

Ruby was the first tropical storm to form in the central Pacific and cross the international dateline since Typhoon Sarah in September 1967.

An area of enhanced convection was first evidenced in satellite pictures on 7 November south of the Hawaiian Islands near 4°N and 167°W. No organized circulation appeared until the 11th, at which time the system began to drift northward. Indication that winds had reached tropical storm strength was evidenced in satellite data by the 13th. Reconnaissance aircraft observed Ruby to have typhoon-strength winds just west of the international dateline on the 14th.

With a mid-tropospheric anticyclone located between Midway and Wake Island, Ruby moved on a west-northwesterly course at 9-12 kt for the next three days. She reached her peak intensity east of Taongi Atoll on the 16th as reconnaissance aircraft observed a central pressure of 944 mb and maximum winds of 110 kt.

Although the central pressure in Ruby had rapidly risen 20 mb to 983 mb during the morning of the 17th, reconnaissance aircraft observed 100-kt winds in a small band north of the center (Figure 4-34). This observed wind was relatively high for the standard pressure-wind relationship used at JTWC (Takahashi, 1939). By that afternoon the maximum winds had weakened considerably.

Passing south of Wake Island late on the 17th, Ruby was of minimal typhoon force as she shifted to a west-southwest heading. Like Nancy, Ruby moved beneath upper tropospheric westerlies while in the tropics and began to weaken significantly. On the 18th satellite pictures showed the cirrus canopy removed from over the center, revealing the low-level cloud structure of the storm (Figure 4-35). By late on the 19th, Ruby had been reduced to a tropical depression and finally dissipated east of the northern Marianas on the 21st.



FIGURE 4-34. Typhoon Ruby near her maximum intensity 270 nm south-southeast of Wake, 16 November 1972, 2118 GMT. [DAPP data]

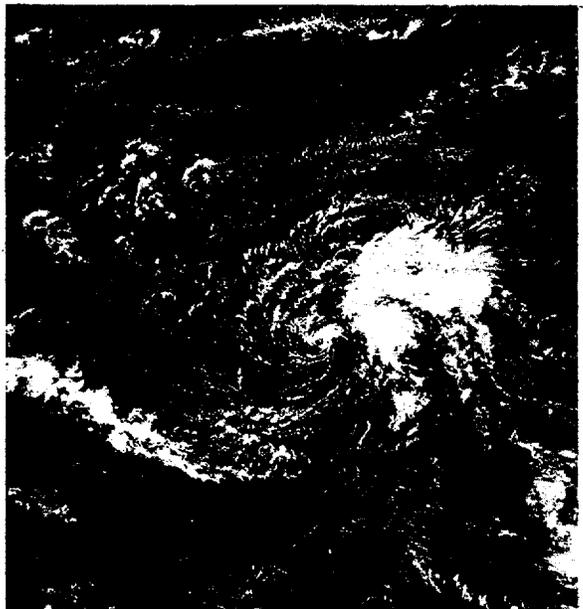


FIGURE 4-35. Low-level clouds outline the remains of Tropical Storm Ruby 300 nm southwest of Wake, 18 November 1972, 0123 GMT. [DAPP Data]