

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER
P. O. BOX 8286
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33124

25 August 1970

Mr. Pierce S. Rosenberg
RCA, AUTECH Environmental Science Section

Through
Captain W. P. Rochamel, Commanding Officer
Atlantic Underseas Test and Evaluation Center
3800 Southern Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Dear Mr. Rosenberg:

I have your report of the September 22-October 4, 1929 hurricane and have just gotten around to reading and checking all of the information and details which it contains.

We are in agreement that the official track as depicted by Technical Paper No. 55, Tropical Cyclones of the North Atlantic Ocean, is in error. The track will be corrected to show that from 27°N and 75°W, the hurricane moved southwestward through the northeast Providence Channel, over Nassau (our lowest barometer reading at Nassau was 27.64 inches), thence over the center of Andros Island, thence to 24°N-80°W with no change thereafter.

We are indebted to you for your excellent report. Some of the data such as the high tide of 12 feet on Andros, the death toll of 25 plus on Andros and the 120 to 140 mph winds in Nassau, were not on our records at the National Hurricane Center.

We are taking action to correct the track and add this additional information to what we have on this important and great hurricane of 1929.

Sincerely,

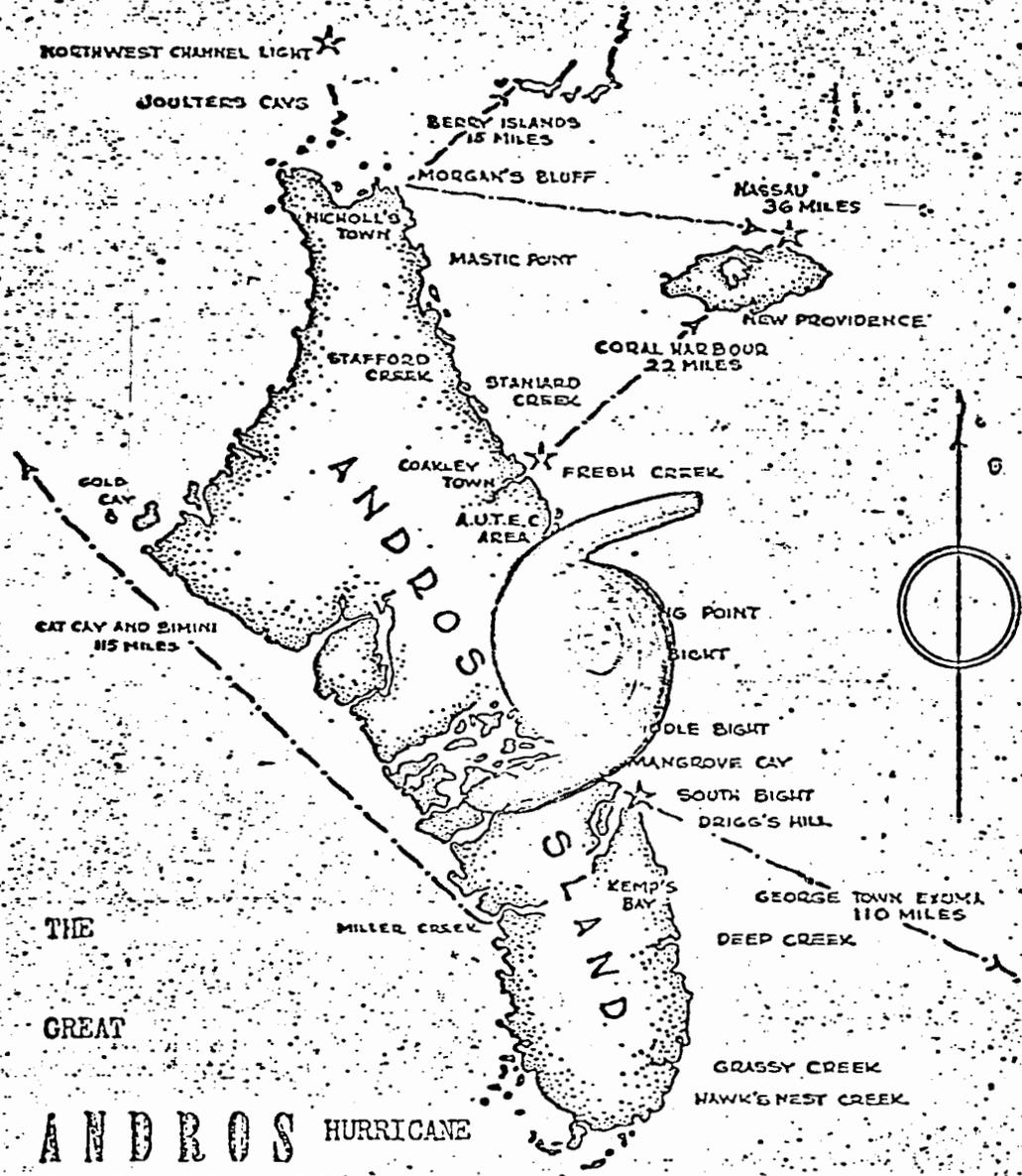
for *A. L. Sugg*
R. H. Simpson
Director

c.c. A. L. Sugg
L. G. Pardue
RF
F
EDS ✓

Rec'd EDS
AUG 28 1970

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1929.

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By Pierce S. Rosenberg /RCA/

AUTEC Environmental Science Section.

SYNOPSIS OF "THE GREAT ANDROS HURRICANE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1929."

In the year of 1929, there were only 3 North Atlantic tropical storms recorded during the hurricane season. All reached hurricane force, and one of them, the second of the season, struck Andros Island, dead center.

This storm was the most destructive of recent record (at least 100 years) for Andros. It completely devastated the island. There was a 12 ft. plus, storm tide and terrific winds from Mangrove Cay south, lesser flooding north.

Hurricane winds and storm tides lasted nearly 48 hours, as the storm slowed in forward speed from ^{*}TOTO to just west of Andros.

