Summary Sheet

IDTO - ID Number :693101
AUTH - Report Author :
TYFU - Tornado Type & Fuji Code :a0
TITL - Report Title or Location :Chatham
PROV - Province :Ontario
COUN - Counties :Kent
REFS - References :Drayton Advocate July 2, 1931 The Globe June 27, 1931
ZOTO - Touchdown Zone Number & Easting :17387000
NOTO - Touchdown Northing :4689000
LOVA - Touchdown Error Value & Code :2500o
DADA - Date of Data Entry :28/06/1990
ZOLO - Liftoff Zone Number & Easting :17402000
NOLO - Liftoff Northing :4695000
UPVA - Liftoff Error Value & Code :2500o
DEAD - Number of Fatalities :
HURT - Number of People Injured :
HERT - Injuries Code :
DATA - Date of Tornado :26/06/1931
DAVA - Date Error Value & Code :
TITO - Time of Tornado :1000
TIMR - Time Meridian :75
TIVA - Time Error Value & Code :20c
AXDA - Maximum Path Width :
AXVA - Max. Path Width Error & Code :
AVDA - Average Damage Width :
AVVA - Avg. Damage Width Error & Code :
SADA - Sample Damage Width :
SAVA - Sample Damage Width Error & Code:
INTO - Initials :JAM
DFTO - Detailed Report Flag :n
JUNK - PRDA & DIMO & DALE : 100
CODA - Property Damage Code :
MISC - ORDE,PICS_TYPE,PICS_AVAIL,COCO :1 2
MANY - Multiple Event Flag :n

MEMO:Crops flattened, trees levelled, hydro poles blown down.

PHEN - Associated Phenomena :P
TSHP - Townships :Dover/Chatham

JAM, 28/06/1990

MORE INFO

693104

A

TORNADO PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

F=0

ONT

DATE AND TIME FRI 26.6.1931 1100 EDT

LOCATION OR PATH (attach map) CHATHAM

0931-01

3. PATH LENGTH ☑ NOT KNOWN ☐ <1mi; ☐ 1-4mi; ☐ 5-10mi; ☐ 11-50mi; ☐ LENGTH IF>50mi

4. PATH WIDTH U 5. TORNADO PART OF SQUALL LINE? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN:

6. ANY UNUSUAL COLORATION? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

7. ANY UNUSUAL SOUND? ☐ YES; ☐ NO; ☑ UNKNOWN

8. IF ANSWER TO 6 OR 7 YES, ELABORATE;

9. LIST ANY ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA (Such as hail, vivid lightning heavy rain, no rain, etc.)

10. TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATE $100,000 11. TOTAL DEATHS NONE

12. TOTAL INJURED NONE. 13. TOTAL HOMELESS

14. LIST ALL REFERENCES

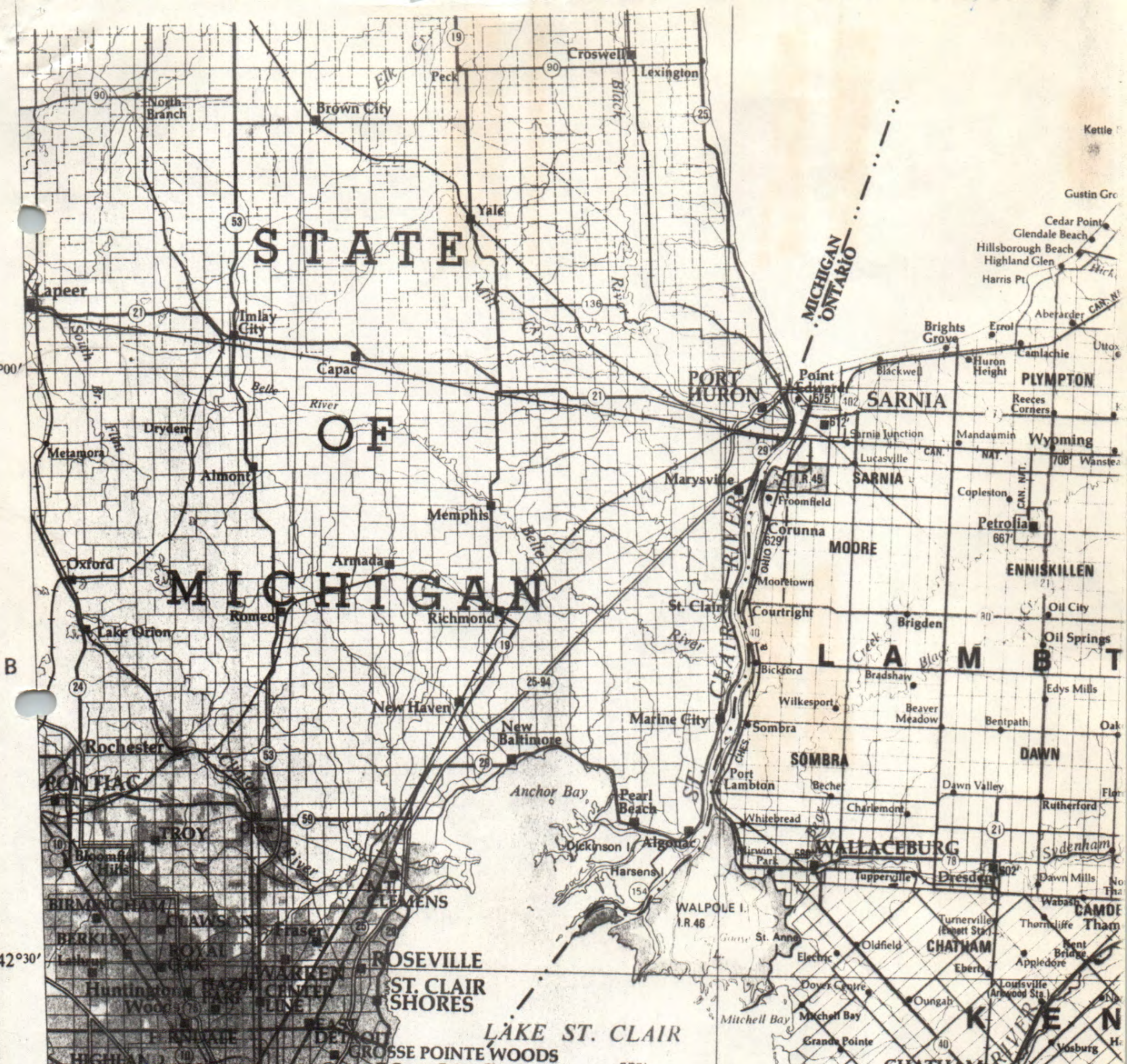
DRAYTON ADVOCATE, THUR JULY 2, 1931.
THE GLOBE, TORONTO. SAT JUNE 27, 1931 Pp 1,2.

15. SUMMARIZE REMARKS PERTAINING TO (a) FUNNEL; (b) INTERESTING OR CAPRICIOUS EVENTS.

(a) The populace received a warning in the peculiar shaped cloud which drifted from the north. As it dipped, trees crashed in every direction.

(b) Crops flattened, trees levelled. Hydro and telephone lines brought down.

Cartwright



Compiled and drawn by the Surveys and Mapping Branch Ministry of Natural Resources, Queen's Park, Toronto, from which additional copies of this map may be obtained.

DRAYTON ADVOCATE. THURSDAY JULY 2ND. 1931.

STORM DATE. FRI. JUNE 26TH. 1931.

TORONTO, ONT. JUNE 27TH. WESTERN ONTARIO centres today are recovering from one of the worst storms to hit the district in some years. Damage was particularly heavy yesterday at CHATHAM, where a gale of cyclonic proportions disrupted electric services, damaged many buildings and blew down a number of trees. Earlier, WINDSOR was deluged with a heavy downpour, accompanied by strong winds. No lives were reported lost as a result of the storm, but CARMAN KINSTER, aged 9, of COMBER, was severely injured when he was struck by a limb of a tree, torn off by the force of the wind.

LONDON and STRATFORD also were in the path of the violent storm, although it was less severe here than further west.

Damage at CHATHAM was believed to exceed $100,000 as workmen commenced to clear city streets of the debris of fallen trees etc. When a falling tree crashed a Hydro Power line the city was deprived of electric light for three hours.

Crops were flattened and miniature lakes formed as the storm heralded by pitch black clouds swept over the district.

At WINDSOR a wind and dust storm preceded the rain and trees and wires were blown down.

