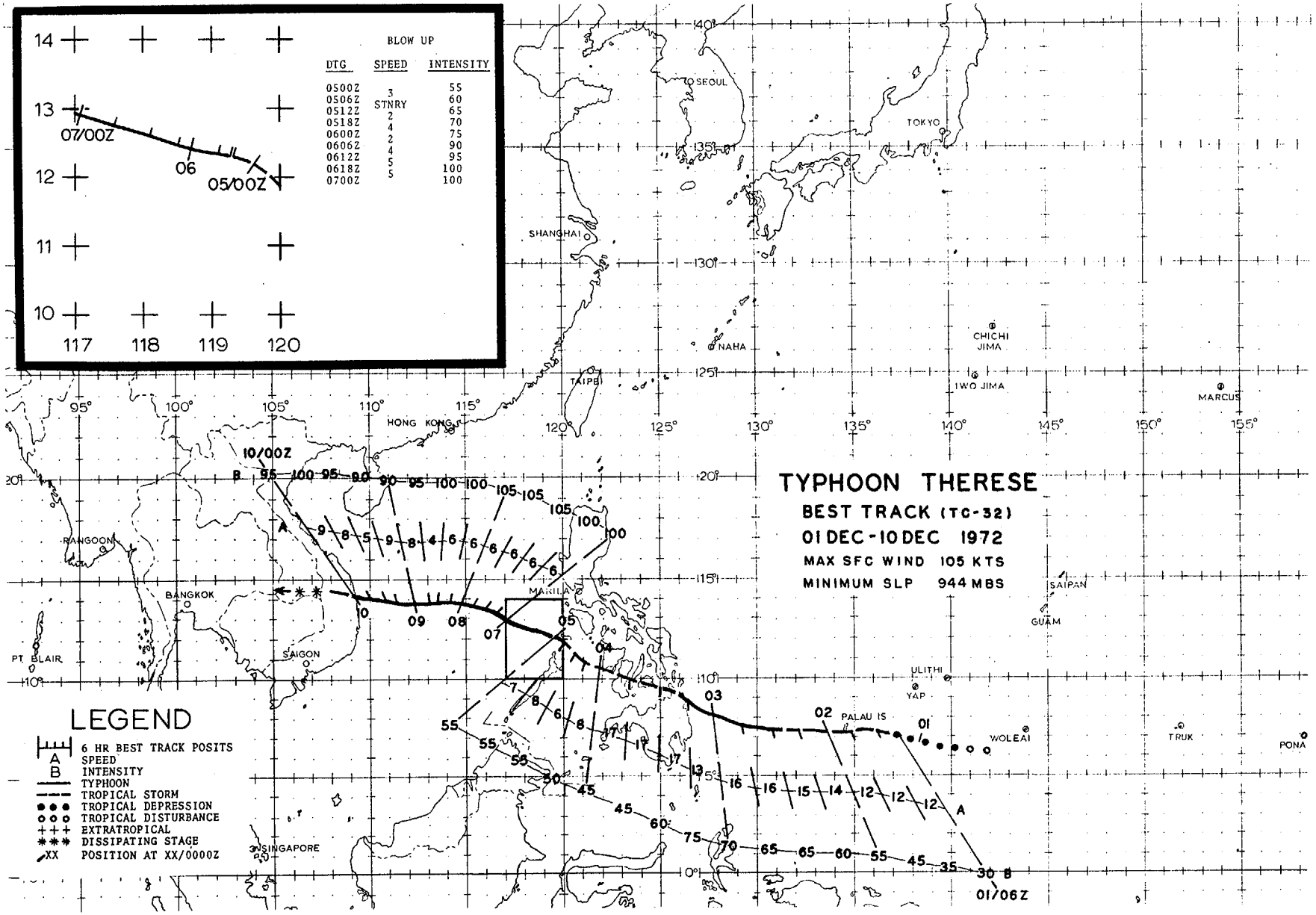
BLOW UP
DTG SPEED INTENSITY
0500Z 3 55
0506Z STNRY 60
0512Z 2 65
0518Z 4 70
0600Z 2 75
0606Z 4 90
0612Z 5 95
0618Z 5 100
0700Z 100
07/00Z
06
05/00Z
14
13
12
11
10
117
118
119
120
TYPHOON THERESE
BEST TRACK (TC-32)
01 DEC - 10 DEC 1972
MAX SFC WIND 105 KTS
MINIMUM SLP 944 MBS
10/00Z
01/06Z
LEGEND
6 HR BEST TRACK POSITS
A SPEED
B INTENSITY
TYPHOON
TROPICAL STORM
TROPICAL DEPRESSION
TROPICAL DISTURBANCE
EXTRATROPICAL
DISSIPATING STAGE
XX POSITION AT XX/0000Z
SEOUL
TOKYO
SHANGHAI
NAHA
CHICHI JIMA
IWO JIMA
MARCUS
TAIPEI
HONG KONG
RANGOON
BANGKOK
MANILA
SAIPAN
GUAM
PT BLAIR
SAIGON
ULITHI
YAP
PALAU IS
WOLEAI
TRUK
PONA
SINGAPORE

The season's last typhoon developed in the central Carolines from a circulation in the equatorial trough, first noted in satellite and synoptic data on 30 November. While Sally was navigating the South China Sea south of Vietnam, Therese intensified to tropical storm strength. Taking a westerly course, Therese approached the Palau Islands late on 1 December, passing near Koror the morning of the 2nd. Maximum winds observed at Koror were from the north at 43 kt (01/2013 GMT), gusting to 54 kt (01/2009 GMT). Minimum pressure was 995.8 mb (01/2030 GMT).