The area of hurricane force winds was about 50 miles in diameter during its passage southwestward down the Northeast Providence Channel, and increased to about 100 miles in diameter, as it remained nearly stationary over Andros.

It was first plotted as a tropical storm by the U. S. Weather Bureau on September 22, 1929, near Lat. 23.5 N Long. 65.5 W. It moved westnorthwest at 12-15 mph to Lat. 26.0 N Long. 70.0 W on September 23rd, where it reached hurricane intensity, and continued at the same direction and speed on the 24th, to Lat. 27.0 N Long. 74.0 W. Here blocking action to the north caused it to change course, and move southwest at a slower speed, through the Northeast Providence Channel, to New Providence Island. Its center passed over Nassau at 2030E on September 25th. The dead calm lasted two hours. The Lowest barometer was 27.65 inches.

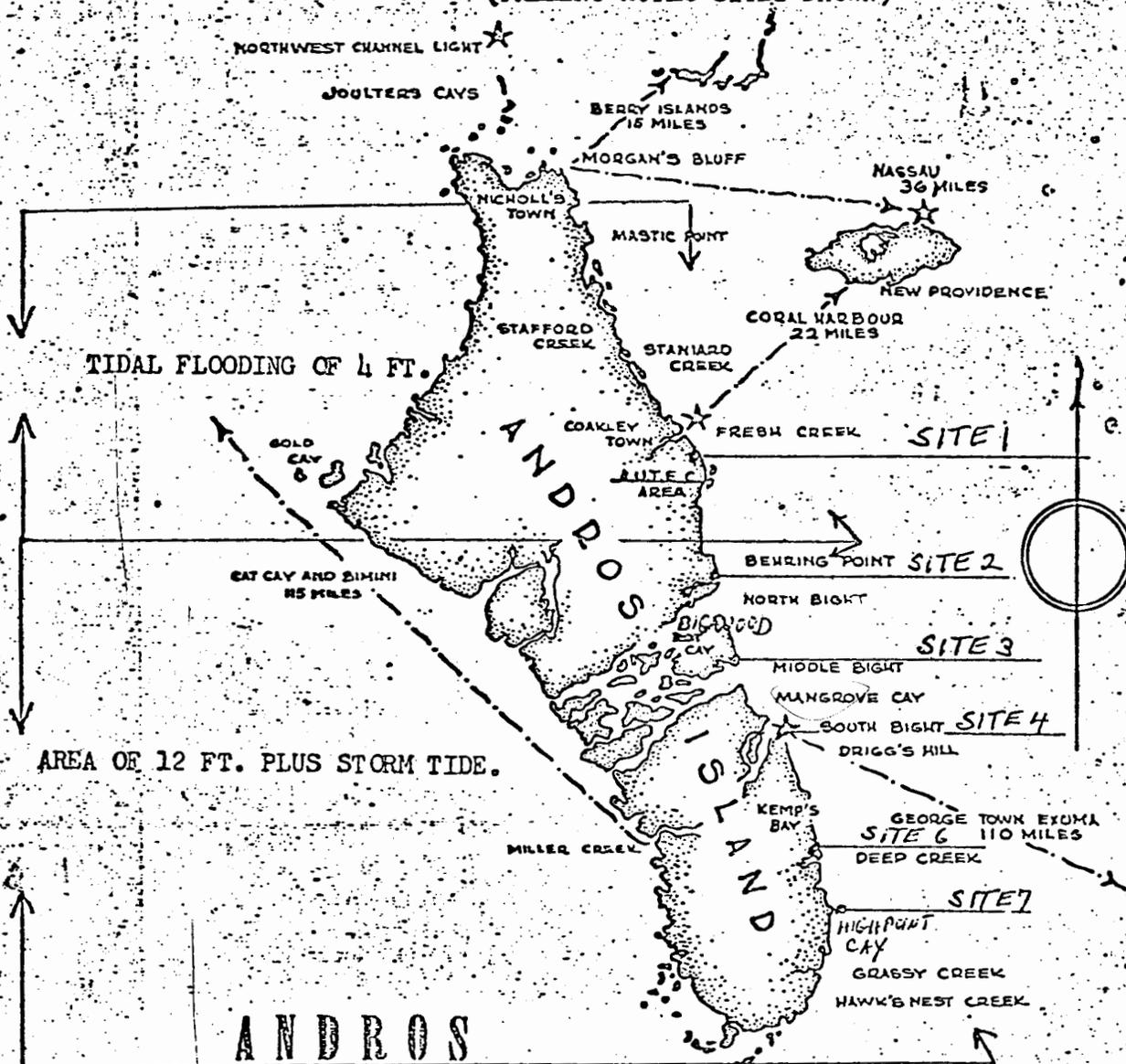
The center then moved over to Andros on the 26th, just south of Fresh Creek, travelling at the rate of 2-3 mph, and this was the reason for the great Havoc wrought.

By the morning of the 27th, it was about 60 miles west of the south tip of Andros and then turned toward the Northwest with rapid acceleration, brushed the Florida Keys on September 28th. It passed inland near Apalachicola, Fla. on the 30th, where it rapidly lost intensity.

It then changed direction toward the northeast and as an extratropical storm, moved rapidly northeastward through the Atlantic Coastal States and dissipated over Eastern Quebec Province on October 4th.

* TOTO = TONGUE OF THE OCEAN

144 THE GREAT ANDROS HURRICANE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1929.
(PRESENT AUTECH SITES SHOWN)



H.O. CHARTS: 5991, 5953, 5956. BAHAMAS CHARTS: F-1, 2, 3, 4.

