantic hurricane . Carrie 's long duration and distance from any land masses also contributed to its record travel distance of 6 @, @ 000 mi ( 9 @, @ 700 km ) . Hurricane Faith of 1966 surpassed this record after it traveled 6 @, @ 850 mi ( 11 @, @ 020 km ) . Hurricane reconnaissance flights throughout Carrie 's existence traveled further east than any previous flight due to the storm 's location far from any land masses . The initial flight on September 7 covered 3 @, @ 700 mi ( 6 @, @ 000 km ) and lasted for nearly 17 hours .