

Preliminary Report

GREAT HURRICANE BEULAH
Gulf of Mexico
September 17 - 22, 1967

Hurricane BEULAH moved west-northwestward across the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula and entered the Gulf of Mexico near Merida during the afternoon of September 17, 1967. BEULAH lost intensity while crossing the Peninsula and was barely of hurricane strength when the center moved out into the Gulf. The storm intensified as it moved slowly through the Southwest Gulf of Mexico during the next two days. By the afternoon and evening of the 19th, the central pressure had decreased to 923 mbs. (27.26 in.) - reported by two reconnaissance flights into the storm. This was the second lowest pressure ever reported in a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, (lowest reported in Florida Keys hurricane, 1935).

After leaving the Yucatan Peninsula, BEULAH maintained a west-northwest course, changing to a northwesterly course during the night of the 18th. At the time the storm neared land, it was moving towards the north-northwest. BEULAH moved at an average speed of about 10 m.p.h. across the Gulf of Mexico. Cycloidal motion of the eye was evident.

As the center approached the coast during the early morning of the 20th, the central pressure rose gradually. The central pressure at landfall was probably a little less than 28.00 inches. Brownsville pressure fell to 28.07 inches at 8 am CDT as the center passed between the Weather Station and the mouth of the Rio Grande River. The center then remained over land as it moved north-northwestward parallel to the lower Texas coast during the day. The storm gradually lost intensity but hurricane force winds occurred as far north as the Corpus Christi-Alice area during the evening of the 20th. The storm stalled in the Alice area during the night. As the storm continued to weaken and the central pressure filled, the center then moved slowly southwestward. During the morning of the 22nd the circulation of the storm was torn apart by the mountains near Monterrey, Mexico.

The SS SHIRLEY LYKES, in Port Brownsville during the passage of BEULAH, reported winds of 136 m.p.h. Brownsville Weather Bureau Office experienced peak gusts to 109 m.p.h. (The anemometer was tilted about 30 degrees, so wind might have been higher). Hurricane force winds occurred along the South Texas coast from Brownsville to Corpus Christi.

Tide information is sparse at this time but tides as high as 10 ft. were in evidence along the coast in the vicinity of Brownsville, and a tide of 7.4 ft. m.s.l. was reported as far north as Rockport on the Central Texas coast. The full tide producing potential of this great hurricane was not realized on the extreme lower Texas coast because of the unfavorable track.

Torrential rains occurred in southern Texas and northeastern Mexico, and major floods resulted. All rivers and streams in South Texas, south of San Antonio, were flooded. Storm rainfall amounts ranged from 10 to 20 inches over much of South Texas, and amounts up to near 30 inches were reported in some areas.

Tornadoes spawned by the hurricane occurred in many localities in South Texas. A record number of 95 tornadoes, associated with the hurricane, were reported.

Loss of life was held to a minimum in this extremely dangerous storm. Warnings were well heeded and precautions were taken. At last report, only 10 known deaths in Texas were attributable to the hurricane - of these, four were killed in the tornado at Palacios, Texas.

It is impossible to estimate the amount of damage at this time. Major floods are still occurring. It appears that damages will approach the billion dollar figure. This property loss is exceeded only by Hurricane BETSY, 1965.

HURRICANE BEULAH

Approximate Track in Gulf of Mexico

September 17, 1967	12Z	21.0	88.5
	18Z	21.3	89.6
September 18, 1967	00Z	21.6	90.6
	06Z	21.7	91.8
	12Z	21.8	92.6
	18Z	22.0	93.5
September 19, 1967	00Z	22.3	94.1
	06Z	22.8	94.8
	12Z	23.3	95.6
	18Z	23.7	95.9
September 20, 1967	00Z	24.3	96.3
	06Z	25.1	96.8
	12Z	25.8	97.2
	18Z	26.4	97.7
September 21, 1967	00Z	27.3	98.1
	06Z	27.7	98.4
	12Z	27.7	98.7
	18Z	27.2	99.2
September 22, 1967	00Z	26.8	99.5
	06Z	26.5	99.7
	12Z	26.0	100.0