The island of Andros, at its nearest point only 20 miles west of New Providence, is not only the largest of the Bahamas group, but has a charm all its own. A very large percentage of the island is water; almost all of the creeks, and there are literally dozens of them, have narrow shoal inlets from the sea and then widen into vast areas of shallow water and swamp. Several of them meander tortuously from coast to coast although, with the exception of the "Bights" few of them are navigable without short portages. Some connect with fresh water lakes. North, Middle and South Bights can be followed through, and amongst the archipelago of islands which makes up the two former there is great hunting and fishing. Some of the coastal settlements, such as that at Staniard Creek, are extremely picturesque and it would take no great flight of fancy to imagine yourself transported to a South Pacific atoll.

The greater part of Andros is covered with forests of pine and hard woods, including madeira, a form of mahogany, "horseflesh" and lignum vitae. Bird life too is far more prolific than in the other islands. Amongst the species to be seen are: parrots, pelicans, duck of many kinds and the ubiquitous red-headed crows. Known locally as buzzards these repulsive birds are protected by law on account of their scavenging propensities. Unfortunately insect life is also far more prolific on Andros than the other islands, be prepared with the necessary repellants. Of animal life there is none with the exception of a few wild hog. Those we have seen more closely resemble a collie dog for length of leg and general appearance than a pig. But snout and tail are definitely porcine.

FROM "THE NASSAU GUARDIAN" DATED OCTOBER 9, 1929.

"The Commissioner at Mangrove Cay, Mr. E. W. Forsyth writes:"

"Sixteen vessels and unnumbered open boats ranching at Water Cay have lost all their sponge and many boats have been totally destroyed or seriously damaged.

So far the only casualties reported are the crew of Mr. P. C. Smith's schooner Repeat, which was lost with all hands near Grassy Creek.

At Mangrove Cay, the large sloops Income, Revive, Trial, Record, Sasin, Glittering, and a large vessel under repairs belonging to Mr. W. J. Armaly, have been destroyed. Numerous vessels were damaged, and all that were afloat blew ashore.

Fresh Creek and Stanyard Creek also suffered badly from the storm."

FROM "THE NASSAU GUARDIAN" DATED SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1929.

Data applies to the city of Nassau and New Providence Island.

First advisory from Washington, DC, received Wednesday morning September 25th.

"Disturbance apparently central about Latitude 26 north, Longitude 75 west or about 150 miles northeast of Nassau. Disturbance moving 10mph."

Wind reached gale force by Wednesday noon and hurricane force by Wednesday evening.

Winds continued to increase to an estimated speed of 120-140 mph.

At 830 pm there was a dead calm that lasted 2 hours.

Lowest barometer readings ranged from 27.65 to 27.80.

This was the first recorded hurricane to approach from the northeast.

Other devastating hurricanes occurred in 1866, and 1926.

FROM "THE NASSAU GUARDIAN" DATED SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1929.

"The Commissioner at Mangrove Cay, Mr. E. W. Forsyth writes":-

"I regret exceedingly to report that on September 25, 26, and 27 the most destructive hurricane in the history of this district swept the island. Its extreme duration and sustained violence without precedent in my experience. The whole place appears as though burned with fire and fields once full of promise are naked stripped of all vegetation. The situation is the most serious the island has ever had to face.

A tidal wave at least 12 feet high swept the whole west and south coast, driven by a terrific wind fully 20 miles inland. Little hope is felt for 8 persons missing _____ 15 also missing from Behring Point.

* Fresh Creek felt the hurricane severly on the 25th to the 27th. The lowest barometer reading was 28.70. Before dark, numbers of people were obliged to leave their houses and take shelter with their near neighbours. At midnight the whole place was covered with water, the people crying to be saved. Seventy people took shelter in the Wesleyan Mission House, being fed and cared for by the Rev. Mr. Whitfield and Captain Dingle, his guest. Every room in the house was covered by water, so as many as possible were removed to the school house. By noon over 100 persons were in the school house. About 50 were collected in another house.

The following morning revealed a scene of utter destruction. Stanyard Creek was waste and desolate; 12 houses destroyed every other house damaged badly. Stanyard Creek Bridge which was just completed in May at a cost of over 400 pounds, entirely gone, and the wharf washed away.

Blanket Sound: 13 houses down, all others damaged.

Stafford Creek: wreckage of many strange boats, including the Governor Shea, floated ashore between Blanket Sound and Stafford Creek.

Love Hill and Small Hope: 5 houses down, others badly damaged. All vessels damaged.

Calabash Bay: teachers residence; 2 society halls, and 7 houses flat. Half the roof of the R. C. Church blown off. 22 coffins washed out of the grave yard.

Fresh Creek: 6 houses flat. 10 very badly damaged, part of Rectory down, window and door of lighthouse blown away and lamp smashed. Roof of 2 cells of Gaol blown away. Commissioner's office damaged. Residency and out buildings damaged. Seawall damaged and poles of wireless station down, station out of commission.

* SHOULD READ "STANYARD CREEK"
ERROR BY COMMISSIONER FORSYTH IN WRITING OR TYPING.

Commissioner Forsyth's report continued:-

Behring Point: 12 houses down roads and streets in all settlements damaged. 15 people missing.

Corgill Creek: abandoned due to high water. The street was just like a channel. No idea can be given of the height of the water flowed from the back of the settlement to the front just the hills are out.

Black Point: 3 houses left out of 27. Everything lost.

Only 3 houses are left in Rolltown. The people left their houses for the hills to escape the flood. The public wharf at Deep Creek is gone. Boats were swept over the mainland into the ocean. One 18 miles away."

