

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
April 17, 1934

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed April 10, 1934

A BANNER HURRICANE YEAR

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

The returns of last year's tropical cyclones on the Atlantic are now all in, and it appears that 1933 was a banner year for such disturbances. Twenty-one of them were reported between May and November in the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and the southern portion of the North Atlantic, and several of these, as usual, traveled eventually into higher latitudes. This is the largest number observed in any one year during the past 46 years of trustworthy records. The greatest number previously reported in a year was 16 in 1887, and there have been only 9 years with 10 or more.

Tropical cyclones do not always attain the violence of hurricanes. Of last year's total, 10 were of known hurricane intensity, 4 were doubtful and the remaining 7 were not hurricanes.

According to a summary just published by the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Mexican coastal area suffered the most from these storms, for no fewer than 5 intense hurricanes and 2 lesser tropical disturbances crossed its coastline. Immense damage was done in and about Tampico from the two hurricanes that passed almost directly over that city. Two fully developed hurricanes and two minor storms crossed the Yucatan peninsula, but no large cities were in their paths and reports of damage are meager. The middle Atlantic coast was buffeted once in August and again in September. The earlier storm crossed the coastline at Cape Hatteras and later passed directly over Washington with diminished intensity. This was one of the most destructive storms in the history of the middle Atlantic coast. As the September storm was recurving to the northeast, the center barely touched the North Carolina coast causing great damage in the New Bern district. Two hurricanes crossed the coastline near the mouth of the Rio Grande; the September storm caused enormous damage. The June hurricane that touched the north coast of Venezuela was the earliest known in that region and the only one to pass south of the island of Trinidad in 50 years of record.

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE
21st and Constitution Ave.
Washington, D.C.