

Released upon receipt  
but intended for use  
November 23, 1935

A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed November 16, 1935

HURRICANE FATALITIES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman  
Authority on Meteorology

While the greatest mortality attending any West India hurricane of the past season occurred in Haiti on the night of October 21, when about 2,000 persons perished in the floods due to the torrential rain of a passing storm, much more public attention was attracted to the fatalities that marked the passage of a hurricane over the Florida Keys on September 2. In recent years meteorologists have formed the habit of turning to the American Red Cross for statistics of deaths and injuries in American storms. A bulletin just issued by that organization says:

"No definite figures as to the actual number of civilians living on the Keys affected are obtainable. Officials placed the number of persons on all Keys stretching from the mainland down to Key West, but not including the city itself, at less than 1,500. Of these, it is believed that approximately 200 civilians perished as a result of the hurricane--and were it possible to secure actual counts the number would in all probability be larger.

"The Federal Government, in an effort to provide relief for unemployed veterans of the World War, had established three large camps on the Keys where work in the form of construction projects was given them. Official figures furnished by the Florida Emergency Relief Administration, under which the veterans were being employed, placed the number of men in the three camps at the time of the hurricane at approximately seven hundred. There would have been more had it not been for the fact that many were out of the camps over Labor Day holidays. The list of dead and missing among these veterans of the Great War totals now more than 240. It is estimated that between 400 and 500 persons lost their lives as a result of the storm."

(All rights reserved by Science Service, Inc.)

SCIENCE SERVICE  
2101 Constitution Ave.,  
Washington, D. C.