WRECKAGE OF MANY STRANGE BOATS

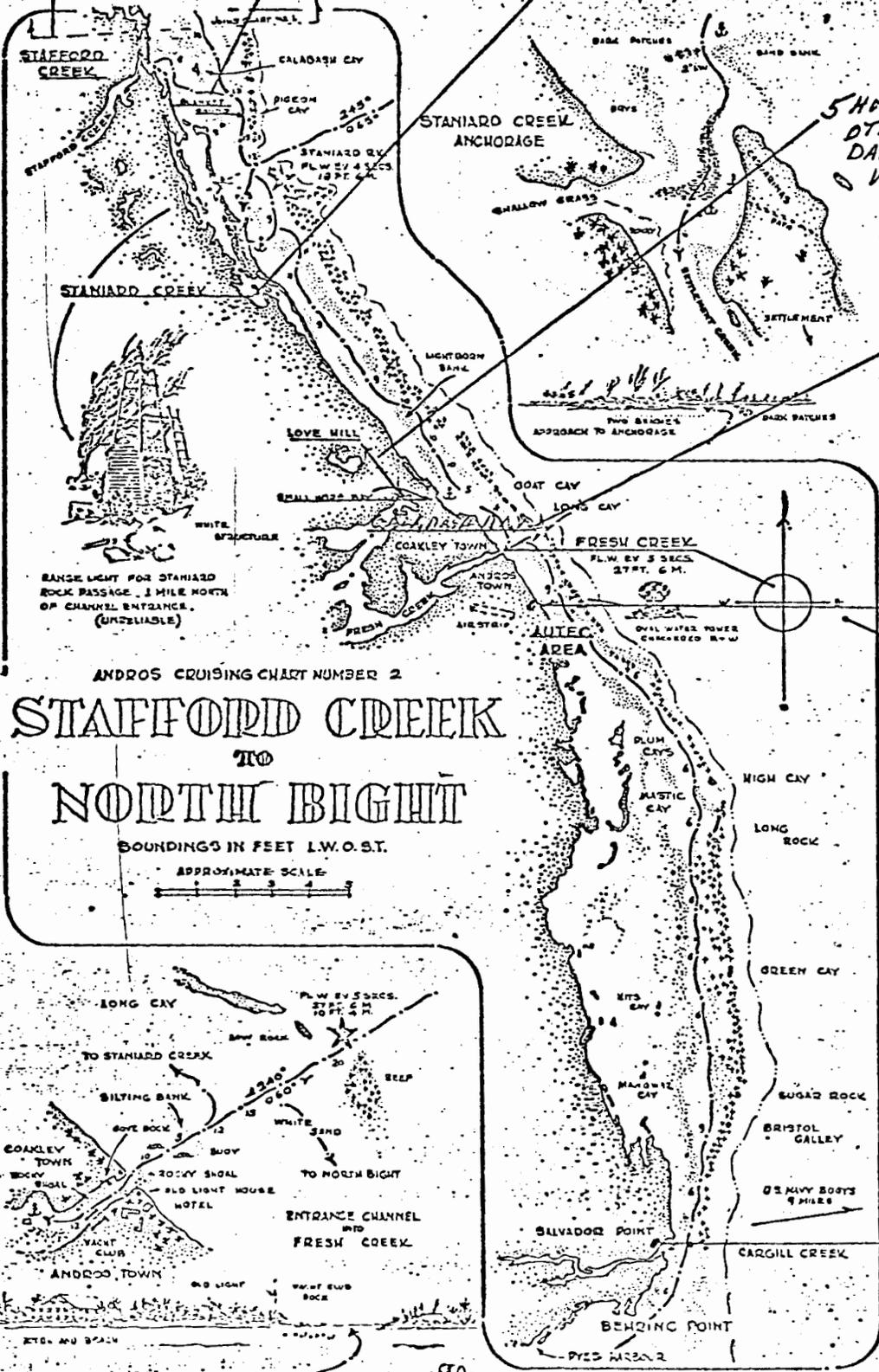
13 HORSES DOWN ALL OTHERS DAMAGED.

12 HOUSES DESTROYED EVERY OTHER HOUSE DAMAGED BADLY, NEW BRIDGE GONE, WHARF WASHED AWAY. 151

5 HOUSES DOWN OTHERS BADLY DAMAGED, ALL VESSELS DAMAGED.

TEACHER'S RESIDENCE, 2 SOCIETY HALLS, AND HOUSES FLAT. R.C. CHURCH ROOF OFF 22 COFFINS WASHED OUT OF GRAVEYARD.

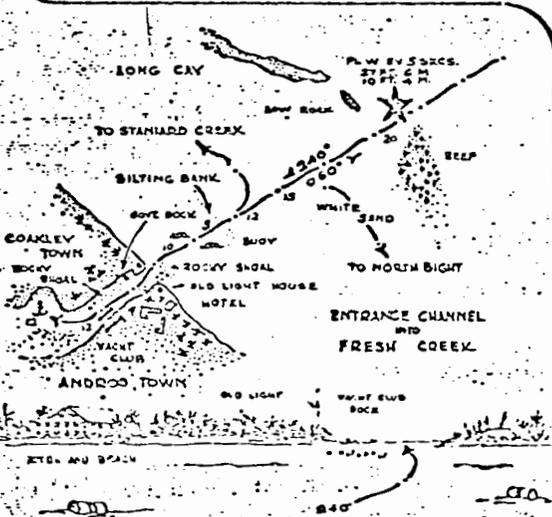
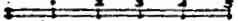
6 HOUSES FLAT 10 BADLY DAMAGED LIGHT HOUSE DAMAGED SEAWALL DAMAGED POLES OF WIRELESS STATION DOWN FLOODED TO AT LEAST 4 FT.



STAFFORD CREEK TO NORTH BIGHT

BOUNTINGS IN FEET L.W.O.S.T.

