

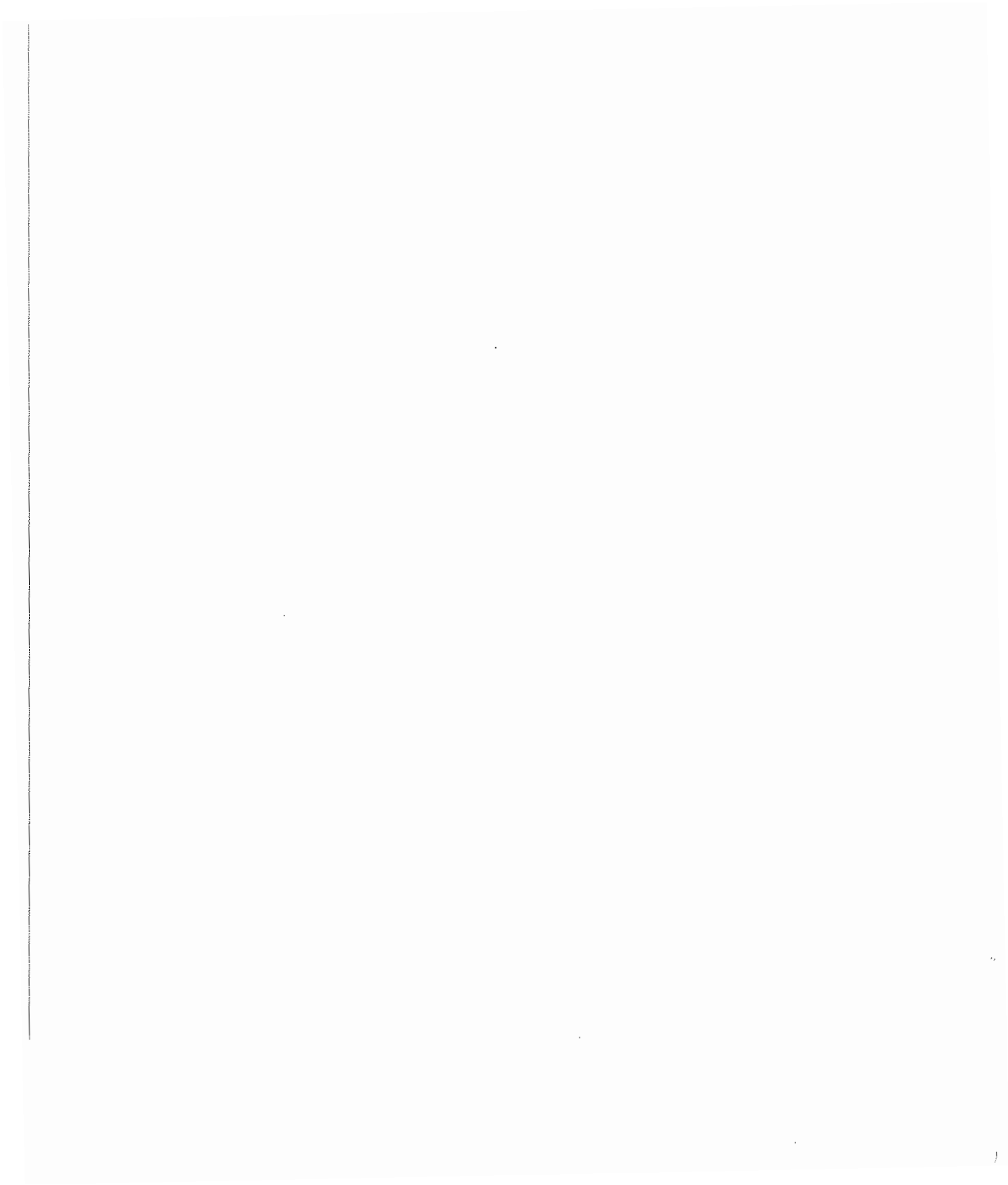
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS SR 56*

MEMORABLE HURRICANES OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1873

SOUTHERN REGION HEADQUARTERS
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MEMORABLE HURRICANES OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1873

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Whether a hurricane is notable and should be remembered depends upon many things. The selections in this publication are limited to those which have made landfall in the United States or have been near misses. Also, most of them were major, extreme, or great hurricanes; these adjectives usually refer to intensity as determined by the maximum wind or the sea-level pressure within the eye. Some hurricanes were "Great" while at sea but reached land with considerably diminished intensity. Connie was classified as "Great" at sea but is classified here as "Major" because of its diminished intensity as it reached the coast. On the other hand, some which did not have particularly low pressures or high winds were devastating because of flooding. Most notable in this category was Diane 1955. For these reasons the criteria used to determine the memorable hurricanes of this century were not rigid and have been omitted here.