*Z TIME
SUBTRACT 6 hours
for CST*

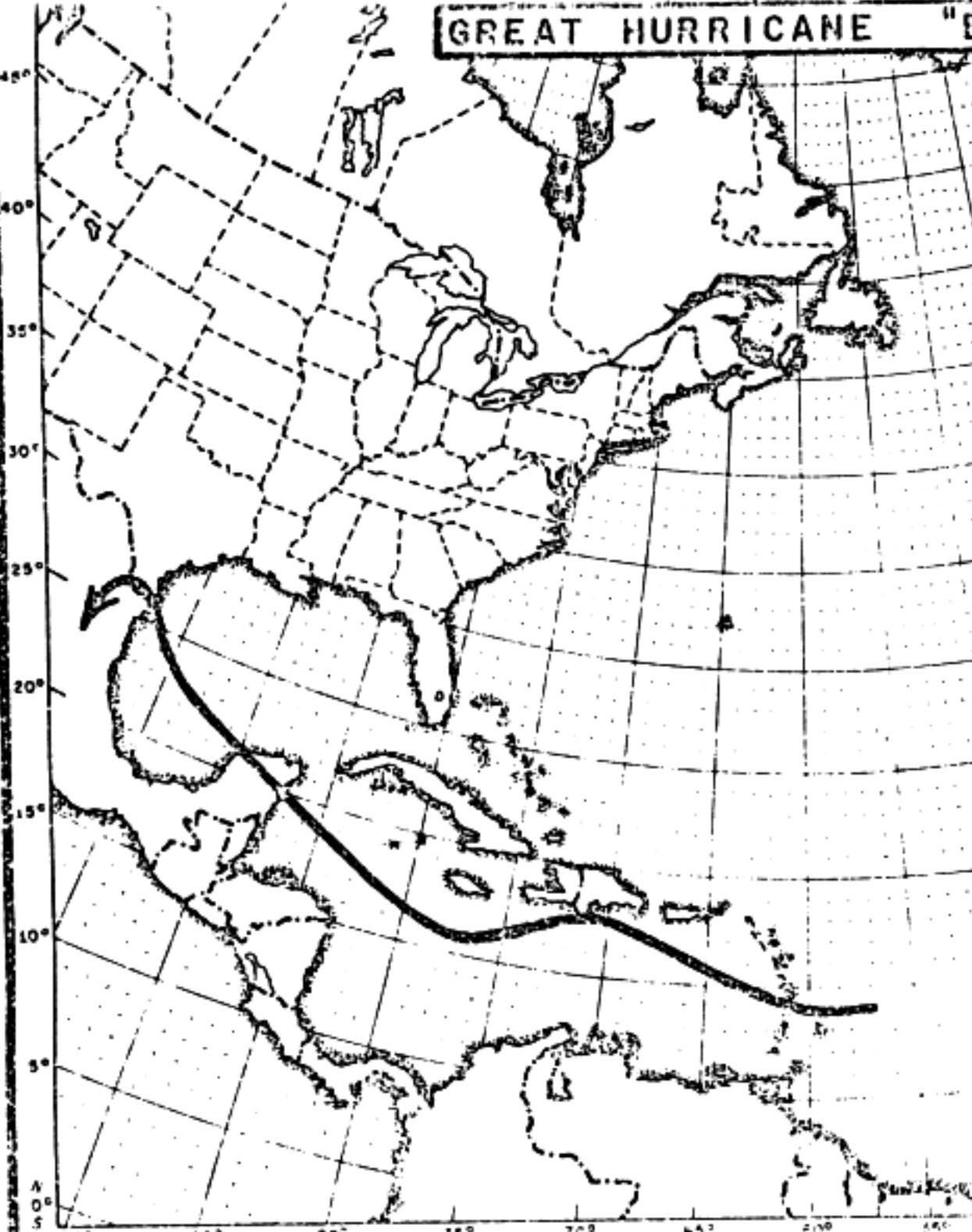
ALS

HURRICANE BEULAH SEPTEMBER, 1967 OFFICIAL TRACK

DATE	TIME (Z)	LAT.	LONG.	PRES.(MBS)	INT.	DATE	TIME	LAT.	LONG.	PRES.	INT.
05	12	14.0	57.0		T D	16	00	18.7	83.7		
05	18	13.9	57.8	1010	T D	16	06	19.2	84.4	970	H
06	00	13.8	58.5		T D	16	12	19.6	85.1	964	H
06	06	13.7	59.3		T D	16	18	19.9	85.6		H
06	12	13.6	60.0		T D	17	00	20.2	86.2		H
06	18	13.6	60.2		T D	17	06	20.6	87.2		H
07	00	13.7	60.5		T S	17	12	21.0	88.5		H
07	06	13.8	60.7		T S	17	18	21.2	89.4		H
07	12	13.9	60.8		T S	18	00	21.5	90.6	977	H
07	18	14.0	61.1	1006	T S	18	06	21.6	91.8		H
08	00	14.2	61.5		T S	18	12	21.8	92.7	970	H
08	06	14.4	61.9		T S	18	18	22.1	93.7		H
08	12	14.5	62.2	996	T S	19	00	22.4	94.2		H
08	18	14.7	62.9	989	H	19	06	22.8	94.8	949	H
09	00	15.0	63.7		H	19	12	23.5	95.7		H
09	06	15.3	64.4		H	19	18	23.9	96.0		H
09	12	15.8	65.1		H	20	00	24.2	96.2	923	H
09	18	16.3	66.1		H	20	06	25.1	96.8		H
10	00	16.8	66.7	940	H	20	12	25.9	97.2		H
10	06	17.3	67.6		H	20	18	26.4	97.7		H
10	12	17.5	68.2		H	21	00	27.3	98.1		H
10	18	17.6	69.0	951	H	21	06	27.7	98.4		H
11	00	17.7	69.9		H	21	12	27.7	98.7		T S
11	06	17.7	70.8		H	21	18	27.3 ²	99.0 ²		T S
11	12	17.7	71.5		H	22	00	26.7	99.5		T S
11	18	17.6	72.6	978	H	22	06	26.5	99.7		T S
12	00	17.6	73.3		H	22	12	26.1	100.0		T D
12	06	17.5	74.1		H	22	18	25.8	100.3		T D
12	12	17.3	75.1	1000	T S						
12	18	16.5	76.2	998	T S						
13	00	16.2	76.8	1004	T S						
13	06	16.0	77.3		T S						
13	12	15.8	77.8	996	T S						