APPROXIMATE SCALE



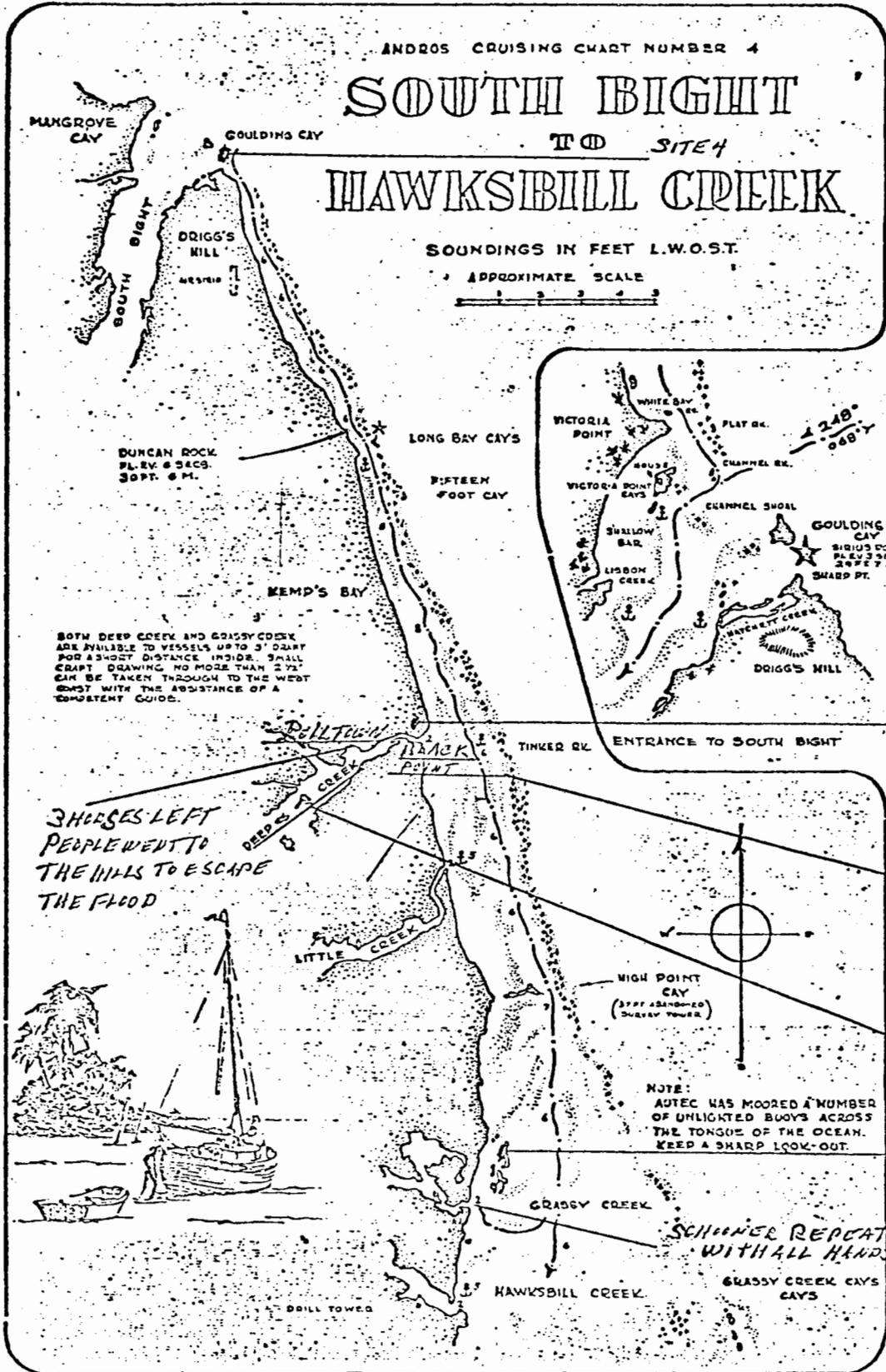
PRESENT AUTEC SITES SHOWN.

ANDROS CRUISING CHART NUMBER 4

SOUTH BIGHT TO SITE 4 HAWKSBILL CREEK

SOUNDINGS IN FEET L.W.O.S.T.

APPROXIMATE SCALE



BOTH DEEP CREEK AND GRASSY CREEK ARE AVAILABLE TO VESSELS UP TO 3' DRAFT FOR A SHORT DISTANCE INSIDE. SMALL CRAFT DRAWING NO MORE THAN 2 1/2' CAN BE TAKEN THROUGH TO THE WEST BAY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A COMPETENT GUIDE.

NOTE:
AUTEC WAS MOORED A NUMBER OF UNLIGHTED BUOYS ACROSS THE TONGUE OF THE OCEAN. KEEP A SHARP LOOK-OUT.

PRESENT AUTEC SITES SHOWN.

FROM "THE NASSAU GUARDIAN" DATED SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1929.

"THE HURRICANE AT ANDROS"

"I am trying to describe to you the recent hurricane that passed over this island. The hurricane started on Wednesday at 5am, and did a lot of damage.

On Wednesday, the 25th, the Commissioner, Mr. Forsyth sent down to let us know that the barometer was falling. We tried to secure our houses as best we could and after doing so we waited to see what would happen.

Then about 10am, the wind shifted, and the water started to come, it came until it was knee deep in our house before we decided to leave. Luckily we had a canoe which was saved for a wise purpose and we thought to get to the hills before worse came, fearing that the house might have been washed away, and all would have perished, but thank God we did not. There are many fallen houses here and further south of Andros. One settlement in Deep Creek, Black Point, was swept away leaving 3 houses standing.

During the storm the Roman Catholic church fell with over 100 people inside, all escaped any injuries except one man who could not get out in time. He was found later by the Catholic Priest buried under the ruins, but still alive.

The water rose to the hills and in some places was 20 feet deep.

Mr. Moncur the school teacher was on the beach helping to secure boats etc and when he started for home, he had to swim to the hills.

Mr. P. Cavill was at Steamer Cay and it seems that his boat scudded from the cay and he eventually came to the western part of Deep Creek in the Pine Yard. He was without food for 6 days. At last providence sent a crab to his rescue which he caught and ate at once, not being able even to roast it. He told me that it was the sweetest thing he had ever tasted in his life.

Ten persons were down in Southern Bight for their fields and as far as we can judge they were drowned by the rush of water from the west side.

