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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE ROCKFORD TORNADO

The tornado that occurred at Rockford, Ill., on September 14, while a hurricane was sweeping over the West Indies, was reported at the time to have cost about 50 lives. Fortunately this statement proved to be much exaggerated. However, the actual loss of life, now placed at 14, surpasses that of any other tornado of the present year.

The storm struck Rockford at a quarter past three. Traveling northeast at a speed estimated at 60 miles an hour -- a rather high rate of travel for tornadoes -- it cut a path 300 feet wide and three miles long through a residential and manufacturing district in the southeast part of the town. About 300 dwelling houses were destroyed or damaged, one manufacturing plant was completely demolished, and eight others were more or less seriously damaged.

The air is said to have been very cold during the passage of the storm. No rain fell during the tornado and only light rain after it.

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