With the subtropical ridge located over the central Philippine Sea, Therese remained on a westerly course for the next 30 hours at 15-17 kt before making landfall on Mindanao. A few hours prior to the center moving ashore, the United Kingdom ship, DERWENTFIELD, observed 70-kt winds from the south and a minimum pressure of 999.0 mb.

Therese, weakened to tropical-storm intensity by terrain effects, crossed the southern Visayan Island Group the night of 2-3 December. She slowed to 7-8 kt over the northern Sulu Sea before passing over Vusuanga Island the morning of the 5th. The Cuyo Weather Station reported gusts of 55 kt (04/1132 GMT) as the center passed north of the island.

Considerable damage was reported in the Surigao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, and Suriago del Norte provinces of northern Mindanao. Over 4,700 homes were destroyed and 90% of the agricultural crops in these regions were damaged. Total damage estimates were placed at over a million dollars (U.S.). A death toll of 90 persons was reported in the aftermath of the storm. Hardest hit was Cagayan de Oro where 87 persons were drowned in flash flooding in the mountainous terrain.

It took Therese five days to transit the South China Sea after leaving the Republic of the Philippines. This was, in part, due to a stationary trough off the eastern China coast which had weakened the subtropical ridge north of the storm, producing only a weak westerly steering current. Therese intensified significantly during the 24-hour period she was stalled just west of Busuanga Island, transforming from a strong tropical storm to a 95-kt typhoon (Figure 4-38). Her central pressure gradually dropped for the next several days until reconnaissance aircraft reported a minimum of 954 mb on the afternoon of the 8th.

The occurrence of such a well-developed typhoon and the fact that 90-100 kt maximum sustained winds persisted near her center for such a long time (four days) is rare for the South China Sea in December.

Therese arrived ashore on the South Vietnam coast near 14°N on the morning of the 10th. Qui Nhon, 20 nm south of the center, reported gusts of 78 kt and a minimum pressure of 999.8 mb during the typhoon's passage. More than 1,000 homes were heavily damaged and the village of Cat Trang virtually destroyed. Extensive crop damage in the region was also reported.

Moving inland over the highlands region on the evening of the 10th, Therese weakened to a low pressure area and dissipated over eastern Thailand on the 11th.

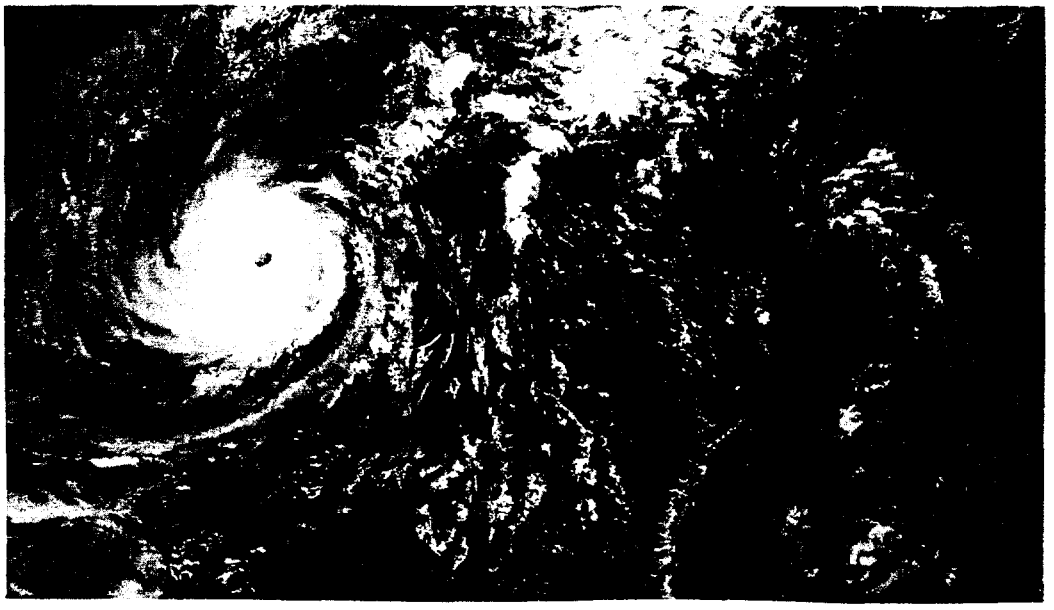

FIGURE 4-38. *Typhoon Therese in the eastern South China Sea 90 nm west of Busuanga Island, Philippines, 6 December 1972, 0350 GMT. (DAPP data)*