

HURRICANE FAITH, August 18 - September 12, 1966

(Preliminary Report)

As indicated on the attached chart, Faith maintained hurricane intensity for a period of at least 13 days while traveling a circuitous route around the southern, western, and northern periphery of the North Atlantic Ocean. With the advantages of hindsight she can be tracked in embryonic form from a position over Africa, near 8 North 5 West, on August 18, 1966. At that time she appeared as only a poorly defined depression in the surface pressure field and a circular mass of cloud in a Tiros IX photograph.

From that early position over Africa she moved westward at a relatively uniform rate of 15 to 20 knots for a period of nearly 8 days. During that period she gradually increased in strength, reaching tropical storm intensity on August 22 and hurricane intensity on August 23. After reaching hurricane intensity her maximum winds remained relatively constant near 75 knots until she reached a position north of the Dominican Republic on August 27. She then made a turn to a north-northwesterly course, slowed to a forward speed of about 5 knots, and intensified rapidly.

She held this new course, with relatively constant forward speed and intensity for three days, then made a second sharp turn to the right -- taking up a northeasterly heading. On September 2 Faith turned gradually eastward and on the 3rd her track curved gently toward the northeast. Her forward rate of movement increased gradually to 30 knots on the 3rd and to 40 knots on the 4th, then remained nearly constant until September 8; by which time she was centered near Arkhangelsk, U.S.S.R. On September 6

FAITH was officially declared extratropical and downgraded from hurricane status. She passed over the Faeroe Islands that day, and moved inland near Nordoyan, Norway on the 7th. Continuing as a deep low pressure center, she moved eastward across northern Norway, Sweden and Finland, then turned northward to cross Novaya Zemlya. By September 12 she had become nearly stationary as a 980 mb. LOW centered over Franz Josef Land, near 81.0 North 60.0 East. Positions subsequent to September 5 have been estimated from the small scale northern hemisphere weather maps received by facsimile from NWAC and are considered only rough approximations.

Hurricane Faith's nearest approach to land, prior to striking the Faeroe Islands, occurred north of the Leeward Islands on August 26. Her center passed within 25 miles of St. Martin. Gale force winds were experienced in the more northerly of the Leeward and Virgin Islands and along the northern coast of Puerto Rico, but only minor damage has been reported.

One crewman was killed in a fall aboard the ship Alberto Benati while she was disabled and being battered by the hurricane in the western Atlantic. Several other ships are known to have encountered the full force of hurricane Faith in the Atlantic, but no reports of damage or loss of life have been received from them. The Associated Press reported five persons missing after 136 persons were forced to abandon a leaking Norwegian ferryboat off the coast of Denmark, as Faith passed to the north. The extent of property damage or loss of life incurred when Faith struck the Faeroe Islands and the coast of Norway is not known at this time.

YEAR (1966) AIRCRAFT RECONNAISSANCE FIXES STORE NUMBER (GREGA) 8

1 MONTH	2 DTG ZULU	3 ORGANIZ. TYPE FIX	4 EYE POSIT.		5 DESCRIPTION OF CENTER	6 MIN. SL. PRESS.	7 MAX WINDS	8 REMARKS
			LAT	LONG				
SEPTEMBER								
	02/2200Z	NAVY INVEST (wind)	16/30N	53/30N	CLOSED CIRCULAR UNABLE TO FIND CLOSED CIRCULATION	1009.0	30 SPEC 30 KTS	APRNT FEEDER BANDS FORMING EAST SEMICIRCLE WINDS AND CLOUDS INDICATE AN EASTERLY WAVE ORIENTED NNE-SSW
	03/1200Z	AIR FORCE INVEST (TEMP)	16.2N	55.2N		1013.0	30 SPEC 30 KTS	APRNT FEEDER BAND FORMING ALL QUADS WINDS SWG BY BRN CA TOPS 350
	04/1450Z	NAVY INVEST	19/14N	58/22W	CIR D40	1009.0	30 SPEC 30 KTS	MAX WEST WIND 20 KTS
	04/2010Z	(wind Press) AIR FORCE TENT	20/04N	59/29W	REFUSE CIR D25	1008.7	30 SPEC 30 KTS	WAVE CUD 10 IN THICK IN W SEMICIRCLE OPEN EAST SEMICIRCLE FEEDER BANDS EXTEND NW-E RADAR COX FM OUTSIDE THE EYE MARKING 20 C TEMP RISE IN EYE
	05/1800Z	(wind Press) AIR FORCE TENT	21/50N	62/37W	(wind) CUD 300 CIRCULAR D1	1001	30 SPEC 35 KTS	UNTR OPEN EAST AND SOUTHWEST 40 C TEMP RISE IN CNTR
	05/2300Z	Presses West of NAVY TENT (wind in sea breeze)	22/17N	63/28W	CIRCULAR (wind)	1009	30 SPEC 30 KTS	NO RADAR CNTR SINGLE FEEDER BAND FM WAVE CNTR TO USN 150E & 215E 2. OF CNTR
	06/0600Z	NAVY RADAR NAVY RADAR NAVY RADAR NAVY RADAR	22/24N	63/37W		1009	30 SPEC 30 KTS	MAX TOPS 300 NW QUAD c/o center 340 18K from wind center
	06/0615	NAVY RADAR (wind)	22.50N	65.28W	FAIRLY 1X D EYE HOLE IN RADAR	1009	30 SPEC 30 KTS	23KT SW-3/78 -
	06/1150Z	REF TENT (wind)	23/15N	66/25W	CIR	1011	30 SPEC 30 KTS	WAVE CUD PURELY DRENED
	06/1400Z	REF TENT	23/17N	67/06W	RADAR 15NM	1011	30 SPEC 30 KTS	EYE NORMAL AND RAGGED ON RADAR SL TOP 450
	06/1835Z	REF RDR	24/56N	68/42W		1011	30 SPEC 30 KTS	WAVE CUD PRESS & TEMP CONSPIRACY FLAT
	06/1900Z	REF TENT	25/01	68/19	ERRIGULAR	1011	30 SPEC 30 KTS	
	100-9/22/64							