

Cyclone tropical

7 juillet 1811

Passage sur les Petites Antilles

Dossier rédigé par

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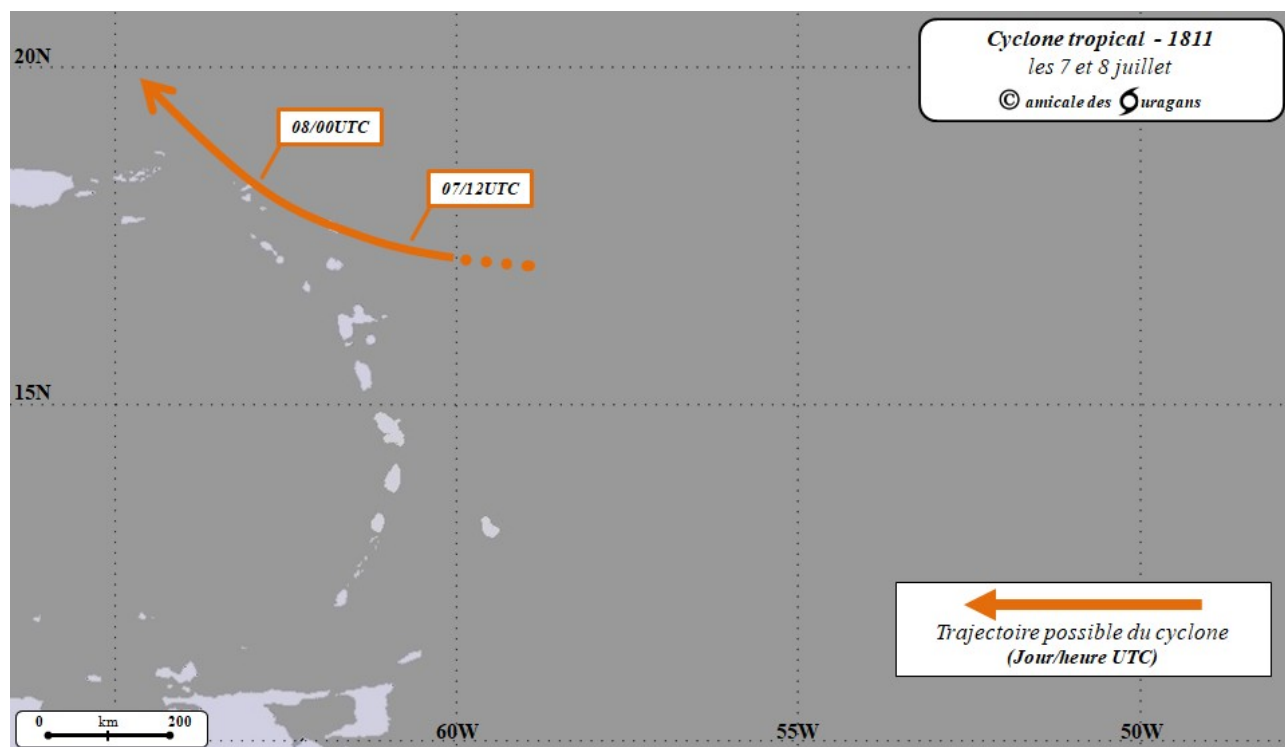
Informations concernant le cyclone et ses effets sur les îles des Petites Antilles

L'étude de la presse locale et internationale nous a permis de mettre en évidence le passage d'un cyclone tropical à proximité immédiate des territoires les plus septentrionaux des Petites Antilles au cours de la journée du 7 juillet 1811, qui selon toute vraisemblance proviendrait de l'Atlantique tropical, et aurait approché les îles de Barbuda et d'Anguilla, avant de remonter vers le nord (compte-tenu de l'absence de conditions cycloniques relatives sur les Îles Vierges ou le sud des Bahamas).

Sur **Saint-Barthélemy** et **Saint-Martin**, les vents de secteur Nord ont commencé à souffler dès la matinée du 7, et se sont renforcés notablement, devenant alors « furieux » à la mi-journée, et venant du Nord-ouest. Ces vents ont ensuite tourné à l'Ouest, puis au Sud vers minuit en s'apaisant. Ces indications témoignent d'un passage du cœur cyclonique à l'est puis au nord immédiat de ces îles. Il fut signalé quelques dégâts aux habitations, mais c'est surtout les secteurs agricoles et maritimes qui auraient souffert. Il n'y a pas eu de victime signalée (cf [ANNEXE 1](#)).

