

= Hurricane Arlene ( 1987 ) =

Hurricane Arlene was the first named storm and longest lived tropical cyclone of the 1987 Atlantic hurricane season . Forming out of an area of low pressure associated with a decaying frontal system along the North Carolina coastline , Arlene tracked in a general eastward direction across the Atlantic Ocean , taking an erratic track with several curves . On August 13 , the storm brushed Bermuda as a weak tropical storm before continuing out to sea . On August 20 , the storm briefly stalled before becoming a hurricane two days later . Early on August 24 , the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone over the far north Atlantic before curving southeast and dissipating near the Iberian Peninsula on August 26 .

In Bermuda , Arlene produced winds up to 58 mph ( 93 km / h ) and waves up to 12 ft ( 3 @ .@ 7 m ) ; however , little damage resulted from the storm . Offshore , a blind man was undertaking a challenge to become the first blind man to cross the Atlantic alone ; he encountered rough seas and high winds from the storm , causing US \$ 8 @ ,@ 000 in damages to his ship over a two @ -@ day span . Between August 26 and 27 , the remnants of the system produced heavy rains over portions of Western Europe .

= = Meteorological history = =

Hurricane Arlene originated out of an area of low pressure associated with a decaying frontal system along the North Carolina coastline on August 8 . Tracking towards the southeast in a gradual anticyclonic loop , the system slowly increased in organization and intensity . By August 10 , the low neared the Bahamas but remained disorganized . The following day , while located over Andros Island , the National Hurricane Center ( NHC ) upgraded the system to a tropical depression , the third of the season , based on its appearance on satellite imagery .

Upon becoming a depression on August 10 , the forward movement of the storm shifted to the northwest in response to an approaching trough off the Eastern United States and an elongated subtropical ridge to the south . The depression intensified into a tropical storm at 1800 UTC on August 11 ; however , operationally it was not upgraded until a reconnaissance mission by the hurricane hunters found flight @ -@ level winds of 50 mph ( 80 km / h ) . The storm tracked towards Bermuda along a trough of low pressure in the Atlantic Ocean .

Throughout August 13 , the proximity of Arlene to the trough prevented significant development . Around 1500 UTC , the center of Arlene tracked about 55 mi ( 89 km ) north of Bermuda . Several hours later , a ship near the center of the storm reported 75 mph ( 121 km / h ) winds ; however , due to the disorganized presentation of the storm , these winds were not considered to be representative of Arlene 's true intensity . Over the following several days , the storm tracked around several low pressure systems . By August 15 , Arlene traveled southeast before re @ -@ curving to the northeast on August 18 . The intensity of the storm also continuously fluctuated during this period peaking at 65 mph ( 105 km / h ) and was as low as 40 mph ( 64 km / h ) .

The northeast movement followed a passing short @ -@ wave trough on August 18 ; the forward motion of the storm also increased due to the trough . On August 20 , the steering currents around Arlene collapsed , leading to the storm nearly stalling for 24 hours . During this period , the storm developed excellent outflow and intensified . Operationally , Arlene was upgraded to a hurricane at 2200 UTC on August 20 based on the appearance of an eye @ -@ feature on satellite imagery ; however , post @ -@ storm analysis indicated that the storm did not attain hurricane @ -@ status until 0600 UTC on August 22 . This occurred 14 @ .@ 5 days after its formation .

Upon attaining hurricane @ -@ status , Arlene rapidly tracked northward due to a strengthening area of high pressure near the Azores . Shortly after , the storm attained its peak intensity with winds of 75 mph ( 121 km / h ) and a barometric pressure of 987 mbar ( hPa ) . Continuing rapidly northward , the hurricane began to interact with a baroclinic zone over the cold waters of the north Atlantic . This resulted in the storm undergoing an extratropical transition which it completed by 0000 UTC on August 24 . The extratropical remnants of the storm continued to track around the periphery of the high pressure system , turning towards the southeast the following day . By August 26 , the

storm became increasingly disorganized and hard to pinpoint on satellite imagery . The storm finally dissipated at 1800 UTC off the coast of Portugal that day .

= = Preparations and impact = =

As Tropical Storm Arlene tracked towards Bermuda , residents on the island were advised to take precautions and board up their homes . This followed the issuance of a tropical storm advisory for the island . On August 12 , Arlene produced squally weather throughout Bermuda as the outer bands impacted the region . Rainfall from the storm peaked at 1 @. @ 65 in ( 42 mm ) . A blind sailor was caught in the storm for two days while trying to become the first blind man to cross the Atlantic Ocean alone . On August 14 , he encountered the full @- @ force of the storm , 12 ft ( 3 @. @ 7 m ) seas and 60 mph ( 97 km / h ) winds battered his 36 ft ( 11 m ) foot @- @ sloop called the Eye Opener while trying to dock in Bermuda . The forced docking at Bermuda cost the sailor roughly US \$ 8 @, @ 000 due to damages from the storm . On August 14 , Arlene brushed Bermuda , producing torrential rains , rough seas and gusty winds . The center of the storm remained far enough offshore that only minor damage occurred on the island . On August 26 , the extratropical remnants of Arlene impacted Spain , bringing 1 @. @ 25 in ( 32 mm ) to Rota , surpassing the highest rainfall for the month of August set in 1971 . The remnant moisture from Arlene continued through the Mediterranean Sea and produced heavy rains across Italy on August 27 .