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~~5/16/70~~

7" x 5 3/8" RC

(MX2) CORINTH, Miss., April 20--WHERE TWO DIED--Scattered cement blocks were all that remained today of Triumph Sanctified Church in Corinth, Miss., following a tornado that smashed through the small city. Two of the five known dead and many among the dozens injured were inside the church when the twister struck on the heels of the Sunday morning service.
(AP WIREPHOTO) (dss20054str) 1970





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MAURICE H. STANS, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SERVICE

STORM DATA

Volume 12 No. 4

APRIL 1970

STORM DATA AND UNUSUAL WEATHER PHENOMENA

APRIL 1970

PLACE	DATE	TIME - LOCAL STANDARD	LENGTH OF PATH (MILES)	WIDTH OF PATH (YARDS)	NO. OF PERSONS		ESTIMATED DAMAGE		CHARACTER OF STORM
					KILLED	INJURED	PROPERTY	CROPS	
Minnesota (continued)									
Northern Minnesota	19	Day			0	0	4	0	Wind, Wet Snow
<p>Roar was like that of a train. Straight wind damage was also reported in counties to east and south of Stevens.</p> <p>The northern one-third of the State received winds of 60mph and 6 to 8 inches of wet snow which broke line poles, causing telephone and power outage until the 21st in some areas. Many schools were closed and roads blocked on the 20th.</p>									
Dexter 1-1/2SW, Mower County	22	3:30pm	5	50	0	0	4	0	Tornado
<p>Small tornado moved almost north causing major damage to 9 small farm outbuildings 1-1/2SW of Dexter and caused damage to two farmsteads 3 miles further north. Debris was observed two-thirds of way up into funnel also noise like that of a train was reported.</p>									
Dexter 6-1/2WNE, Mower County	22	3:30pm	1/4	50	0	0	4	0	Tornado
<p>Small tornado moving northwest touched down briefly about the same time a tornado was on the ground southwest of Dexter. It destroyed a large barn and damaged several small outbuildings. A loud whistling sound and a funnel was observed.</p>									
West Central through Northeast	22	Afternoon Evening			0	0	5	0	Lightning, Heavy, Wet Snows
<p>Thunderstorms with lightning and heavy snow moved across area. Lightning at 3:05pm completely destroyed a home 2-1/2N of St. Stephen, damaged two homes in Brainerd about 3:00pm and caused several power outages in Brainerd area. Heavy wet snows from 5 to 9 inches blocked many roads and closed schools through the 23rd and particularly from Brainerd north and east.</p>									
West Central through East Central part of State	27th & 28th	Late Evening & Early Morning			0	0	4	0	Hail and Winds
<p>Thunderstorms with hail and some winds were reported throughout this area. Park Rapids reported 3:07 inches of rain. Lightning caused some power outages throughout area and major damage to a church steeple at Trail was reported.</p>									
Waseca 6SW, Waseca & Steele Counties	29	05:32pm to 06:00pm	20	20-30	0	0	5	0	Tornado
<p>A small tornado moving northeast touched down about 05:32pm Waseca 6SW, then skipped along for 20 miles and lifted on the southeast edge of Mead. It destroyed or caused damage to outbuildings of 7 farmsteads, severely damaged a feed mill and its warehouse. The cloud itself was close to the ground but the funnel was observed several times. A garage and a storage bin was destroyed 33 miles north of the origin of the tornado touchdown point and on this line another 16 miles further north a lake-side cottage was damaged and several large trees were blown down.</p>									
Mississippi Winston County and nearby	1	midnight-2 a.m.			0	0	4	0	Wind
<p>Heavy to very heavy thunderstorm indicated by radar about midnight 8 SW Kosciusko, Attala County moved easterly and at about 2 a.m. entered Alabama; hook echo noted 1:02 a.m. at 2 SW Louisville and 1:22 a.m. at 8 W Macon, Noxubee County. Winston County Agricultural Agent reported a storm between 1 and 2 a.m. with property damages estimated \$20,000; he noted "Reports were (and this seems to be general) that a large roaring was heard overhead." The Louisville Police Department reported marble size hail covering ground at 1:05 a.m. Highway Patrol reported only damage to SE Louisville along Highway 397 was lights out and barn down; at 6 1/2 SE Louisville (lat. 33.1°N, long. 89.1°W) some trees and power lines down. Highway Patrol reported that in Oktibbeha County at 1:23 a.m. a loud roaring sound between Sturgis and Waben, and sky looked light.</p>									
Northern Mississippi	1	p.m.			0	0	?	0	Wind, Hail
<p>Numerous thunderstorms, high winds and scattered property damage were reported as turbulent weather preceding a cold front moved across Mississippi. Hail, mostly light, hit some sections. A line of moderate to heavy thunderstorms: at 3:45 p.m., 10 to 16 miles wide from near Oxford to about 50 S Alexandria, La.; at 4:45 p.m., 20 to 40 miles wide from 30 W Muscle Shoals, Alabama to 40 W Greenwood; then to about 50 NW Baton Rouge, La. - two heavy thunderstorms over Greenwood and Grenada, some of the storms moving to the NE about 40 m.p.h.; at 5:45 p.m., 20 miles wide from 15 SW Tupelo to 10 S Greenwood then to about 40 NW Baton Rouge, heaviest storms moving to NE about 45 m.p.h.; at 7 p.m., 29 miles wide from 20 SE Tupelo to 15 W Jackson then to 20 N Baton Rouge. WASHINGTON COUNTY: Small hail reported 3:20 p.m. at Stoneville as line of thunderstorms passed. LAFLORE COUNTY: At 4:39 p.m. Civil Defense and Highway Patrol at Greenwood reports yellow cloud 1 1/2 N Greenwood, moving E (see also separate listing). PANOLA COUNTY: Newspaper noted, "High winds and heavy rains caused considerable damage to Batesville and the surrounding area. . . . Water was over some roads for a short time. GRENADA COUNTY: Around 5 p.m. the skies darkened then rain and hail mixed peppered areas of Grenada; high winds came with the rains and on Carrollton Road a trailer-home was overturned. Slight property damage was reported to the south and north of Grenada. CARROLL COUNTY: County Agricultural Agent reported, "Storm did some damage in north part of Carroll County." Newspaper noted that at about</p>									