13	18	15.8	78.1		T S						
14	00	15.9	78.5	996	T S						
14	06	16.0	79.0		T S						
14	12	16.3	79.5	991	H						
14	18	16.8	80.1	989	H						
15	00	17.3	81.0		H						
15	06	17.6	81.6		H						
15	12	18.0	82.4	980	H						
15	18	18.5	83.3		H						

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GREAT HURRICANE "BEULAH" SEPT. 5-22, 1967



ALL IN TEXAS

TIDES (FEET):

1. 18 (est.) Padre Island
2. 12.0 South port Isabel
3. 7.4 Rockport
4. 7.0 Corpus Christi

WINDS (MPH):

1. 136 S.S. Shirley Lykes
2. 115 (est.) gusts to 120 Raymondville
3. 90 (est.) gusts to 103 Kingsville
4. 85 (est.) gusts to 104 Edinburg
5. 70 (est.) gusts to 102 Pharr
6. 95 (est.) gusts to 100 Sebastian
7. 85 (est.) gusts to 100 Premont

PRESSURE (INCHES):

1. 27.98 Pharr
 2. 28.07 Brownsville
 3. 28.12 Raymondville
 4. 28.82 Premont
 5. 28.91 San Antonio
 6. 28.94 Bishop
- (27.20 by aircraft just southeast of Brownsville)

15 lives were lost
Damage was \$200,000,000 in United States

NORTH ATLANTIC TROPICAL STORMS ORIGINATING IN THE PERIOD 1967

NUMBER	NAME	DATE
1 (H)	ARLENE	AUG 28-SEPT 04
2 (H)	BEULAH	SEPT 05-22
3 (H)	CHLOE	SEPT 05-21
4 (H)	DORIA	SEPT 07-19
5 (T)	EDITH	SEPT 26-OCT 01
6 (H)	FERN	OCT. 01-04
7 (T)	GINGER	OCT. 05-08
8 (H)	HEIDI	OCT. 19-NOV 01

(T) TROPICAL STORM; (H) HURRICANE

○ Tropical Depression (development) stage
 ○ Tropical storm stage
 ○ Hurricane stage
 ○ Post-tropical stage
 ○ Tropical Depression (development) stage
 ○ Post-tropical stage at 7:00 a.m. EST
 ○ Post-tropical stage at 7:00 p.m. EST

