

= 1935 Jérémie hurricane =

The 1935 Jérémie hurricane was a highly destructive tropical cyclone that impacted the Greater Antilles and Honduras in October 1935 , killing well over 2 @, @ 000 people . Developing on October 18 over the southwestern Caribbean Sea , the storm proceeded to strike eastern Jamaica and southeastern Cuba while overwhelming southwestern Haiti in a deluge of rain . The hurricane ? a Category 1 at its peak ? completed an unusual reversal of its path on October 23 , heading southwestward toward Central America . Weakened by its interaction with Cuba , the storm soon regained strength and made its final landfall near Cabo Gracias a Dios in Honduras on October 25 . The cyclone weakened upon moving inland and dissipated two days later .

Flooding and landslides in Jamaica took their toll on property , agricultural interests , and infrastructure ; fruit growers on the island sustained about \$ 2 @. @ 5 million (1935 USD) in losses . Just off the coast , an unidentified vessel went down with her entire crew in the hostile conditions . Strong winds buffeted coastal sections of Cuba , notably in and around Santiago de Cuba . There , the hurricane demolished 100 homes and filled streets with debris . Only four people died in the country , thanks to the extensive pre @- @ storm preparations . The storm did the most damage along the Tiburon Peninsula of southwestern Haiti , where catastrophic river flooding took the lives of up to 2 @, @ 000 individuals , razed hundreds of native houses , and destroyed crops and livestock . The heaviest destruction took place around the towns of Jacmel and Jérémie ; one early report estimated that 1 @, @ 500 had been killed at the latter . Entire swaths of countryside were isolated for days , delaying both reconnaissance and relief efforts .

The hurricane later created devastating floods in Central America , chiefly in Honduras . Reported at the time to be the worst flood in the nation 's history , the disaster decimated banana plantations and population centers after rivers flowed up to 50 ft (15 m) above normal . Torrents of floodwaters trapped hundreds of citizens in trees , on rooftops , and on remote high ground , requiring emergency rescue . The storm left thousands homeless and around 150 dead in the country , while monetary losses totaled \$ 12 million . Flooding and strong winds reached into northeastern Nicaragua , though damage was much less widespread than in neighboring Honduras .

= = Meteorological history = =

The hurricane originated over the southwestern Caribbean Sea , where , on October 17 , a broad and immature low pressure system was noted . The hurricane forecast center in Jacksonville , Florida issued its first advisory on the storm late on October 20 , following ship reports of winds approaching and exceeding gale @- @ force . Contemporary reanalyses of the storm have determined that it organized into a tropical depression on October 18 , then drifted toward the east , turning north @- @ northeastward as it strengthened into a tropical storm early the next day . Due to low environmental air pressures and the large size of the cyclone , intensification was gradual as the storm approached Jamaica , eventually making landfall on the eastern side of the island , just west of the Morant Point Lighthouse , at 13 : 00 UTC on October 21 . The system came ashore with a central pressure of 995 hPa (29 @. @ 4 inHg) , suggesting maximum winds of 60 mph (100 km / h) . After emerging into the waters between Jamaica and Cuba , the storm slowed in forward speed , continued to intensify , and curved northwestward toward southeastern Cuba . The storm attained the equivalent of Category 1 hurricane status on the current @- @ day Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale early on October 22 , while meandering just off the coast of Cuba .

At around 18 : 00 UTC on October 22 , the hurricane made landfall near Santiago de Cuba at its initial peak intensity , with winds of 85 mph (140 km / h) . It started weakening early the next day after encountering the Sierra Maestra mountain range and moving southwestward , away from the coast . Steered by persistent high @- @ pressure ridging over the eastern United States and western Atlantic , the cyclone would maintain this highly unusual path for the remainder of its duration in open waters . It brushed Cuba 's Cape Cruz and deteriorated to a tropical storm before passing relatively close to the western tip of Jamaica . On the morning of October 24 , the barometer aboard a ship in the storm 's eye fell to 988 hPa (29 @. @ 2 inHg) , its lowest recorded pressure .

The ship measured winds outside of the lull only up to 46 mph (74 km / h) , but the storm was reintensifying , and once again achieved hurricane strength later in the day . It matched its previous peak intensity at 12 : 00 UTC on October 25 as it approached Cabo Gracias a Dios on the border of Honduras and Nicaragua . Shortly thereafter , the hurricane crossed the Honduran coast for its final landfall . The mountainous terrain of Central America worked to diminish the storm , which curved westward and steadily lost force , though observation of its decay was minimal . The cyclone likely dissipated on October 27 over Guatemala .

= = Impact = =

The hurricane affected several nations along its unusual path , killing an estimated 2 @, @ 150 people .

= = = Jamaica = = =

Parts of eastern Jamaica began to experience strong northeasterly winds early on October 20 , and the parishes of Saint Thomas , Portland , and Saint Mary ultimately bore the brunt of the storm . Heavy rainfall swelled rivers and triggered landslides ; the ensuing floods destroyed bridges , inundated many homes , and necessitated the rescue of trapped individuals . With telegraph communications cut to the hardest @-@ hit areas and roads left impassable , the degree of destruction was initially uncertain , though it was described as " extensive " . The storm took a heavy toll on agriculture (already compromised from the effects of another hurricane less than a month earlier) , with banana plantations in particular sustaining heavy damage . Losses to fruit crops in the nation totaled an estimated \$ 2 @, @ 500 @, @ 000 .