See reference notes at end of table.

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Mississippi (continued)									
Laflore County	1	5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.	16	300	0	4	?	0	Tornado
<p>Storm moved from SW towards NE. Newspaper noted, "A tornado . . . skipped a path across Laflore County. . . . Three men bedding down equipment in a field near Huggins' Corner. . . . said the cloud was funnel shaped black as night and terrible looking. . . . The winds . . . doing property damage to homes and buildings in Ita Bena, near Lake Henry, then skipping to Wildwood Plantation. . . and . . . to Avalon and Whaley. . . . In addition to the utility poles, some telephone lines were down in the damaged area. . . . Heavy rains accompanied the winds." Highway Patrol reported tornado touched down in two places: several minor injuries. SW of Ita Bena some 35 utility poles reported down; trees and power lines down in Ita Bena area (lat. 33.6° N, long. 90.2° W); near Lake Henry the main transmission line was out; on Highway 49 light poles and wires down. To N of Greenwood on RR3, the Sweet Home and Wildwood Plantations (near Money) adjoin each other; in that area 6 houses were destroyed and 10-12 damaged; chimney toppled on man at Wildwood Plantation and he was hospitalized for back injuries and laceration of a leg. On Highway 7 between Whaley and Money, Wier Brothers Plantation, a woman reported a "Terrific roar - prolonged roar - . . . saw twisting rain and debris, but not actual funnel." In that area a newspaper noted, ". . . two houses were destroyed and a . . . rural church was picked up along with another house and deposited in the middle of the highway, blocking traffic. . . ."</p>									
Calhoun County	1	5:30 p.m. to 5:40 p.	7	10-110	0	1	5	0	Wind, Funnel Cloud Aloft, Tornado
<p>Newspaper published, "A tornado struck parts of Calhoun City, Baileyville and Vardaman. . . about 5:30 (p.m.). The total damage was estimated to be approximately \$100,000 or more. . . . An 18-month old boy, . . . was injured when a flying piece of glass cut a gash. . . . The tornado which traveled from the west toward the east, damaged homes and pavement about 1/2 mile west of Calhoun City, blew down trees from its starting point all through a narrow strip of town, where it also did considerable damage to roofs, carpets and homes. Baileyville, between Calhoun City and Darma, was the hardest hit, with the roofs, and at least one (carport being) damaged, as well as trees blown down. Some homes in Darma were damaged, mostly the roofs and at least one carport was blown off in Vardaman. In all, the area the tornado hit was about 7 miles from the west to the east, and the width of the path of the storm varied from 10 to 15 yards. The funnel never did touch the ground, so that the full force of the storm was not felt." Damages appear to indicate the funnel possibly touched down three times in Calhoun City before jumping to Baileyville (lat. 33.9°N, long. 89.3°W) where most all buildings in the village had roof damage, then a jump to the central part of Darma. Calhoun City woman wrote there was "not much noise until tornado struck." A Baileyville man, hearing tornado coming, jumped into his pickup and reported that the vehicle was lifted several feet off ground; he wrote there were 2 funnels that went together like a ball of fire and "one loud clap of lightning, that was when the funnel started." Some destructive path width reports of 110 yards.</p>									
North Central and Northeast Miss.	19				0	0	?	0	Heavy Rain, Wind
<p>As a cold front pushed eastward, severe thunderstorms with high winds and heavy rains occurred at a number of locations. A line of thunderstorms was indicated by radar at 1 p.m. as 8 miles wide, extending from Tennessee (Lexington, et al) to near Corinth, S to 10W Tupelo, and moving E about 25 m.p.h. (See separate listing of tornado.) MARSHALL COUNTY: Newspaper in county noted, ". . . Flooding of many small streams. Trees were uprooted in several places, and one large tree was blown down across the Rally Springs and Mt. Pleasant road causing traffic to be delayed. . . ." There was a report (to Memphis) of house trailer and building damage 5:50 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant (lat. 35.0°N, long. 89.5°W); newspaper several days later headline was "Marshall County escapes Wrath Of Tornadoes." LAFAYETTE COUNTY: Reports were heard of damaging winds near Oxford. The newspaper there noted wind damage near home on Highway 30 - "Numerous trees were blown down in the . . . yard, but minor damage to the roof was the only damage to the home." PONTOTOC COUNTY: Pontotoc newspaper noted, ". . . through southern and eastern portions of Pontotoc County. . . . The storm winds, accompanied by torrential rain, hit the Gershorn. . . (and other) areas. . . . There was no injuries reported, and property damage was not believed extensive. A roof on one home in the Beckham community was partially blown away, and trees fell on outbuildings on another farm, while some farm machinery was damaged when toppled by the winds. North of Toxish church, tops of trees were broken off, and tin roofing was blown off a shed at one home. High winds in the Zim area blew some trees down and knocked a horse trailer off its block foundation. The storm hit at approximately 12:30 (p.m.) Sunday, . . ."</p>									
Tippah and Alcorn Counties	19	12:06 p.m. before 1:15 p.	40	200-250	4	78	6	0	Tornado
<p>A tornado caused damage in a section of Ripley (lat. 34.7°N, long. 88.9°W) then lifted, next it touched down to the ENE in southern Corinth (lat. 34.9°N, long. 88.5°W) then lifted and touched down at</p>									

