



**TYPHOON CARLA**  
 BEST TRACK TC-04  
 02 MAY - 07 MAY 1974  
 MAX SFC WIND 80 KTS  
 MINIMUM SLP 963 MBS

**LEGEND**

- 6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
- A SPEED
- B INTENSITY
- C POSITION AT XX/0000 Z
- TYPHOON
- - - TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
- +++ EXTRATROPICAL
- \*\*\* DISSIPATING STAGE
- ★ FIRST WARNING ISSUED
- ☆ LAST WARNING ISSUED

## 2. INDIVIDUAL TYPHOONS

### CARLA

In late April, the monsoon trough became active in the central Carolines, producing a tropical depression that later became Tropical Storm Babe. Shortly thereafter, another circulation in the trough near Ponape was noted on 29 April. The system tracked northwestward during the next three days, its development aided by the upper level outflow of Babe tracking north of the Marianas. By 2 May, the circulation located about 225 miles southwest of Saipan, had developed into Tropical Storm Carla (Figure 4-1).

Continuing a northwest track, Carla's center crossed Tinian in the south central Marianas about 0800Z on the 3rd. The U.S. Coast Guard Loran Station on southern Saipan (located a few miles to the north of the center) recorded a peak gust of 57 knots within an hour after passage of the center. The maximum 24-hour rainfall recorded on Saipan during passage was 2.63 inches.

With a mid-tropospheric long wave trough situated between 130 and 135 E, Carla began to turn poleward late on the 3rd. As Carla tracked west of the northern Marianas by some 100 nm on the 4th, aircraft reconnaissance indicated Carla's pressure had fallen to 978 mb and maximum winds around its center neared 65 kts. By 1200Z on the 4th, Carla became the season's first typhoon (Figure 4-2).

The heavy rains and gusty winds brought by Carla to the Marianas took a heavy toll on fruit crops (bananas, citrus, etc.). Rota, Tinian, and Saipan reported 95% damage to crops while Pagan and Agrihan in the northern Marianas reported 45% damage.

Carla continued to deepen on the 5th while tracking northward. Reconnaissance aircraft measurements indicated peak intensity was attained early in the day southwest of the Maug Islands as Carla's central pressure dipped to 963 mb. Maximum sustained surface winds (1 min) were probably close to 80-85 knots near the eye at this time.

Increasing tropospheric shear began to weaken Carla after passage north of the 20th parallel as the cyclone approached the base of the mid-tropospheric westerlies. Twenty-four hours after reaching peak intensity, Carla was reduced to tropical storm intensity, 300 nm east of Iwo Jima.

In advance of a front moving southeastward from Japan, Carla began to accelerate northeastward on the 6th and fill in central pressure. By 1200Z, synoptic and satellite data indicated the remains of Carla had merged with the frontal zone as a weak low near 36N and 158E.



FIGURE 4-1. Carla prior to attaining tropical storm intensity 300nm southeast of Saipan, 1 May 1974, 2236Z. (DMSP imagery)



FIGURE 4-2. Carla achieving typhoon intensity 210nm northwest of Saipan, 5 May 1974, 0245Z. (DMSP imagery)