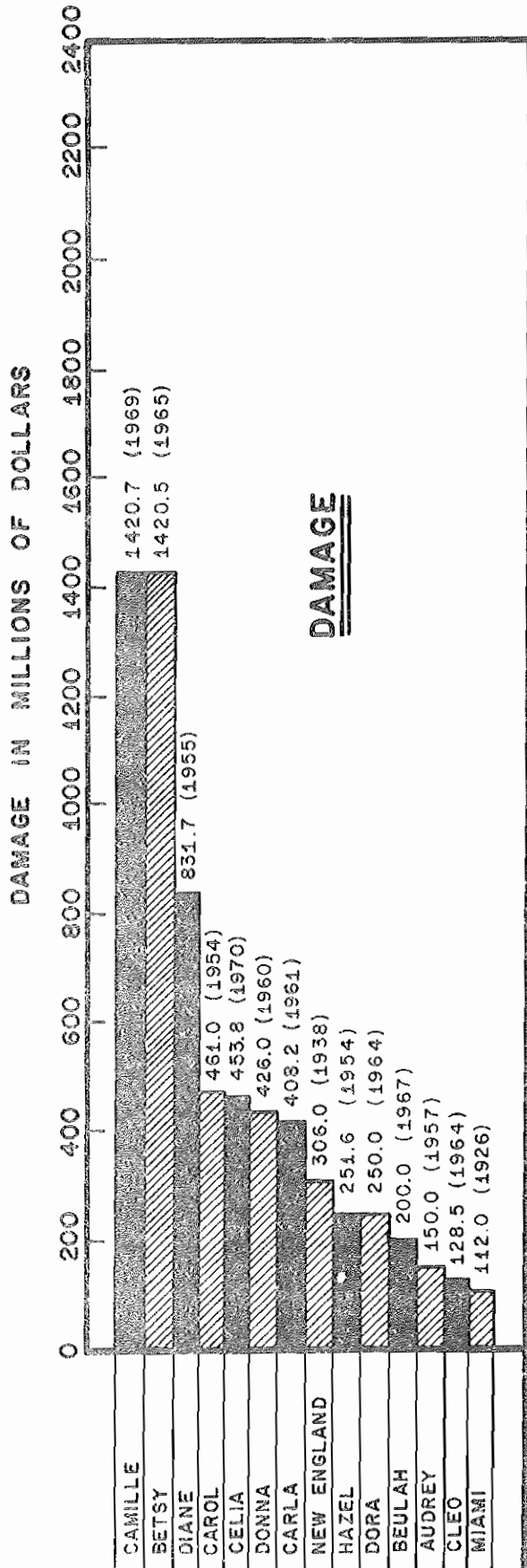
The data on each map should be considered extremes. Needless to say, some are subject to contradiction depending upon what source or reference one consults. For the most part, the data were drawn from the Monthly Weather Review articles; from the Publication "Hurricanes and Tropical Storms in the Gulf of Mexico," Weather Service Forecast Office, New Orleans; Atlantic Hurricanes by Dunn and Miller; and Hurricanes by Tannehill. Tracks through 1963 are from Weather Bureau Technical Paper No. 55, by Cry, and from Monthly Weather Review thereafter, but the varying intensities along the tracks have been omitted. Revision of the track and data of the hurricane of September 22-October 4, 1929, was made possible through a study by Mr. Pierce S. Rosenberg, Atlantic Underseas Test and Evaluation Center, West Palm Beach, Florida. Additional information on tides in the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944 was supplied by Mr. R. E. Lynde, Weather Service Forecast Office, Boston, Massachusetts, and Mr. George Moore, National Ocean Survey, Rockville, Maryland.