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Mississippi (continued)									
Counce, Tenn. (See Tennessee section in this publication.) In Mississippi the intermittent path extended about 40 miles. All deaths and the brunt of the damage was in Corinth. TIPPAN COUNTY: Some 2 or 3 miles SW of downtown Ripley, an amateur radio operator noted at 12:06 p.m. an approaching storm making a noise like a train; some hail preceded the tornado but he did not see a funnel among the dark clouds and rain. Evidently the storm center tracked just south of his house which received minor damage. In the Palmer Community (S of Ripley) - the roof of a house was blown off, some windows knocked out, and some trees were reported uprooted. To the E of Ripley, a trailer was reported blown off its foundation. In the Ripley area: total loss of a cinderblock building housing a small print shop with attendant loss of most of the equipment; several homes damaged (mostly to roofs); one barn destroyed; local high school auditorium roof reported lifted slightly and displaced several inches. Damages estimated under \$50,000. No injuries were reported. Width of damage path up to about 100 yards. ALCOORN COUNTY: The storm touched down at 14:55 p.m. in South Corinth and during 6 minutes along a 3-mile path; there was extensive damage in 3 main areas up to 200-250 yards wide while in between there was mainly broken and felled trees and lesser roof damage. The newspaper noted, "The path of the tornado was northeast, hitting just south of Highway 72 and crossing into a heavily populated area, three churches were destroyed, numerous houses completely demolished or wrecked beyond repair, telephone and power lines were broken, trees uprooted all over Corinth and . . . there were numerous gas leaks from broken main gas lines." Highways 45 and 72 were blocked. At a church in the heart of the stricken area, a newspaper noted, "Several women . . . had stayed . . . for a meeting. . . As the group began to leave, . . . one woman saw the tornado coming and ran for her car. The others stayed behind. In an instant the church roof was gone and the heavy blocks had tumbled across the pulpit and hardwood floor." The bodies of a 12-year old girl and a 38-year old woman were found beneath the remains of the concrete block structure. The roof fell on a house about 200 feet away and 3 brothers were injured. One man reported "We had just sat down to eat . . . someone mentioned that it had begun to hail. Then my wife's brother said 'It's a tornado - hit the floor.' There was a terrible roar - about like 14 freight trains. In just a second the house exploded. It literally burst. The house was picked up off its foundation and it seemed as though we were carried forward for about 20 feet. . . my wife and several other of the people there say they saw people being lifted ten to twelve feet off the ground and being blown as much as eight or ten yards away." The Highway Patrol reported the tornado to the NE of Corinth and moving to the NE (before) 1:15 p.m. The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Office of Emergency Preparedness representatives estimated \$1.8 million damages (including \$800,000 private homes; \$300,000 personal contents; \$350,000 electrical power facilities; \$200,000 telephone equipment; \$10,000 for water, sewer and gas lines; \$50,000 for debris clearing; \$10,000 for recreational areas). They reported 69 homes destroyed, 63 houses were 90% damaged, 83 homes received 5 to 50% damage. The official count was 4 dead, there were other reports of 56 hurt and 22 hospitalized. The Red Cross announced a total of 225 families affected by the tornado and 5 small businesses were destroyed, 2 received major damage and 1 some minor damage. The Small Business Administration declared Alcorn County a disaster area.									
Forrest County	19		0	0	?	0	0	0	Thunderstorm