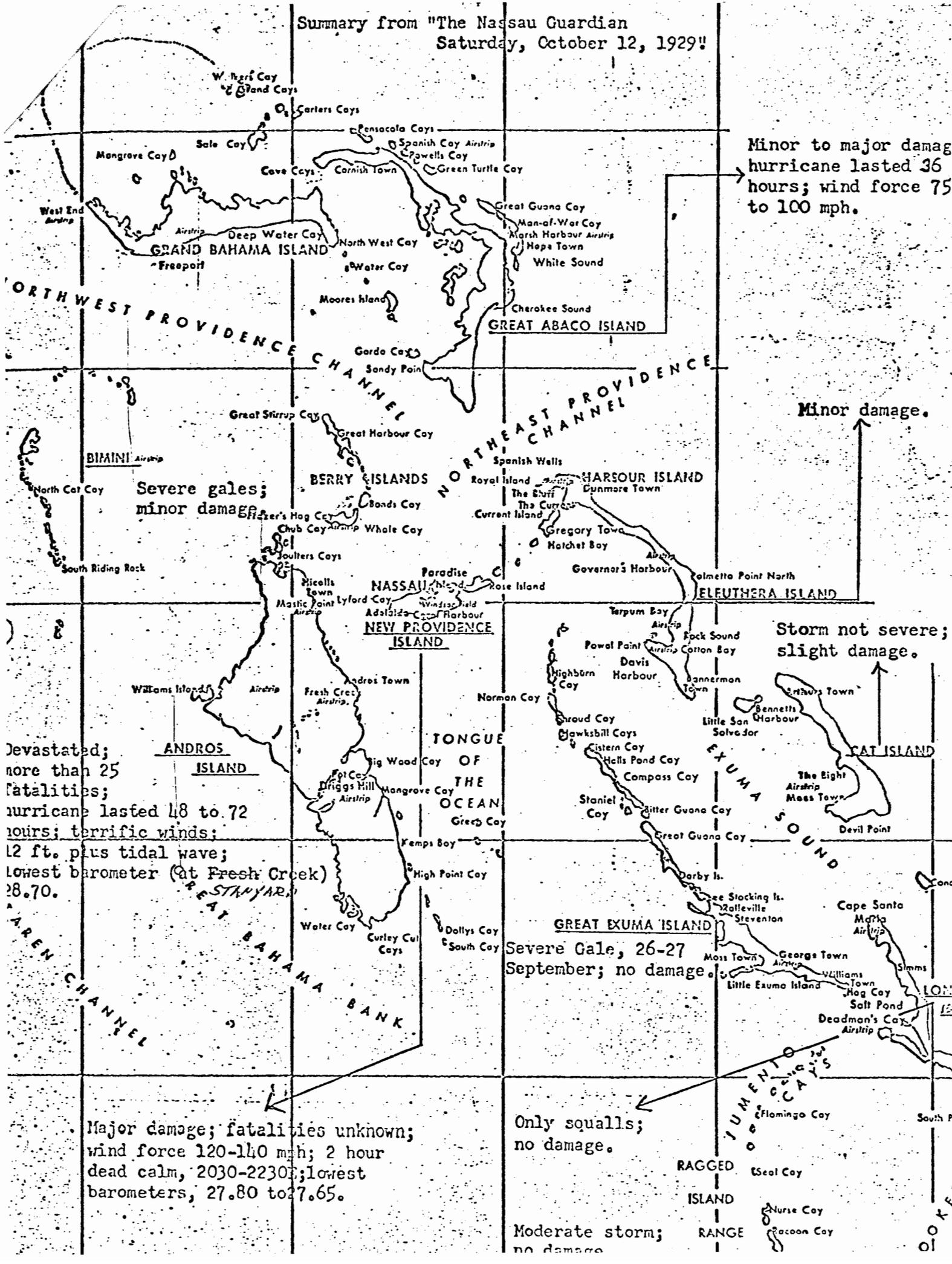
After the storm, the Commissioner went around to examine the damage and also to engage seed for planting. He was able to get about 6 bushels of indian corn and 5 bushels of peas from my mother to distribute to the people.

(signed)

Lec. Bowe.

Mangrove Cay,
Andros
12th Oct. 1929"

Summary from "The Nassau Guardian
Saturday, October 12, 1929!"



Devastated;
more than 25
fatalities;
hurricane lasted 48 to 72
hours; terrific winds;
12 ft. plus tidal wave;
lowest barometer (at Fresh Creek)
28.70.

Major damage; fatalities unknown;
wind force 120-140 mph; 2 hour
dead calm, 2030-2230; lowest
barometers, 27.80 to 27.65.

Severe Gale, 26-27
September; no damage.

Only squalls;
no damage.

Moderate storm;
no damage.

Minor to major damage
hurricane lasted 36
hours; wind force 75
to 100 mph.

Minor damage.

