

= Typhoon Billie ( 1959 ) =

Typhoon Billie was the first typhoon officially monitored by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center . The storm brought floods to several East Asian countries in July 1959 . Billie developed from a tropical disturbance west of Kiribati on July 12 . Situated within favorable conditions , the system quickly reached tropical storm intensity before strengthening further to typhoon status a day after formation . Intensification continued until Billie reached its peak intensity on July 14 east of Taiwan with maximum sustained winds of 165 km / h ( 105 mph ) and a minimum barometric pressure of 970 mbar ( hPa ; 28 @. @ 64 inHg ) . Slight weakening occurred before the typhoon made landfall on Zhejiang in China on July 16 . After tracking inland , Billie curved northward and moved over the Yellow Sea before making a final landfall on North Korea on July 17 ; the storm transitioned into an extratropical cyclone shortly afterwards before dissipating over the Sea of Japan a day later .

The rainbands of Billie brought severe flooding to the Philippines and Japan even while the typhoon 's center was well removed from those locations . In the Philippines , one person was killed , and the flood damage totaled US \$ 500 @, @ 000 . Floods were particularly destructive in Japan , where they destroyed 603 homes in the western portion of the country . Swaths of crops were inundated by the floodwaters , and 44 people were killed . Extensive flooding occurred in Taiwan and China , and seven deaths occurred in the former . In Busan , South Korea , Billie 's effects forced the evacuation of thousands of people through tight corridors from a stadium , causing the indirect deaths of 61 people .

= = Meteorological history = =

Beginning on July 9 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) began dispatching aircraft reconnaissance to investigate an area of thunderstorms between Yap State and Koror that had potential to develop into a tropical cyclone . Tracking westward , there were few signs of organization or intensification until July 12 , when recon found a closed atmospheric circulation within the disturbance , signifying that a tropical depression had developed ; JTWC bulletins and warnings commenced accordingly . Upon development , observations indicated that the system was quickly developing in favorable conditions , with initial reconnaissance flights finding a loose eye measuring 160 km ( 100 mi ) in diameter shortly after classification as a tropical depression . Twelve hours later , the JTWC upgraded the cyclone to tropical storm status , assigning the name Billie .

At 1200 UTC on July 13 , the JTWC upgraded Billie further to typhoon status , making Billie the first tropical cyclone to be monitored by the JTWC since its inception earlier in 1959 . Now tracking steadily towards the northwest , the typhoon reached its peak intensity at 1200 UTC the next day with maximum sustained winds of 165 km / h ( 105 mph ) according to the JTWC and a minimum barometric pressure assessed by the Japan Meteorological Agency ( JMA ) at 970 mbar ( hPa ; 28 @. @ 64 inHg ) . By this time Billie 's eye had shrunk to a size roughly 50 km ( 30 mi ) in diameter . At 0900 UTC on July 15 , Billie passed just 30 km ( 20 mi ) north of Taiwan ; fifteen hours later the typhoon made landfall north of Fuzhou , China in Zhejiang with winds estimated at 120 km / h ( 75 mph ) .

Upon tracking inland on July 16 , interaction with China 's mountainous terrain disrupted the organization of Billie , weakening it down to tropical storm intensity . However , the tropical cyclone 's stint over land was short @-@ lived as the system quickly curved northward into the Yellow Sea by July 17 . Despite moving back over water , Billie continued to weaken , and made landfall on the western coast of North Korea with winds of 75 km / h ( 40 mph ) . Over the Korean peninsula , Billie began to intake cold air from a polar front , enabling the system to transition into an extratropical cyclone by 1800 UTC that day . These remnants tracked eastward across the Sea of Japan before they were last noted just off of Hokkaido on July 18 .

= = Impact = =

As Billie tracked to the east of the Philippines , the outer rainbands of the tropical cyclone produced

heavy rainfall to the archipelago , the Ryukyu Islands , and the main islands of Japan . In the Philippines , the rains triggered floods that led to the death of one person and US \$ 500 @, @ 000 in damage . About 100 people were displaced on the islands due to the rainfall . The Japanese freighter Bansei Maru was grounded on a reef off of Ishigaki Island due to the rough surf and winds caused by the passing typhoon , necessitating a rescue operation by three United States Navy ships . On the island , 16 homes were destroyed and 49 were heavily damaged . Inundation of crops was prevalent . Flooding from Billie was highly destructive in areas of Japan west of the Ch?bu region , destroying 603 homes and inundating 77 @, @ 288 others . Roughly 325 km2 ( 125 mi2 ) of farmland was impacted by the rains . Across Japan , 44 people were killed and 77 were injured .

In northern Taiwan , Billie caused widespread flash flooding , displacing thousands of people and resulting in extensive damage . Approximately one @-@ third of Taipei was inundated by floodwaters , and hospital patients were forced to evacuate to Okinawa after a Military Assistance Advisory Group compound was impacted by the heavy rains . Over 10 @, @ 000 people were rendered homeless in Taipei alone after the city 's shanty @-@ type dwellings along with well @-@ built residences were destroyed . In total , the effects of Billie in Taiwan killed seven people . Extensive flooding also occurred in nearby eastern China , inundating rice fields . In order to avoid the storm , thousands of fishermen sought shelter in local harbors . Cleanup and relief operations quickly ensued following the storm 's passage .

Storms accompanying Billie and its remnants brought heavy rains and strong winds to South Korea , knocking out police telephone lines in Busan . The sudden onslaught of these storms caused a stampede of roughly 70 @, @ 000 people out of a stadium , resulting in the indirect deaths of 68 people , including 51 children . Around 125 people were injured and 40 were hospitalized after the mass evacuation .