

= Typhoon Hester (1971) =

Typhoon Hester of October 1971 was regarded as one of the most destructive storms to strike Vietnam since 1944 . Developing as a tropical depression on October 18 near Palau , Hester gradually intensified as it moved westward towards the Philippines . Across the Philippines , Hester was responsible for six deaths and ? 5 million in damage . After passing over Mindanao and the Visayas as a tropical storm between October 20 and 21 , the storm intensified into a typhoon before striking Palawan . Once over the South China Sea , Hester further strengthened and ultimately attained peak winds of 165 km / h (105 mph) . On October 23 , the storm made landfall near Hu? , South Vietnam . Once onshore , Hester rapidly weakened and dissipated on October 24 over Laos .

The most significant impact from Typhoon Hester was felt in South Vietnam , where winds in excess of 155 km / h (100 mph) caused extensive damage to several United States Army bases . The hardest hit base was in Chu Lai where three Americans were killed . At least 75 percent of the structures in the base sustained damage and 123 aircraft were damaged or destroyed . Newspaper reports indicated that 100 Vietnamese lost their lives due to the storm , including 33 following a plane crash near Quy Nh?n . In the wake of the storm , the South Vietnamese government provided the hardest hit areas with relief funds and supplies .

= = Meteorological history = =

On October 18 , a tropical depression formed just west of Palau . Tracking westward , the system attained tropical storm @-@ force winds the following day and was assigned the name Hester . At this time , Hester was located approximately 400 km (250 mi) east of northern Mindanao in the Philippines . Due to the cyclone 's proximity to the country , the Philippine Atmospheric , Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration also monitored the storm and assigned it with the local name Goying . Early on October 20 , Hester brushed northern Mindanao before crossing the Visayas . The storm passed approximately 75 km (45 mi) south of Cebu City later that day before moving into the South China Sea . Early on October 21 , Hester intensified into a typhoon hours before crossing Palawan .

Once over the South China Sea , a strong ridge built over southern China resulting in Hester turning northwestward and accelerating . It reached a forward speed of 33 km / h (20 mph) , twice the climatological average for typhoons in that region during October . Between October 22 and 23 , the storm developed an eye before reaching its peak intensity as a Category 2 @-@ equivalent typhoon . The Joint Typhoon Warning Center estimated peak winds to have reached 165 km / h (105 mph) along with a central pressure of 967 mb (hPa ; 28 @.@ 56 inHg) . Hester subsequently made landfall near Hu? , South Vietnam . Once onshore , the storm 's structure rapidly degraded as it weakened . The storm later dissipated over central Laos on October 24 .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

= = South Vietnam = =

Regarded as one of the most destructive storms to strike Vietnam since 1944 , Typhoon Hester caused considerable damage in the country and disrupted the Vietnam War . Making landfall directly over the United States military installation in Chu Lai , Hester damaged or destroyed 75 percent of the structures in the base . Sustained winds and gusts in the base were estimated to have reached 130 km / h (80 mph) and 160 km / h (105 mph) respectively . Four hangars collapsed in the Chu Lai airbase , with total aircraft losses amounting to 36 destroyed and 87 damaged . Losses from the destroyed helicopters exceeded \$ 3 @.@ 6 million (1971 USD) . Dozens of barracks were damaged in Chu Lai and communications were hampered . The 91st Evacuation Hospital was mostly destroyed and was forced to transfer patients to Quy Nh?n . Nearly 50 percent of the structures at the Marble Mountain Air Facility were damaged by the storm 's high winds .

Heavy rains accompanying the storm , peaking at 5 @. @ 44 in (138 mm) at Camp Eagle , caused considerable flooding in the country . Approximately 370 km (230 mi) of coastline between Qu?ng Tr? and ?à N?ng were inundated . About 90 percent of homes in ?à N?ng were damaged . Flooding from the storm washed out a bridge between Fire Support Base Birmingham and Camp Eagle , temporarily isolating two units within the 94th Field Artillery Regiment .

Extensive losses to agriculture also took place , with major crop losses reported and 900 cattle killed . According to government officials , the entire banana , rice , and sugar cane crop was destroyed and harvests could not be made until the following spring . Offshore , nearly 500 vessels sank or were destroyed by the storm and the 1 @, @ 000 ton Union Pacific ran aground .

According to newspaper reports , 100 Vietnamese perished during Hester . Thirty @-@ three fatalities took place after a South Vietnamese air force transport crashed near Quy Nh?n . Three Americans were killed due to flying debris during the storm and twenty @-@ one others were injured . On October 25 , thunderstorms associated with Hester were blamed on a helicopter crash Nha Trang that killed ten Americans . Roughly 550 @, @ 000 homes were destroyed across the country , leaving an estimated 200 @, @ 000 people homeless .

On October 25 , Premier Tran Thien Khiem toured some of the storm @-@ ravaged areas and made on @-@ the @-@ spot grants of \$ 19 @, @ 000 to each province and \$ 3 @, @ 500 to ?à N?ng . He also promised that 50 @, @ 000 sheets of tin roofing would be sent to aid in reconstruction . Later that day , President Nguyen Van Thieu ordered \$ 725 @, @ 000 be made available for disaster relief in the northern provinces following an emergency meeting . The Social Welfare Ministry estimated that \$ 1 @. @ 5 million would be needed for civilian relief .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

Tracking over the southern Philippines as a tropical storm , Hester caused some damage in the country . Winds of 95 km / h (60 mph) were reported in Cebu City as the storm passed by . A total of six people were killed while twenty @-@ two sustained injuries and another two were reported missing . Damage amounted to ? 5 million . In North Vietnam , the Viet Cong was reportedly taking " urgent measures " to cope with the aftermath of the typhoon . A Chinese news broadcast stated that 100 million piastres had been allocated for relief efforts .