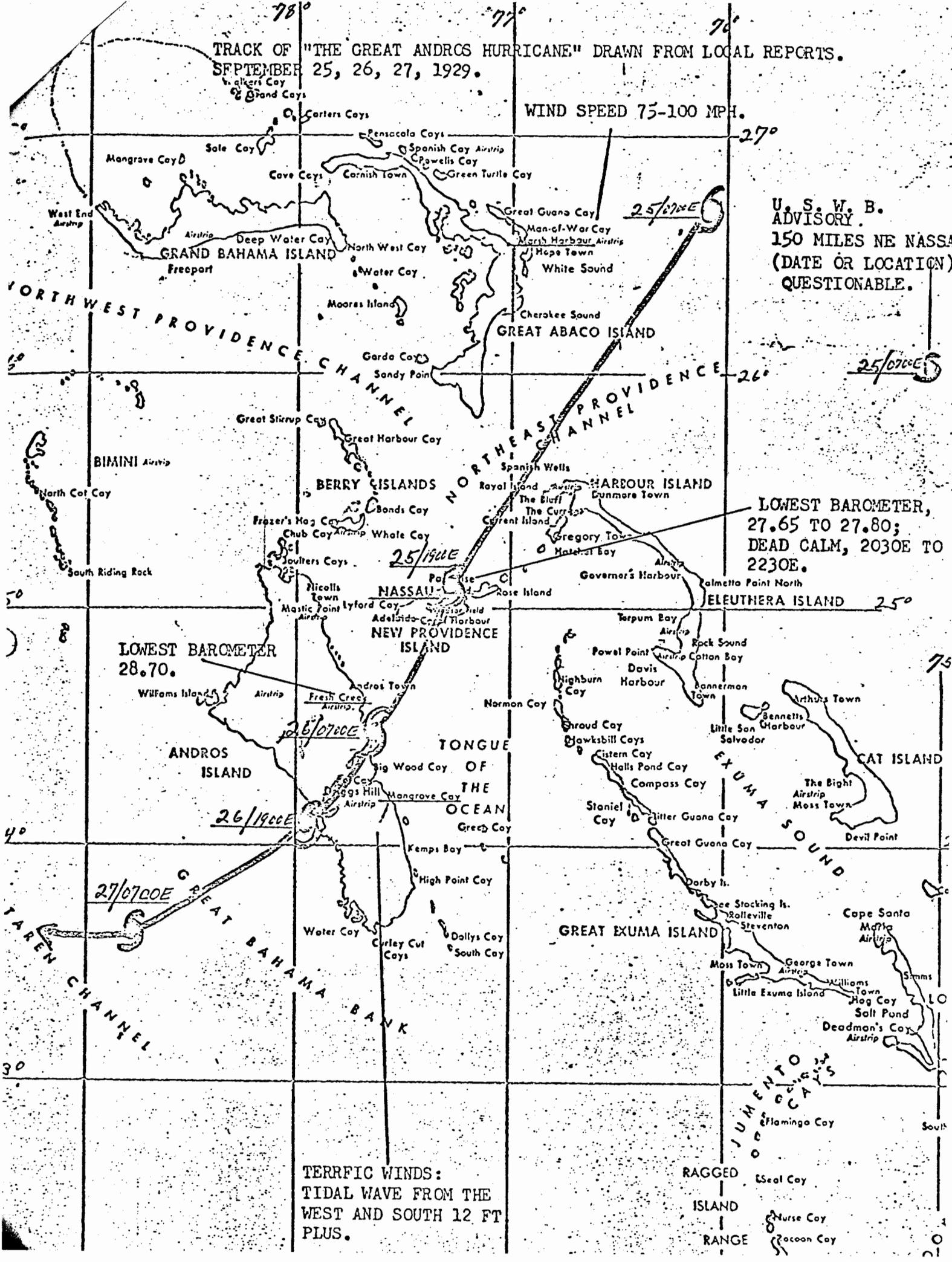
Storm not severe;
slight damage.

RAGGED
ISLAND
RANGE

TRACK OF "THE GREAT ANDROS HURRICANE" DRAWN FROM LOCAL REPORTS.
 SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 27, 1929.

WIND SPEED 75-100 MPH.