Sur l'île d'**Antigua**, près d'une trentaine de navires auraient coulé, mais il n'est pas fait état de dégâts dans les terres (cf [ANNEXE 2](#)).

À **Saint-Kitts**, il est également rapporté des bateaux échoués, dont le « *Sussex* », réduit en pièces, et dont le **capitaine est mort par noyade** (cf [ANNEXE 3](#)). À **Nevis**, un bateau se serait aussi échoué.



Trajectoire possible du centre du cyclone les 7 et 8 juillet 1811

Annexes diverses

ANNEXE 1 ([retour au texte](#)) : Extraits d'une lettre provenant de Saint-Barthélemy et publiée dans le journal américain « *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald* » du 26 juillet 1811

From the St. Bartholomew paper.

(Received at the Herald Office.)

TERRIBLE HURRICANE !!

GUSTAVIA, July 13.

On Sunday last the 7th inst. (when we counted on 18 d.ys more of security) we were visited by one of those scourges of the elements, which have been so often and so severely felt. It began about 7 o'clock in the morning to blow very fresh from N. N. E. increasing as it came round further north. At N. it blew from 9 to 11, very hard, but not without some appearance that it would moderate at noon, which it indeed seemed to do; but after 12 o'clk. the wind got to the westward of north, and continued going westward, until it reached to N. W. from thence it raged with dreadful fury (inclining further westward) until midnight, when it suddenly shifted to the southward and eastward, and then abated.

The damage done to the shore was not so material as was apprehended.— Several wharves were injured, and four of them entirely swept away by the sea, and the force of vessels driven against them. No houses were blown down— but one of Mr. Winfield's stores 'was unroofed, and one of Mr. Harvey's next to it, was removed out of its place, and very much shattered.

The cultivation of the interior has suffered, and the toil and industry of the husbandman fell equal victims to the relentless violence of the wind.

The damages done, and loss sustained on this melancholy occasion, are estimated at one hundred and sixty thousand dollars. We learn that the cultivation at St. Martin's has suffered materially, and that several roofs were blown away. Nothing heard from any of the other islands.

ANNEXE 2 ([retour au texte](#)) : Extrait du journal « *The Barbados Mercury and Bridge-town Gazette* » du 16 juillet 1811

We learn from the Leeward Islands, that they have lately experienced very tempestuous weather, and much damage has been sustained, particularly at St. John's, Antigua, where it commenced on the 7th inst. at about eight o'clock in the morning, and continued with unremitting violence until five in the afternoon, during which His Majesty's brig Guachupin (employed as a guard-vessel); a merchant ship, the St. Andrew, with a full cargo; and about twenty-five sail of droghing vessels and smaller craft, were lost.

ANNEXE 3 (*retour au texte*) : Extrait du journal « *The Barbados Mercury and Bridge-town Gazette* » du 27 juillet 1811

In the tempestuous weather lately experienced to Leeward, and on the same day as at Antigua, much damage was done at St. Kitt's, a number of vessels were driven a shore, among the most valuable of which was the ship Susser, Capt. Bayley, having between two and three hundred hogsheads of sugar on board; she has since gone to pieces, and we lament to state, that in his efforts to reach the shore from the wreck, her Commander was unfortunately drowned. At Nevis the ship Rachael, Capt. Power, was also stranded.

Bibliographie – Sources de données

Par ordre de référence dans le rapport

- Journal *Norfolk and Portsmouth Herald* (Virginie - États-Unis), édition du 26/07/1811.
- Journal *The Barbados Mercury and Bridge-town Gazette* (Barbade), édition du 16/07/1811, en ligne sur dloc.com / Digital Library of the Caribbean.
URL : <https://www.dloc.com/fr/AA00047511/00721>
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- Journal *The Barbados Mercury and Bridge-town Gazette* (Barbade), édition du 27/07/1811, en ligne sur dloc.com / Digital Library of the Caribbean.
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