

PRELIMINARY REPORT
TROPICAL STORM BRET
18-24 AUGUST 1987

A well-organized tropical disturbance moved off the northwest African coast on 17 August and was classified by satellite to be the fifth tropical depression of the 1987 hurricane season early the next day. Later that same day a ship, the S.S. COLUMBUS CANTERRURY, reported 35-knot winds and 1004.5 mb pressure just west of the Cape Verde Islands. This observation and satellite classification were the bases for upgrading the depression to Tropical Storm Bret on the afternoon of 18 August.

Bret moved on a westerly course at 15 to 20 knots through 20 August and reached maximum strength, based on satellite interpretation, on the 20th with winds estimated to be 45 knots and lowest pressure 1000 mb.

The ridge of high pressure over the eastern North Atlantic Ocean north of the storm began to weaken and drift eastward after the 20th. During the period 21-23 August, the forward speed of Bret slowed to 10 to 15 knots, and the storm gradually assumed a more northwesterly course. It also began to encounter upper-level shearing from a 200 mb trough downstream, causing it to be downgraded to a tropical depression the afternoon of 22 August. By the morning of 24 August satellite pictures showed there was no low-level circulation evident so that the depression was reduced to a tropical wave. The wave was absorbed by a developing trough of low pressure from higher latitudes in the mid Atlantic during the following few days.

Final edition
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GBC

TABLE 1. Preliminary Best Track - Tropical Storm Bret, 18 to 24 August 1987.