Table 1, listing the greatest United States hurricanes of all times, has been revised in this edition in accordance with figures supplied by NOAA's National Climatic Center. Dollar estimates have not been adjusted for inflation. It is also quite obvious that damage figures have increased and will continue to do so as the population and industry increase, especially along the coastal areas.

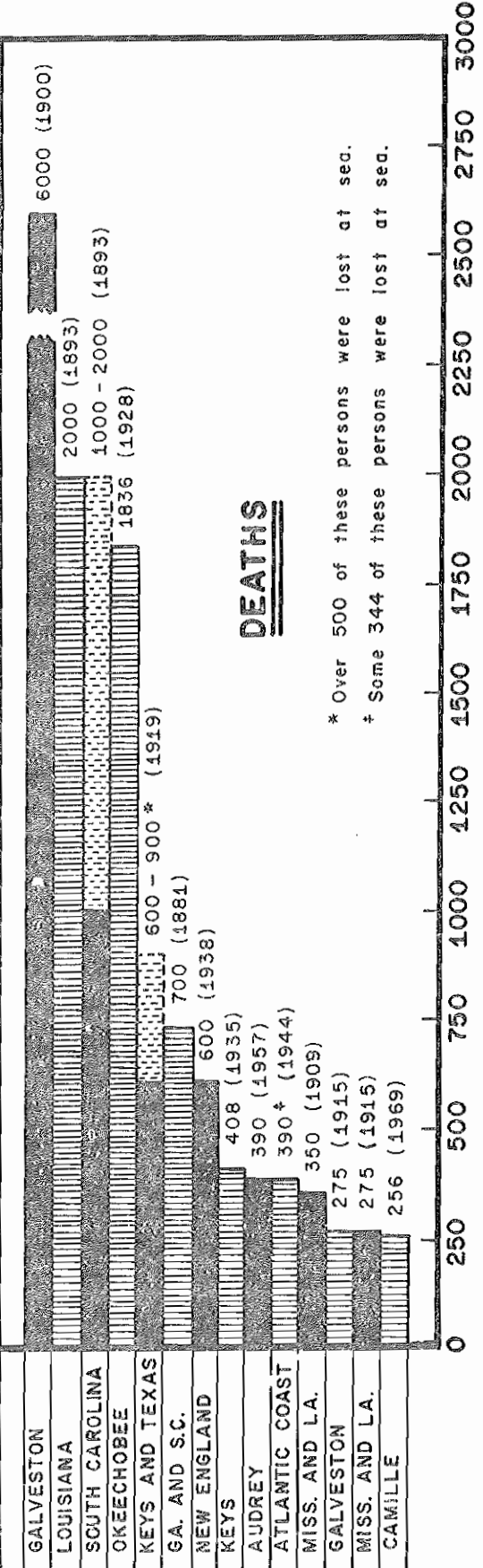
It is hoped that this paper will serve as a ready reference, as a climatological aid in forecasting, for speeches, and for preparedness conferences.

We are grateful to Mrs. Liliias Wilson, Miss Wendy Searle, and Ashby Andrews, National Hurricane Center, for the typing and clerical help, and to John Lundblad and Glenn Frye, University of Miami student trainees at the National Hurricane Research Laboratory, for assistance with drafting.

