

HURRICANE BAKER 1950 Report

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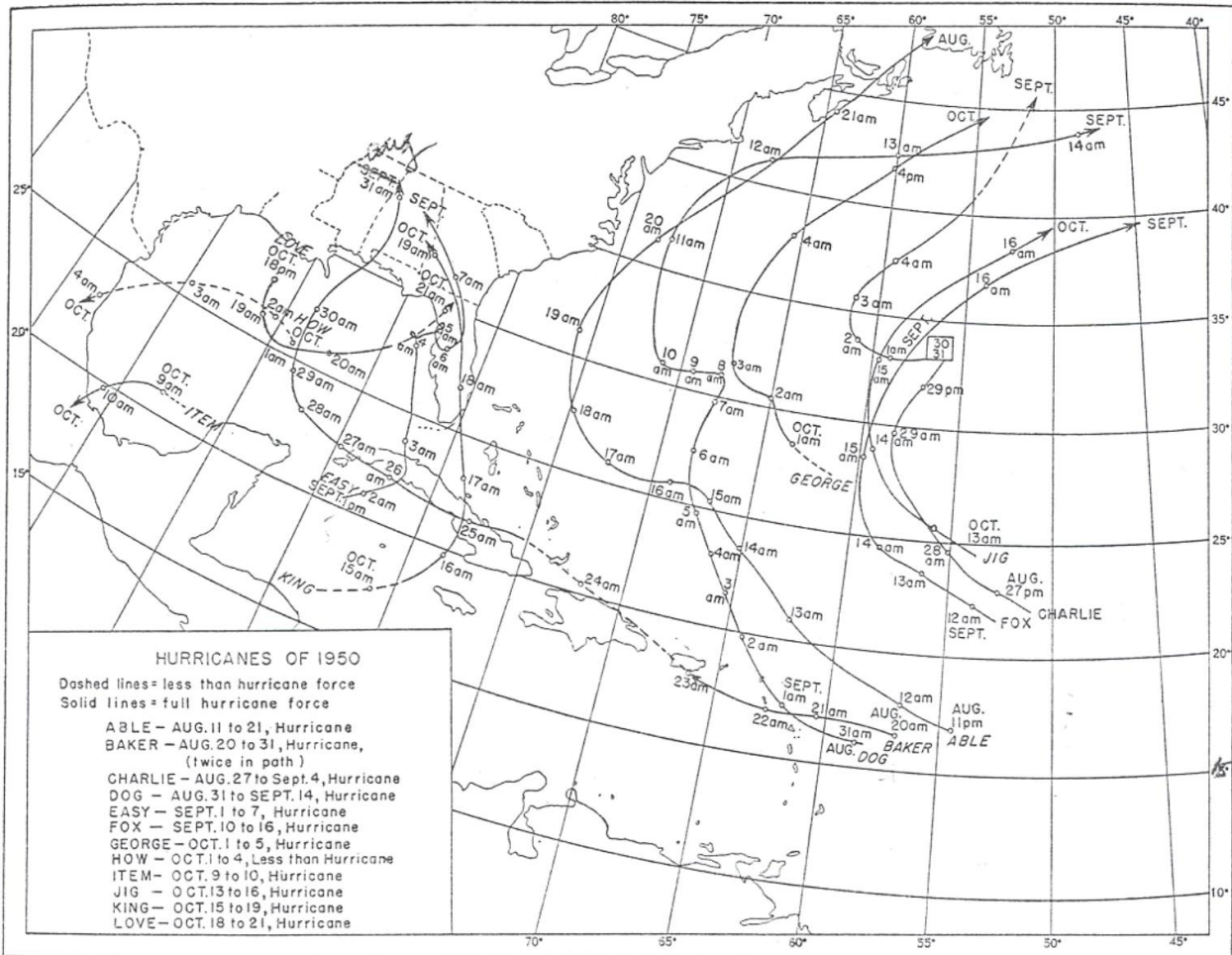


FIGURE 1.—Tracks of the Atlantic hurricanes and tropical storms of 1950 named alphabetically in chronological order. Points on the paths are identified by date and time (a. m. or p. m.) of observation.

Baker—August 20–31. This hurricane appeared east of the Leeward Islands on August 20. It passed about over the island of Antigua during the night of the 21st with winds reported at 90 to 120 miles per hour. It progressed slowly west-northwestward losing force, and was only a minor disturbance on the 23d when it reached

Puerto Rico, where strongest winds were 35 to 40 miles per hour. Thereafter, it was in the nature of a squally wave until the evening of the 25th when signs of another developing center were noted off the south Cuban coast. This center developed slowly, moved westward across the western tip of Cuba into the Gulf, made a curve to northward, and increased to hurricane force. Aircraft and ship reports on the afternoon of the 30th estimated strongest winds at about 115 miles per hour some distance south of the Alabama coast. This was the strongest reported in connection with this storm. It lost some force before moving inland during the night of the 30th between Mobile and Pensacola. Winds on the coast were 75 to 85 miles per hour; a total of about \$2,550,000 damage to property and crops resulted from winds and tides in a zone from near Mobile to St. Marks, Fla. There were two tornadoes reported in connection with this hurricane, one of which demolished four dwellings and a store building, and damaged 11 other buildings at Apalachicola. The other tornado occurred in Jackson County, Fla., but only one home was destroyed. Heavy rain and winds resulted in heavy crop damage in southern Alabama and northwest Florida. Gusts of 50 miles per hour were recorded as far inland as Birmingham Airport, and were estimated as high as 75 miles per hour atop adjacent mountains. One person was killed and two injured in Birmingham by fallen live wires.