									Newspaper noted, "The Mississippi Power Co. and South Central Bell reported only minor damage and service interruption due to a line squall which passed through Hattiesburg Sunday morning and early afternoon." Lightning bolts struck the Tatum salt dome test site about noon during a thunderstorm. This detonated the natural gas and oxygen in a cavity 2,700 feet deep. This was a premature explosion of experiment "Project Humid Water," the second of three underground detonation tests. Seismic observation equipment was operating and a ABC official said, "much useful seismic data was obtained and more will be secured when the underground cavity is reentered. . . ." Officials said that it has not yet been determined how the lightning was able to trigger the explosion.
Coastal Mississippi	19		0	0	?	0	0	0	Wind
									High winds and rough seas along the Gulf Coast resulted in distress calls to the Coast Guard and rescue missions. HARRISON COUNTY: At 2:28 p.m. Gulfport Airport (lat. 30.4°N, long. 89.1°W) reported gusts to 58 m.p.h. Newspaper noted, "The winds and rain blew down already weakened or dead limbs on trees that weathered Camille."
Northern Mississippi	24	3 a.m.- 8 a.m.		0	0	?	0	0	Wind
									A lobe of thundershowers preceded a cold front that moved into the state. There was some wind damage. See separate listing of a tornado in DeSoto County at Southaven. Radar indicated a solid line of heavy thundershowers: 30 miles wide at 3:45 a.m. CST extending from Memphis, Tenn. to Arkansas (Helena, et al) moving to SE 35 m.p.h.; at 4:25 a.m. from just NW of Ripley SW across Panola County to Shelby, Bolivar County; 35 miles wide at 4:45 a.m. from LOW Corinth SW to Oxford, to Cleveland into Arkansas (McGehee, et al) moving to SE 40 m.p.h. DESOTO COUNTY: Newspaper noted, "several small planes were overturned by high winds at . . . Hernando." In Mineral Wells winds blew off part of the roof from the furnace area of a glass plant. Additional information in separate listing. TATE COUNTY: Near Senatobia the roof of a house trailer was blown off. MARSHALL COUNTY: A number of trees were uprooted near Holly Springs (lat. 34.8°N, long. 89.4°W). Highway Patrol reported this occurred before 4:25 a.m. Holly Springs authorities reported some overturned trailers. ALCOORN COUNTY: Heavy thundershowers and strong winds hit the area around 5 a.m. No extensive damage reported. Some trees reported blown over, some television antennas damaged, falling limbs hit power lines causing some damage. On Pleasant Hill Rd. the roof was reported blown from a barn. MONROE COUNTY: Radio Station WROB
Mississippi (continued)									
DeSoto County	24	3:28 a.-	2	20	0	5	6	0	Tornado
									at West Point reported a locally severe thunderstorm, heavy rain, and wind gusts to 51 m.p.h. at 6:54 a.m. Radar at 7:15 a.m. indicated this thunderstorm moving towards E or ESE at about 35 m.p.h. No major damage reported.
									Along a squall line a funnel developed about 3S of a larger tornado (in Tennessee). It touched down shortly before crossing DeSoto Air Park (SW of Southaven) and traveled ENE (60-70° angle) across U. S. Highway 51 over a large general store (Market Place) and on into Tennessee. Damage occurred along a narrow path with 2 main areas of extensive damage both in Mississippi. The Mississippi portion of the path was about 2 miles long. (See Tenn. section in this publication.) The damages at the airport were estimated \$0.5 million - there was extensive damage to aircraft on the ramp and inside the west hangar where the winds whipped the planes around and yellow paint showed where they had scratched concrete 15 feet above the floor; a chain mooring an amphibian plane was snapped and the plane hurled more than 100 yards east into a clump of trees tearing a tunnel through the upper branches; another plane was blown over a fence and in between trucks. To the W of Highway 51, a number of automobiles were on the Southaven Auto Sales used car lot - all were scattered and damaged. U. S. 51 was cluttered with debris for a stretch; Highway Patrol reported several cars blown off the road. The Market Place (E of Hwy. 51) had its front crushed (\$50,000 damages); on its S side - destroyed 1 house trailer and damaged 3 (\$10,000-20,000 damages). Elsewhere in the Southaven area a number of houses were damaged (mostly opened or removed rooftops). Five persons were reported hurt; newspaper notes, "The worst injury reported was a broken leg." (lat. 34.9°N, long. 90.0°W)