U. S. W. B.
 ADVISORY.
 150 MILES NE NASSAU
 (DATE OR LOCATION)
 QUESTIONABLE.

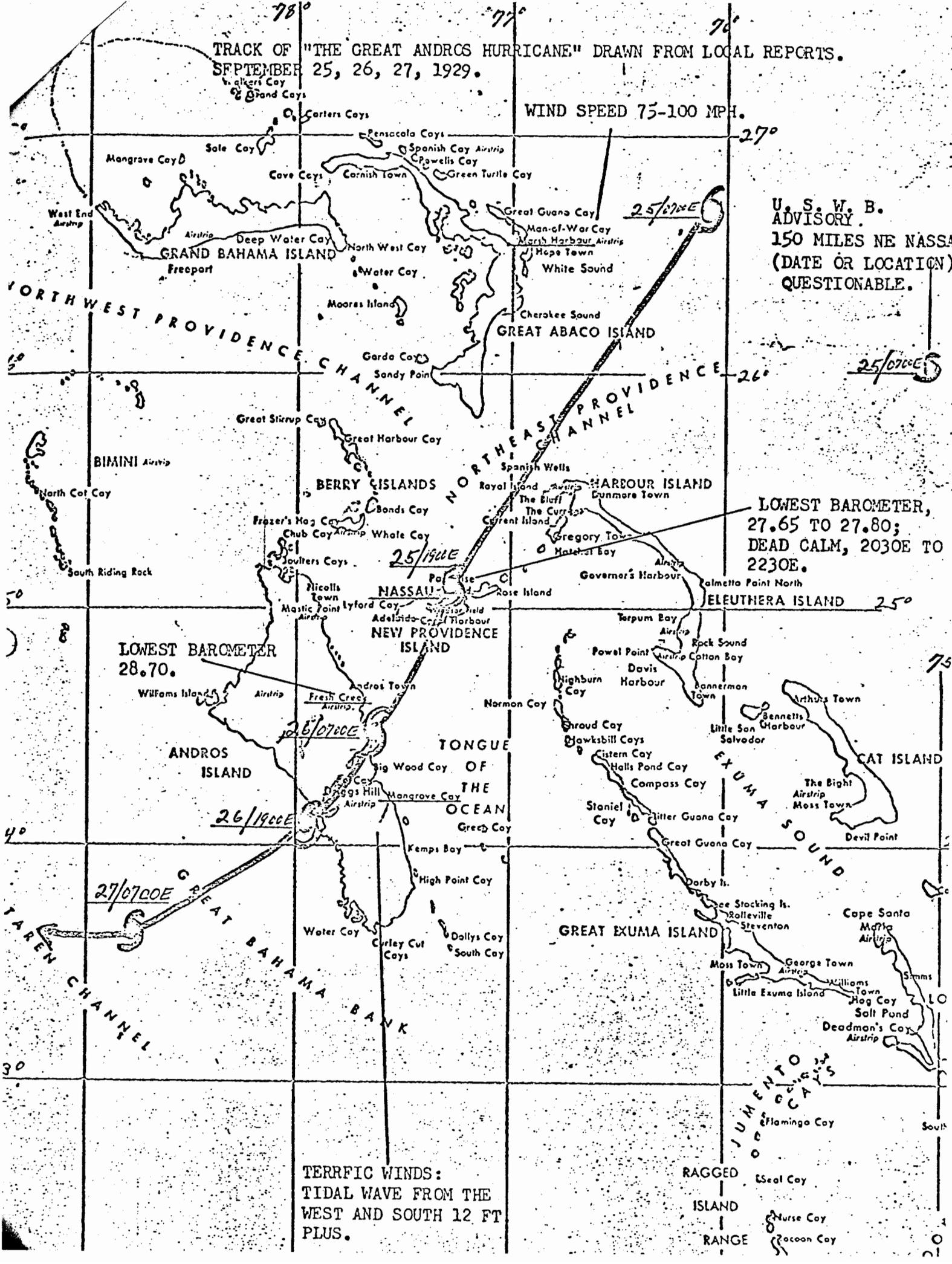


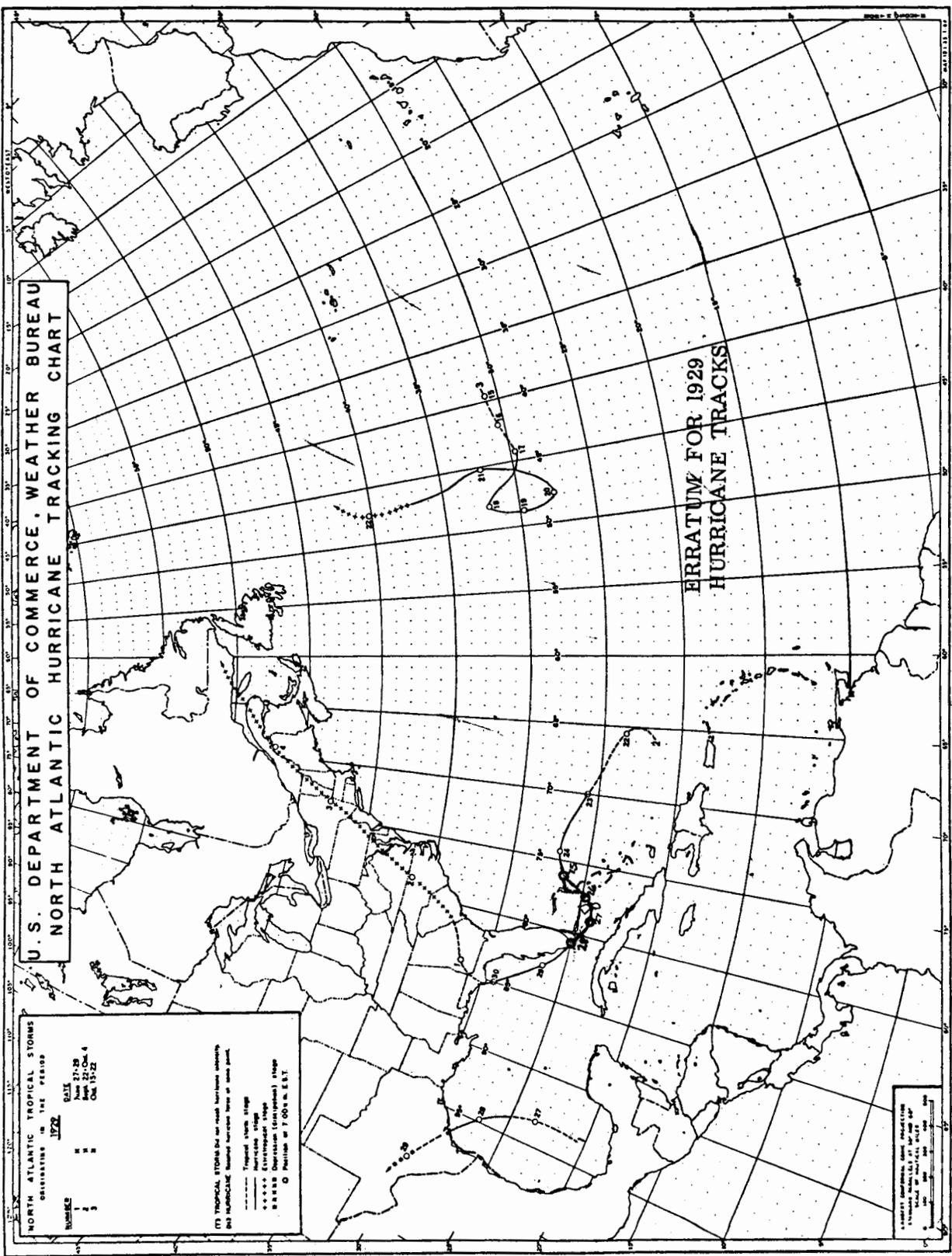
LOWEST BAROMETER
 28.70.

LOWEST BAROMETER,
 27.65 TO 27.80;
 DEAD CALM, 2030E TO
 2230E.

TERRIFIC WINDS:
 TIDAL WAVE FROM THE
 WEST AND SOUTH 12 FT
 PLUS.

RAGGED
 ISLAND
 RANGE





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

**NORTH ATLANTIC TROPICAL STORMS
OCCURRING IN THE YEAR**
1929

BASE 27-29
June 22-Oct 4
Oct 15-22

SYMBOLS ■ ■ ■

(1) TROPICAL STORMS that are made hurricanes elsewhere.
(2) HURRICANE (Number followed here by name of storm).

--- Tropical Storm Stage
- - - - - Hurricane Stage
- - - - - Hurricane (Gale Force) Stage
○ Position at 7:00 a.m. E.S.T.

**ERRATUM FOR 1929
HURRICANE TRACKS**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
1929
NO. 1111