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
NORTH ATLANTIC HURRICANE TRACKING CHART**

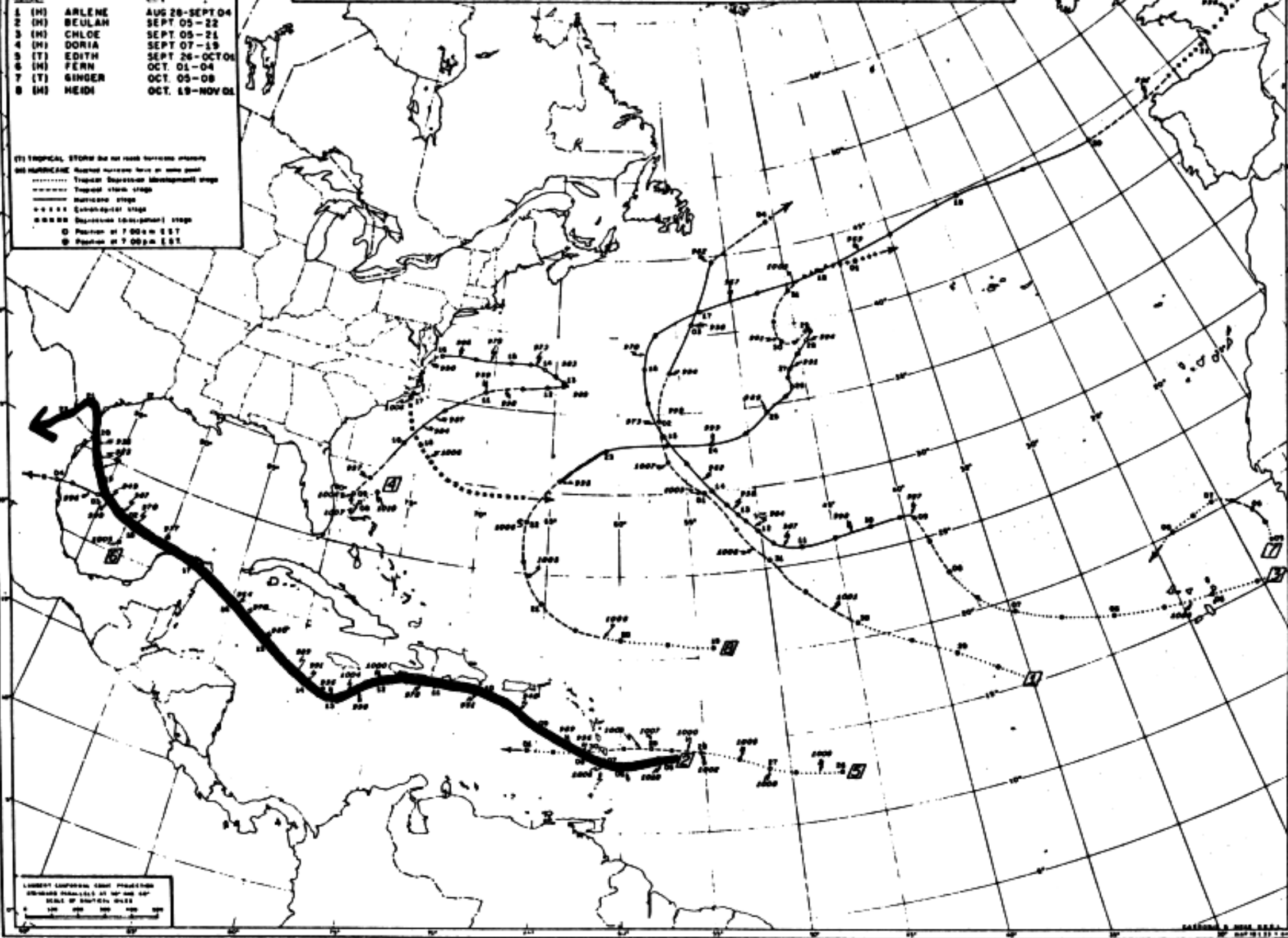


FIGURE 2.—Tracks of named hurricanes and tropical storms, North Atlantic, 1967.