

= Typhoon Mary (1960) =

Typhoon Mary , also nicknamed " Bloody Mary " by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) , was an extremely damaging storm that was part of the 1960 Pacific typhoon season . It began as a circulation in a trough in the South China Sea . A tropical depression formed on June 2 , as it was traveling clockwise . It became a tropical storm on the next day , and received the name Mary . It slowly moved across the sea , strengthening to a typhoon . Mary made landfall in Hong Kong on June 8 , and moved through Guangdong and Fujian . It reemerged back to the Pacific Ocean , and restrengthened into a typhoon temporarily . It then traveled east , weakening and becoming extratropical on June 12 .

Mary caused a significant amount of damage in Hong Kong and China . It was considered the worst storm to hit Hong Kong since the typhoon in 1937 . The storm destroyed weak shacks made by refugees from the mainland , leaving thousands homeless . There were multiple landslides , and most of the infrastructure were damaged . More than 400 small watercraft were either damaged or destroyed . In China , dikes and dams were damaged severely , multiple public buildings collapsed , and destroyed large swaths of farmland . Significant wind and rain was also reported in Taiwan . More than 1 @, @ 600 people died during the storm .

= = Meteorological history = =

In early June , a trough extended from Taiwan to the South China Sea , and a small circulation was found at the southwestern part of it . The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) designated the system as a tropical depression on June 2 , with a pressure reading of 1 @, @ 000 hectopascals (30 inHg) . JTWC reported it had winds of 55 km / h (35 mph) during that time . On the next day at 1200 UTC , JTWC began tracking the storm as a tropical depression . The system was upgraded to a tropical storm at 1800 UTC , with winds of 65 km / h (40 mph) , and was given the name Mary by the warning center . By 1800 UTC of June 4 , Mary slowly began turning northward near the Paracel Islands , and had intensified slightly to 75 km / h (45 mph) .

On June 5 , JMA recorded Mary 's lowest pressure reading at 980 hPa (29 inHg) . Two days later , the storm had intensified to 110 km / h (70 mph) , and was traveling faster towards Hong Kong . On June 7 , at 0600 UTC , Mary quickly strengthened to a typhoon , with winds up to 130 km / h (80 mph) . Mary peaked at 0600 UTC on June 8 , just offshore of Hong Kong , with winds of 150 km / h (90 mph) , and JTWC estimated the pressure was 975 hPa (28 @. @ 8 inHg) . Twelve hours later , the storm made landfall on Hong Kong northwest of Kowloon . Inland , the typhoon slowly weakened to 90 km / h (55 mph) by June 10 , back to a tropical storm . The system gained speed as it traveled through Guangdong and Fujian provinces . Mary soon reemerged back to the ocean later than day , began restrengthening , and was found to have 110 km / h (70 mph) winds , recorded by the U.S. Navy . The storm briefly became a typhoon at 1800 UTC , and reconnaissance aircraft recorded winds just above typhoon strength , although the circulation did not have eyewalls . It was downgraded to a tropical storm on June 11 at 1200 UTC .

Another reconnaissance aircraft flew into Mary again at 2330 UTC , reporting that there was no eyewall in the storm and recorded winds up to 65 km / h (40 mph) . Mary continued to weaken until June 12 , when JTWC and JMA declared the storm had become extratropical southeast of Tokyo . JMA continued to track the extratropical cyclone until it reached the International Date Line on June 18 .

= = Preparations , impact and aftermath = =

Before Mary made landfall , 80 freighters and liners arrived in Hong Kong to ride out the storm . In Okinawa , military personnel were evacuated to safe areas , and planes were all protected . Meanwhile , a joint military exercise by the South Korean and American Marines were delayed by one day due to the storm .

== Hong Kong ==

Typhoon Mary was considered the worst storm to hit Hong Kong in 23 years . The typhoon arrived at the colony on June 8 , dropping 35 @. @ 9 centimetres (14 @. @ 12 in) of rain in 24 hours . Average gusts were reported at 119 kilometres per hour (64 kn) on Waglan Island , with 194 kilometres per hour (105 kn) at times . At the Royal Observatory , the storm dropped 42 @. @ 7 cm (16 @. @ 83 in) of rain . The mean winds blew southwesterly at 87 km / h (47 kn) , exposing many small boats and villages . The No. 10 warning signal was issued by the Royal Observatory . However , according to the report written by the Observatory , the use of No. 10 warning signal was not strictly justified according to international procedures , since sustained surface winds of 119 km / h (64 kn) were not observed . Across the colony , damage to roads , buildings , and communication were significant . Landslides , and other fallen debris blocked roads , and weak refugee shacks in the hills , made out of tin and tar paper , quickly collapsed . All stores and public transportation were shut down inside the city . The Customs reported that more than 50 fishing vessels capsized and sank in the anchorages during the typhoon . Two ocean freighters , the Malaya Fir and the Wan Fu , ran aground onto the Kai Tak Airstrip . Although the floods have caused extreme damage , it helped with the local shortage of water , with reservoirs gaining eleven million kilolitres (3 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 US gal) of water .

After the storm , 18 @, @ 000 refugees from Mainland China became homeless . The official count was 45 casualties , 11 missing , and 127 injured , with most casualties coming from refugees . Overall , 462 small watercraft were damaged or destroyed .

== Elsewhere ==

In Mainland China , the typhoon brought heavy rain and wind into the provinces of Guangdong and Fujian . Dikes and dams were severely damaged by the storm , leading to severe flooding . Thousands of people were trying to reinforce these as the floodwaters continued to rise . Manpower was also used to gather ripened crops before the storm destroyed them . More than 4 @, @ 800 buildings were damaged , and over 540 @, @ 000 hectares (1 @, @ 330 @, @ 000 acres) of land was affected by the storm . The total number of casualties was reportedly 1 @, @ 600 ; and 180 @, @ 000 cattle were reported killed .

Macau received a similar amount of rain as Hong Kong , which caused local flooding . The winds uprooted trees , blocking local streets .

About 260 kilometres (160 mi) southeast of Hong Kong , the cargo ship Sheng Lee sank during the typhoon . Fifty @- @ four survivors were rescued and safely transported to the British colony by the Royal Navy frigate HMS Torquay , with help from Dutch ships , and the Republic of China Navy and Air Force .

Off the coast of Mainland China , in the Matsu Islands , many fishing boats were damaged by the heavy seas and the torrential rainfall . Three people were injured in the islands . In Taiwan , downtown Taipei received significant flooding , and some rice crops on the south part of the island were damaged . Although there were no reported deaths on the island , four fisherman offshore died . The nearby Okinawa Islands received winds around 105 kilometres per hour (65 mph) .