Sharkey County	25	Before 4:40 p.							Funnel Cloud Aloft
									Cooperative observer noted funnel cloud did not touch down; sighted approximately 10 N Holly Bluff (lat. 32.9°N, long. 90.7°W), reported to be moving E. Radar indicated thundershowers in area but did not look strong. No reports received of touchdown damages.
Leflore and Grenada Counties	25	About 10:00 p.			0	0	7	0	Funnel Cloud Aloft, Wind
									Funnel cloud aloft reported; some wind damage from parent storm. LEFLORE COUNTY: Greenwood newspaper noted, "A tornado was reported over Leflore County Saturday night about 10 p.m. Residents of Old Highway 7, about five miles north of Greenwood, reported hearing the storm pass over. Trees were damaged, a (vacant) house was destroyed, and two barns were unroofed in the area. The Highway Patrol reported seeing the funnel cloud develop near Moorhead. It was also reported at Schlater, accompanied by some hail. It is not believed to have ever actually touched down." At 10:05 p.m. there was a severe thunderstorm cell in the vicinity of Greenwood (lat. 33.5°N, long. 90.2°W) with the funnel cloud reported this cell moving NE. A report from the Highway Patrol received at 10:25 p.m. noted a loud roar SW Greenwood (lat. 33.6°N, long. 90.2°W), and a later report of the damages there included - "tops out of trees." GRENADA COUNTY: Radar at 10:45 p.m. located the large thunderstorm with hail indicated and funnel cloud reported within this thunderstorm over Grenada moving to NE at 25-30 m.p.h.
Holmes County	26				0	0	?	0	Heavy Rain
									Newspaper noted, "Heavy rains fell. . . By nightfall the water had risen in two places . . . causing the traffic to stop. . ." between Lexington and Durant. "Water damage was incurred in several businesses on Highway 12 . . ." in the Lexington area. Woman on Bowling Green Road remarked the water was at the highest level it had been in 40 years. The County Sheriff said, "Our creeks were all flooded for a while Sunday." The Mayor of West said the Big Black River and area creeks "were about as high as anyone has seen them." One bridge was washed out on State Highway 17 west of West, and low-land flooding occurred. The cooperative observer at Lexington rain-fall measurement at 6 a.m. CST was 6.30 inches (for the past 24 hours). This was the greatest April oneday amount measured in Holmes or adjacent counties back to April 16, 1900 when Canton, Madison County, reported 6.25 inches.
Holmes County	26	8:30 a.- 8:31 a.	1/2	200	0	0	3	0	Tornado
									During weather described as "raining hard, no lightning or thunder" a storm moved from SW towards NW. The damage path was described as "a narrow strip about 200 yards wide (1/2 mile long) in Owen Weal Community," 38 Lexington (lat. 33.1°N, long. 90.0°W). Newspaper noted several people heard the noise and/or watched as the trister went by. "In the Sanford front yard a storage shed was lifted up and burned over about ten foot away, a large oak tree next to his house lost several limbs off the south side of the tree and part of his fence beyond the house was lifted out of the ground, post and all." Next a man "heard the noise . . . felt the house tremble and heard hail falling. . . he saw the pump house lifted up off the ground and then settle back down in the same spot. His aluminum storage house was smashed into many pieces and scattered . . . A fence was also pulled up out of the ground by the post. The last place that we know the twister touched down was right atop a shed belonging to . . ." the Martins. Mr. Martin said . . . he heard a swishing noise of the wind. Looking up he saw a tree bending way over and then he watched as the roof of a large shed stood on end and then he carried off several feet. . . The tree that had been leaning in the wind was uprooted. Mr. Martin said that several sheds in his hog yard were lifted up and set down some distance away, apparently unharmed." A different report mentioned damage to a tractor shed and barn.

See reference notes at end of table.