The storm reportedly killed three people on the island . An unidentified schooner capsized off Port Antonio with all hands lost , in spite of efforts to rescue the imperiled crew . One modern source recounts that the crew numbered 31 , but this figure was not widely reported . The USS Houston , underway with President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt , averted its course after encountering adverse conditions .

= = = Cuba and Haiti = = =

In advance of the hurricane 's landfall in Cuba , businesses were closed . Railways worked to secure non @-@ essential trains , and residents of vulnerable coastal towns , including Caimanera , fled their homes in search of safer ground . The hurricane subjected eastern parts of the island to intense gales , measured at over 70 mph (110 km / h) at Santiago de Cuba before the anemometer failed . The northern coast of the island around Nipe Bay also endured strong winds as high as 58 mph (93 km / h) . Winds of 60 mph (97 km / h) were recorded at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base , though the effects there were generally light . Closer to the hurricane 's center , in Santiago de Cuba , about 100 homes sustained complete structural failures . The prolonged nature of the storm hampered search and rescue efforts amid the rubble . Winds strewn debris around the city , blocking its streets . A hospital and a power plant both suffered roof failure . Electricity in Santiago de Cuba was preemptively turned off as conditions worsened , contributing to regional power outages .

Significant flooding occurred after the Cauto River overflowed its banks , making driving impossible . The storm severed communications between towns in eastern Cuba after bringing down telephone and telegraph wires . Apart from seven structures ruined in the Guantánamo area , there was less destruction in many locations than initially feared . There were reports of three fatalities in Caimanera , and one person died in Santiago de Cuba . At least 29 individuals were treated for storm @-@ related injuries . Damage assessments in the immediate aftermath of the storm placed monetary damages in Cuba at \$ 500 @, @ 000 . In the aftermath , a public curfew was issued for Santiago de Cuba , forcing residents to remain indoors after 8 pm . To prevent looting , troops patrolled streets and vulnerable locations , such as banks . Supplies of bread and milk ran short following the hurricane .

The greatest disaster occurred in southern Haiti , where as many as 2 @, @ 000 people died , possibly more . The towns of Jacmel and Jérémie ? both on the Tiburon Peninsula ? were devastated by catastrophic freshwater flooding after days of torrential rains . The entire peninsula , already remote in its own right , was isolated for a time , ensuring only scant detail of the disaster reached the outside world . Information was initially relayed to the capital city of Port @-@ au @-@ Prince by a single aircraft .

The hurricane crippled infrastructure , blocking roads throughout the area and destroying a hydroelectricity plant in Jacmel . The town was left without power and drinking water . In Jérémie , the flooding was so severe as to sweep away a large metal bridge . Hundreds of poorly constructed native houses were destroyed on the Tiburon Peninsula , leaving thousands of survivors without homes . Property damage in Haiti amounted to over \$ 1 million . Meanwhile , thousands of livestock were killed and crops were completely destroyed , prompting fears of impending famine .

Several days after the storm , the bodies of drowning victims had been recovered by the hundreds , and it was suspected many of the deceased had been washed into the sea . One preliminary estimate placed the number of dead in the Jérémie area alone at 1 @, @ 500 , suggesting the worst of the tragedy occurred there . Indeed , some modern sources have unofficially referred to the storm as Hurricane Jérémie . The Haitian government worked to bring emergency supplies and relief workers , at least partially by way of ship , to the flood @-@ stricken region . As little was known about the extent of losses , officials rushed to restore communications with the disaster area .

= = = Central America = = =

After clearing the Greater Antilles , the hurricane ravaged parts of Honduras . Banana plantations suffered extensively , causing the United Fruit Company about \$ 6 million in losses . As in Haiti , the hardest hit areas of Honduras were cut off from the nation 's capital of Tegucigalpa . Severe river flooding wrought widespread destruction , especially around La Ceiba and throughout the Cortés Department . Many towns were inundated by up to 7 ft (2 @. @ 1 m) of water . According to one source , the Ulúa River " officially " rose some 50 ft (15 m) from its normal height near Chamelecón , where the flood left 800 families homeless . Many hundreds of individuals were stranded by raging flood waters in the Cortés region , clutching to trees and rooftops as they awaited uncertain rescue . Even after rescue boats brought many residents of Chamelecón to safety , a third of the population remain trapped .

The rampant Cangrejal River reportedly obliterated an entire suburban community further east , near La Ceiba , while the Aguán River burst its banks at Trujillo and killed numerous plantation workers . By October 29 , the bodies of 70 flood victims had been recovered at Corocito in Colón . Torrential rains extended into Tegucigalpa , causing urban flooding . Just to the northeast , in San Juancito , a large landslide took the lives of at least three people . Overall , the hurricane inflicted about \$ 12 million in damage across Honduras (including the agricultural impacts) , resulted in about 150 deaths , and destroyed the homes of thousands of residents . The floods were considered to be among the worst in the country 's history . Almost immediately after the passage of the storm , a wide area of Honduras experienced strong earthquake activity .

Damaging , but less expansive , floods also occurred in parts of extreme northeastern Nicaragua around the Mosquito Coast . The Coco River , which constitutes a large portion of the Honduras ? Nicaragua border , swelled 40 ft (12 m) as observed about 140 mi (230 km) upstream of its mouth . Banana farms were heavily damaged around Cabo Gracias a Dios , occupied by both nations , and according to early reports in that area , all but a handful of dwellings were destroyed . In spite of the flooding and hurricane @-@ force winds , timely warnings prevented fatalities locally .