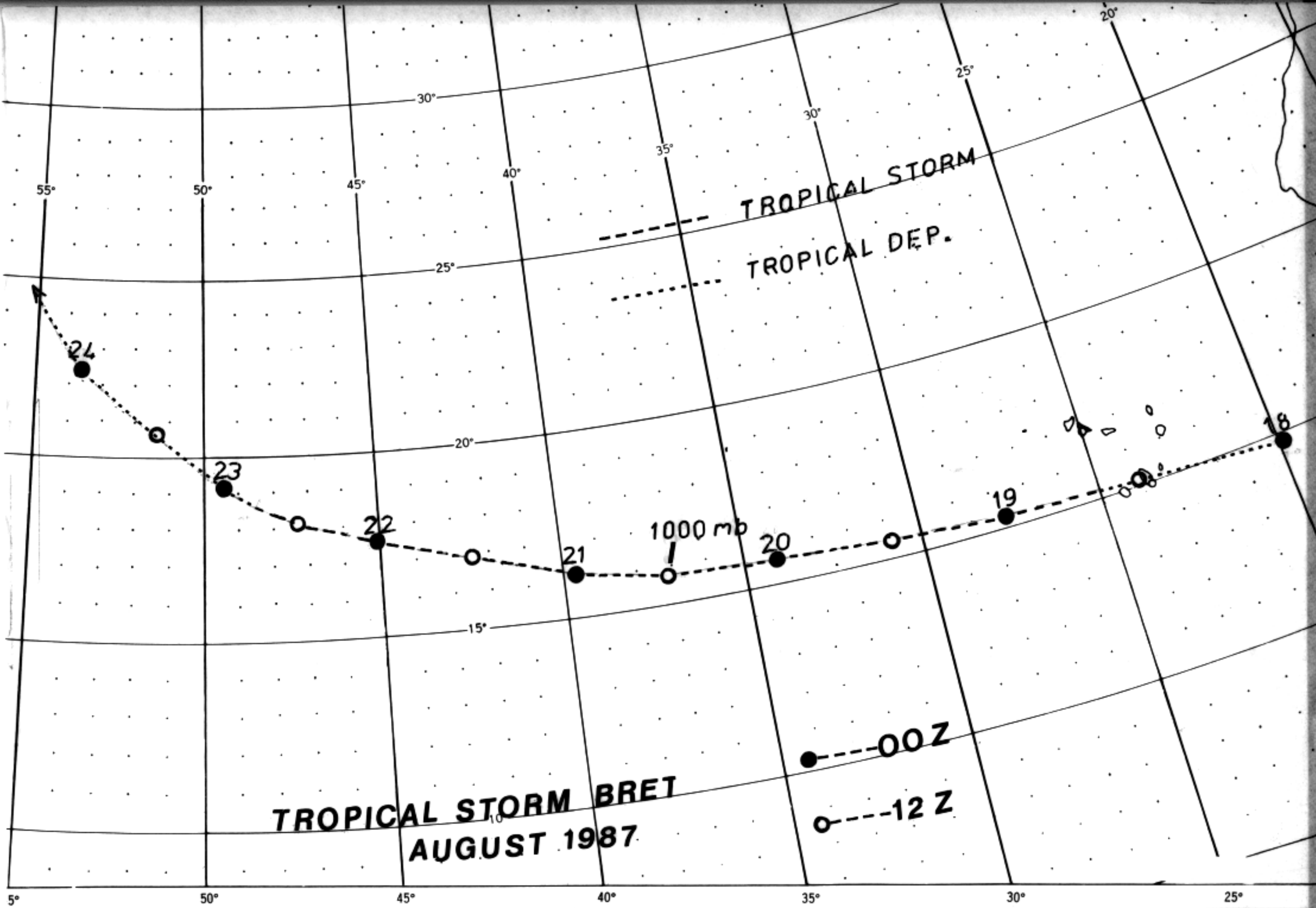
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME (GMT)</u>	<u>POSITION</u>		<u>PRESSURE (MB)</u>	<u>WIND (KT)</u>	<u>STAGE</u>	
		<u>LATITUDE</u>	<u>LONGITUDE</u>				
8/18	0000	14.8	20.0	1011	25	Trop. Depression	
"	0600	14.9	22.0	1010	25	"	"
"	1200	15.0	24.0	1008	30	"	"
"	1800	15.1	26.0	1004	35	Trop.	Storm
8/19	0000	15.2	27.9	1004	35	"	"
"	0600	15.3	29.5	1004	35	"	"
"	1200	15.4	31.0	1004	35	"	"
"	1800	15.5	32.4	1002	40	"	"
8/20	0000	15.6	34.0	1002	40	"	"
"	0600	15.7	35.5	1000	45	"	"
"	1200	15.8	37.0	1000	45	"	"
"	1800	15.9	38.4	1000	45	"	"
8/21	0000	16.0	39.8	1002	40	"	"
"	0600	16.4	41.0	1002	40	"	"
"	1200	16.9	42.5	1005	35	"	"
"	1800	17.1	43.9	1005	35	"	"
8/22	0000	17.5	45.0	1005	35	"	"
"	0600	17.8	46.1	1005	35	"	"
"	1200	18.1	47.2	1007	35	"	"
"	1800	18.4	48.3	1009	30	Trop. Depression	

TABLE 1. (con't)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u> (GMT)	<u>POSITION</u>		<u>PRESSURE</u> (MB)	<u>WIND</u> (KT)	<u>STAGE</u>
		<u>LATITUDE</u>	<u>LONGITUDE</u>			
8/23	0000	19.0	49.4	1009	30	Trop. Depression
"	0600	19.8	50.3	1009	30	" "
"	1200	20.5	51.3	1011	25	" "
"	1800	21.4	52.5	1011	25	" "
8/24	0000	22.2	53.8	1011	25	" "
"	0600	23.8	54.5	1011	25	" "
"	1200					Trop. Wave

Minimum sea level pressure estimated from satellite data:

8/20	1200	15.8	37.0	1000	45	Trop. Storm
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TROPICAL STORM BRET
AUGUST 1987

TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEP.

1000 mb

00Z

12Z

24

23

22

21

20

19

18

55°

50°

45°

40°

30°

35°

30°

25°

20°

25°

20°

15°

5°

50°

45°

40°

35°

30°

25°

