



—AP Wirephoto

National Guardsmen in Jeep Patrolled at Myrtle Beach, S. C., as Hurricane Nears

Hurricane Helene Rips North Carolina Coast

From AP Dispatches

Winds of up to 140 miles an hour, 25-foot waves and torrential rains of Hurricane Helene broke across North Carolina's coast yesterday and wrought tremendous, widespread damage.

Never had winds so strong been recorded along that storm-blown coast.

Helene, feinting at South Carolina coastal cities, only to alter course, boiled northward along the Carolinas all day. She shattered shipping installations, gouged out beaches and shattered buildings and houses as she kept her eye, or storm center, always just off shore.

Highway patrol spokesmen said no loss of life had been reported. There were a few minor injuries.

NORTH CAROLINA—Sheets of metal roofing limbs, garbage cans, weather-board

and other objects littered the streets in the quaint fishing village of Southport. One official described damage as greater than that wrought four years ago by Hurricane Hazel.

So great was the sweep of piled water into Southport, a village of 1,500, that half its municipal pier was carried away.

Buildings collapsed, roofs were ripped off and sailed about like cardboard.

Ancient live oaks, their gnarled limbs festooned with streamers of Spanish moss, fell, the crash of their collapse silenced by the hurricane's incessant roar.

A National Guard company was called ut to prevent looting of evacuated areas.

Few houses in the Southport area escaped damage of some sort.

At 11 p.m. the Washington

weather Bureau located Helene's eye about 35 miles east of Cape Hatteras, moving north-east toward the open sea and likely to pick up speed.

Hurricane warnings were up from Wilmington to Manteo, N. C., and all warnings came down south of Wilmington.

After settling the position and velocity of the storm, the Weather Bureau said the hurricane would hit Morehead City, Cape Lookout and Manteo and then move well out into the Atlantic today.

This appeared to eliminate the possibility of the storm causing further damage along the Atlantic seaboard.

VIRGINIA—Helene was expected to pass 100 miles east of the Virginia capes about dawn today.

The Weather Bureau said the hurricane's top winds would range up to 55 miles per hour—but probably no higher—along the Virginia coastline.

If the storm continues in its northeasterly path the more severe winds will probably be well east of the Virginia capes, the weather bureau said.

Tides between Manteo, N. C., and the Virginia capes were expected to rise three to five feet above normal, but were not expected to cause flooding along the Virginia coast.

Windy gusts in Richmond and over central Virginia yesterday afternoon were caused by a cold front that passed through the area, said the Byrd Field Weather Station.

The cold front brought sporadic showers, heavy at times, to the area. The Byrd Field report said the hurricane con-

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Hurricane At a Glance

NORTH CAROLINA—Winds up to 140 mph wreak tremendous damage to coastal points. Some injuries, but no deaths reported.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Less damage reported, but some areas completely evacuated.

VIRGINIA—Hurricane expected to pass out to sea. Tides three to five feet above normal expected.

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tributed some upper air moisture to the blustery disturbance but little else.

However, by early last night the area began to feel the effects of the hurricane in the form of additional wind-blown rain.

Town officials everywhere were quick to applaud the work of the hurricane warnings. These, they said, probably saved countless lives.

Exposed beach fronts, cities, towns and isolated dwellings had been fully prepared, either by evacuation or battening down.

Military centers flew their planes inland or secured them in hangars. Naval yards and depots sent their vessels upstream to save anchorages.

Power failed in countless towns. Water systems failed. Many centers had no lights, no cooking arrangements, no communication facilities.

Gov. Luther Hodges, flew to Wilmington to meet with area leaders to plan for relieving distress.

The George Washington-Citadel football game at Charleston and the Guilford-East Carolina College game at Greenville, N. C., were postponed because of the storm.

Winds were so intense at Wilmington that the top of the Weather Bureau's rain gauge was blown off. Cedar trees bent until they almost touched the ground. The control tower at the Wilmington airport was



—AP Wirephoto

Hurricane Helene Did This at Ocean Drive, S. C.
Wind and Water Damaged Front of Drugstore

evacuated. Power was turned off in Wilmington as a safety precaution.

Heaviest damage probably occurred in the Southport area and across the Wilmington peninsula—the coastland to the south and north, respectively, about the mouth of the Cape Fear river.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Farther to the south along South Carolina's summer play spots, grinding waves dug holes in the beaches, knocked ends

Myrtle Beach, remembering the walloping Hazel gave her, had prepared for the worst but got only minor damage. Broken windows and some roof dam-

age constituted the major harm there.

Wrightsville Beach, 10 miles east of Wilmington, and Carolina and Kure Beaches, 18 and 20 miles to the southeast, were badly washed and a number of houses were ripped apart. They were completely evacuated. Civil defense headquarters said 12 Wrightsville Beach houses had been flattened. Most Carolina Beach damage was to roofs.

As Helene moved eastward toward the open sea, she hit Jacksonville, N. C., and the nearby marine base, Camp Lejeune. Power was knocked out, trees blown down and houses damaged.

Most people had moved off the eastern North Carolina beaches of Atlantic Beach, Salter Path, Emerald Isle and Money Island as they had all along the path of the storm. The wind reached 60 miles on remote Ocracoke island before power was turned off and communications broke.

Meanwhile Hurricane Ilsa, now a full-blown giant with 140-mile winds, roamed far out in the Atlantic yesterday, her course influenced a little by Hurricane Helene.

At 5 p.m. the Weather Bureau reported Ilsa was centered about 500 miles northeast of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and dawdling along at an 10-mile-an-hour clip to the north.

Gordon Dunn, chief Miami storm forecaster, said "it is extremely unusual to have two such violent storms at the same time and so close together." The centers of the hurricanes were slightly over 1,200 miles apart.

Dunn said the presence of Hurricane Helene along the Carolina coast appeared instrumental in keeping Ilsa so far out at sea. Without her in the way, Ilsa would be inclined to take a more westerly course.

Ilsa, discovered only three days ago, had grown into a massive high-powered threat to Atlantic shipping. Her hurricane winds, ranging up to 130 and 140 miles an hour, reached out as far as 110 miles from the center. Gale winds spread out 250 to 280 miles.