

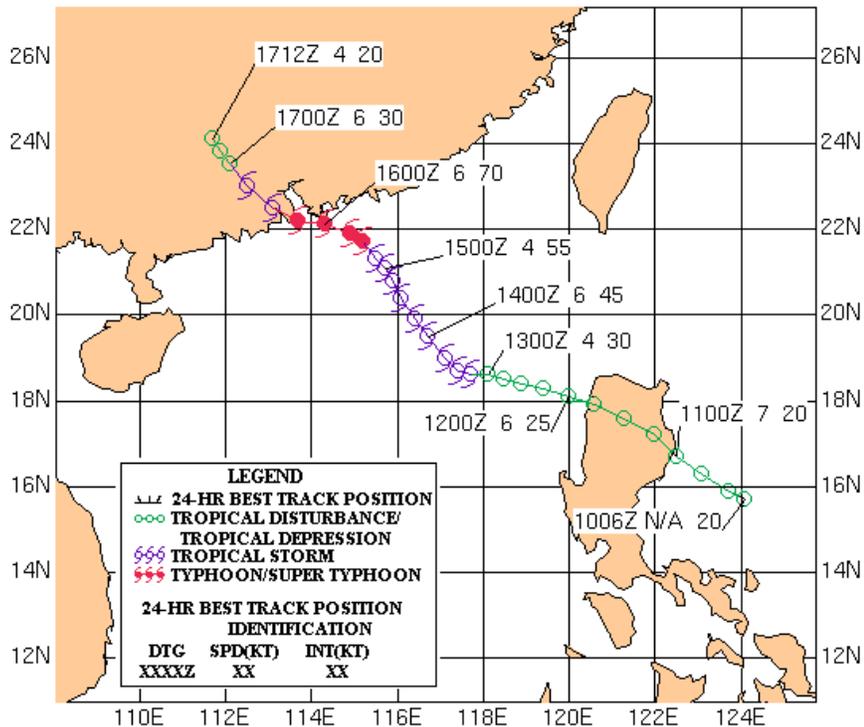
Typhoon York (21W)

Typhoon York (21W) initially formed in the Philippine Sea, slowly intensified in the South China Sea, and proceeded northwest into Hong Kong. News reports stated it was the worst tropical cyclone to hit Hong Kong in 16 years.

The disturbance that became Typhoon York developed in a broad region of cyclonic low level flow and scattered deep convection in the Philippine Sea. JTWC began tracking the disturbance on 061200Z September and issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) at 100300Z September. The cloud system however, failed to develop as it began to interact with the terrain of Luzon. A second TCFA was issued 24 hours later as upper-level outflow became more favorable, and the mid-level vortex appeared to reconsolidate and organize in a region of deep convection.

The first warning was issued at 112100Z as a 25 kt tropical depression as the system began to slowly intensify and track northwestward, it subsequently attained tropical storm intensity over the South China Sea around 130900Z September (Figure 1-21-1). Typhoon York (21W) peaked at 70 kt on 151800Z as it moved toward Hong Kong and made landfall near 160900Z (Figure 1-21-2). JTWC issued the 22nd and final warning at 170300Z as the cyclone moved inland and dissipated.

The Hong Kong Observatory reported 2 fatalities with more than 500 people injured and direct economic losses, amounting to several billion Hong Kong dollars. The Hong Kong Observatory further reported that the last time typhoon force winds were measured in Hong Kong was in 1983.



