

A twin cyclone system, one developing in the northern hemisphere and another in the southern hemisphere, became apparent in satellite photographs on 17 October near 175°W. The northern system, destined to be Olga, crossed the dateline on a westerly track and attained tropical storm intensity on the 21st. Bebe, in the southern hemisphere, developed to hurricane force and passed over Funafuti Atoll of the Ellice Islands during the night of the 21st.

Reconnaissance aircraft on the morning of the 22nd indicated that Olga was a strong tropical storm, 170 nm northeast of Majuro Atoll (Figure 4-31). During 23-24 October, Olga showed little change in intensity as she tracked through the northern Marshall Islands. Since the strongest winds were in the northern semicircle, the maximum sustained winds reported in the islands were only 25 kt.

Olga intensified to typhoon force early on the 26th. Continuing to gain strength, Olga accelerated to 20-22 kt late on the 26th and headed for the northern Marianas.

During the night of 27-28 October, Olga became the second typhoon in three weeks to sweep through that area. The following morning her central pressure dropped to 939 mb, generating maximum winds of 105 kt (Figure 4-32).

Since Typhoon Marie had destroyed most of the agricultural crops and coconut trees in the islands a few weeks earlier, Olga's effect was less noticeable than it might normally have been.

As a trough deepened over the East China Sea on the 28th, Olga headed northward, rounding the subtropical ridge east of the Volcano Islands late that day. Gale-force winds extended a considerable distance as the United Kingdom ship CAPE YORK, 200 nm east of the center, observed winds of 50-55 kt that night and the following morning.

Accelerating to 30 kt in the strong southwesterly flow southeast of Japan, Olga tracked northeastward and merged with a front east of Honshu late on the 29th.



FIGURE 4-31. Tropical Storm Olga 170 nm northeast of Majuro Atoll. The circulation depicted in the cloud pattern 1200 nm northwest of Olga is the remains of Nancy, 22 October 1972, 0108 GMT. (DAPP data)

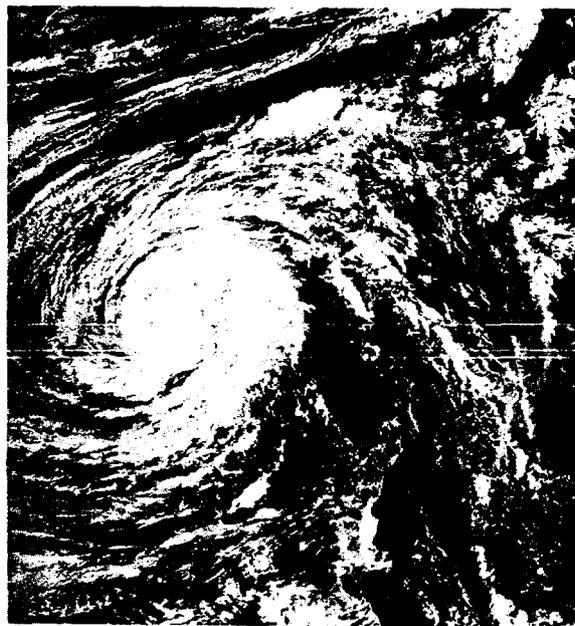


FIGURE 4-32. Typhoon Olga 300 nm south-southeast of Iwo Jima, 27 October 1972, 2201 GMT. (DAPP data)