EFFECTS OF MEMORABLE HURRICANES IN THE UNITED STATES



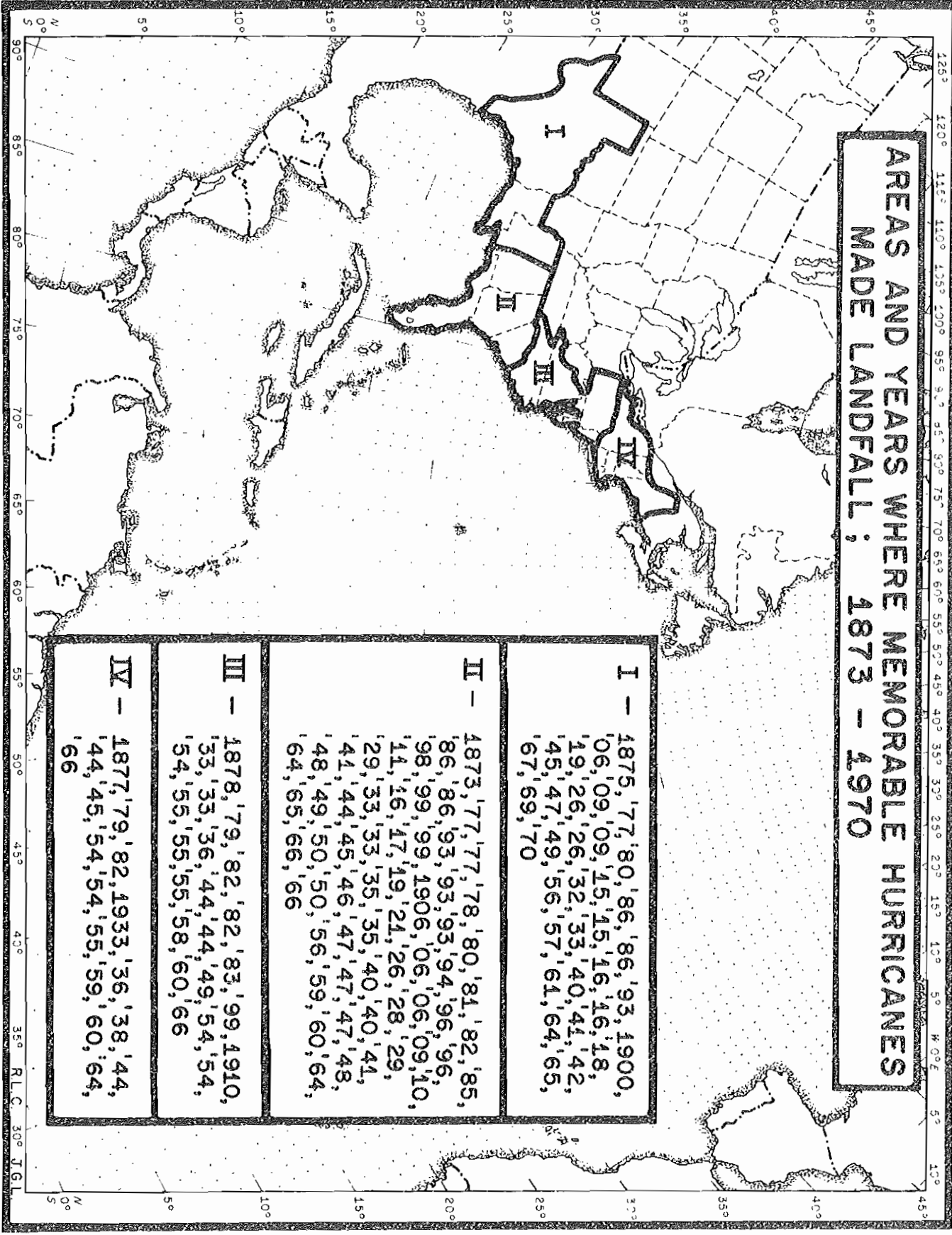
DAMAGE



DEATHS

* Over 500 of these persons were lost at sea.
 † Some 344 of these persons were lost at sea.

**AREAS AND YEARS WHERE MEMORABLE HURRICANES
MADE LANDFALL; 1873 - 1970**



I - 1875, '77, '80, '86, '86, '93, 1900, '06, '09, '09, '15, '15, '16, '16, '18, '19, '26, '26, '32, '33, '40, '41, '42, '45, '47, '49, '56, '57, '61, '64, '65, '67, '69, '70

II - 1873, '77, '77, '78, '80, '81, '82, '85, '86, '86, '93, '93, '93, '94, '96, '96, '98, '99, '99, 1906, '06, '06, '09, '10, '11, '16, '17, '19, '21, '26, '28, '29, '29, '33, '33, '35, '35, '40, '40, '41, '41, '44, '45, '46, '47, '47, '47, '48, '48, '49, '50, '50, '56, '59, '60, '64, '64, '65, '66, '66

III - 1878, '79, '82, '82, '83, '99, 1910, '33, '33, '36, '44, '44, '49, '54, '54, '54, '55, '55, '58, '60, '60, '66

IV - 1877, '79, '82, 1933, '36, '38, '44, '44, '45, '54, '54, '54, '55, '59, '60, '64, '66