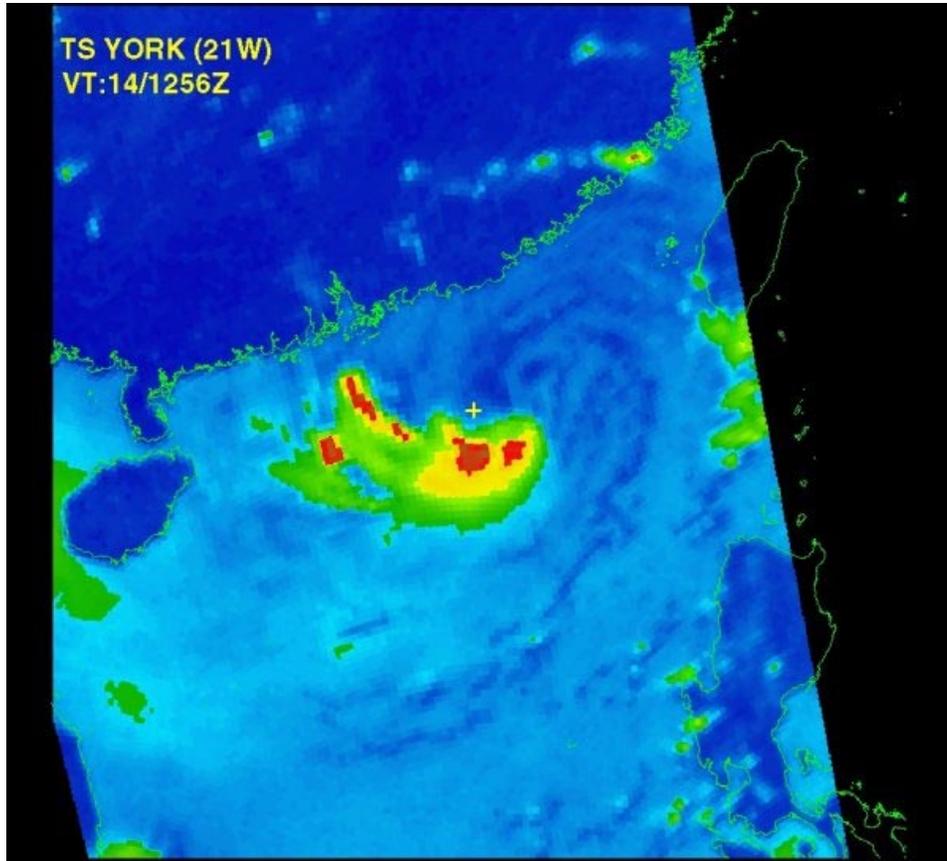


Figure 1-21-1. A special sensor microwave satellite image of developing Tropical Storm York (21W) at 141256Z September, in the South China Sea southeast of Hong Kong.

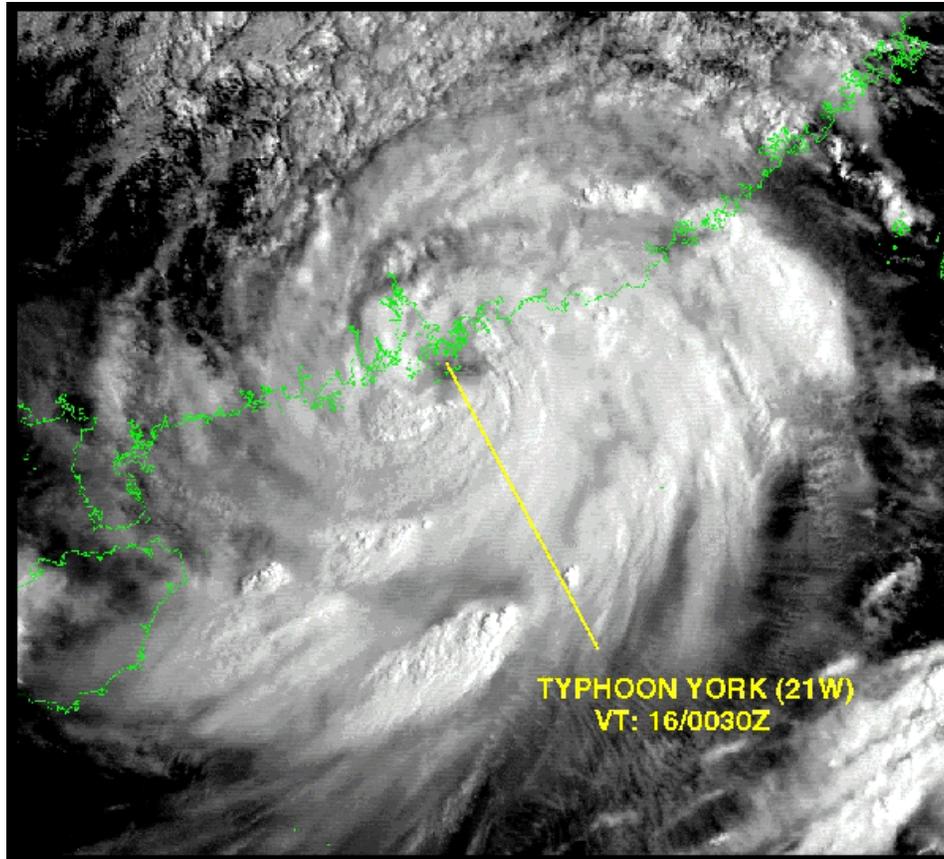


Figure 1-21-2. A visible geostationary satellite image of Typhoon York (21W) near peak intensity at 160030Z September, near Hong Kong.