LIGHTNING STRIKES CHURCH.

Lightning hit the 175-foot steeple of the Catholic Church at at ST. CLEMENTS during a severe storm on Friday, and volunteer fire-fighters climbed high within the structure to extinguish flames which threatened the whole building. A spectacular electrical storm broke about 5 o'clock, and residents in the vicinity of the church were jolted by a terrific thunderclap. It was not until 20 minutes later, however, that smoke was seen issuing from the steeple about 150 feet up.Volunteer firefighters hurriedly organized and six of them clambered up inside the steeple. They managed to extinguish the flames with chemical apparatus. Meanwhile falling embers were threatening the roof of the church far below, and the village fire engine was employed to good advantage to remove this danger.

CHATHAM HARD HIT AS STORM STRIKES ON LAND AND LAKE

Essex and Kent Suffer in Gale Which Sweeps Western Ontario

COMBER BOY IS INJURED

Western Ontario centres tonight were recovering from one of the worst storms in some years. Damage was particularly heavy at Chatham, where a gale of cyclonic proportions this morning disrupted electric services, damaged buildings, and blew down trees. Earlier in the day Windsor was deluged with a heavy downpour, accompanied by strong winds.

No lives were reported lost in Ontario as a result of the storm, but Carman Knister, aged 9, of Comber, was severely injured when he was struck by the limb of a tree torn off by the force of the wind.

Lake Region Swept.

On the American side, in the region of the Great Lakes, wind and rain storms took six lives yesterday, caused damage in Ohio towns, and swept a number of boats upon the storm-lashed waves of various lakes. Fifteen persons were rescued from Lake St. Clair after their fishing smacks had been overturned by a wind storm. Eight others were saved from Lake Erie. Several persons were reported drowned near Huron Point. The two men killed were victims of a 52-mile-an-hour wind storm that swept along the rim of Lake Erie, causing damage in a number of Ohio towns.

London and Stratford also were in the path of the storm, although it was less severe there than further west.

Damage at Chatham was believed to exceed $100,000, as workmen commenced to clear city streets of the debris. When a falling tree crashed a Hydro power line, the city was deprived of electric light for three hours. More than fifty breaks had occurred in cables throughout the city, Hydro officials said.

Crops were flattened and miniature lakes formed as the storm, heralded by pitch-black clouds, swept over the district.

Wind and Dust, Then Rain.

At Windsor, a wind and dust storm preceded the rain. Many trees and wires were blown down, and gangs were working tonight to repair the damage.

Several cattle were killed and two barns were destroyed in Norfolk County in the storm last night.

Lightning caused the destruction of a barn owned by Percy Buck, near Port Dover, and another on the William Cope estate, south of St. Williams. Six cattle owned by O. Johnson were killed near Turkey Point. In the same locality, Ross Chapman lost two horses and a cow. Electric services were interrupted in many

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

THE GLOBE, TORONTO
SAT JUNE 27, 1931 p12.

STORM DATE: FRI JUNE 26, 1931.

CHATHAM HARD HIT AS STORM STRIKES

(Continued from Page 1, Column 4.)

places, although there was no damage in Simcoe.

At Stratford the side of a house owned by Charles King was demolished as a result of lightning. Mrs. King and a neighbor, who were in the house at the time, were unhurt. The house had been struck by lightning on three previous occasions.

Chatham Is Ravaged.

Chatham, June 26.—Workmen were laboring until late tonight cleaning up the wreckage left by a tornado which swept this section this morning. The worst storm in 25 years, the damage will run into many thousands of dollars. An estimate is impossible, because of the disrupted rural telephone systems. The storm excelled in violence that of last night, the main force of which was felt in Dover and Raleigh Townships, where trees were uprooted, and wheat flattened by hail stones. The wind last night, whipped up the sandy land near the mouth of the Thames, in Dover West, and moved southerly. Trees were felled along the River Road, Raleigh, flocking the highway for several miles.

Gordon Merritt, aged 18, and Glenn Chittim, 17, narrowly escaped death when a large tree near the former's home was lifted out of the ground. Merritt was knocked insensible when struck by a tree-limb, while his chum was pinned under a heavy branch. He was cut and bruised. At Walpole Island, roofs of summer homes were damaged by the hail, while the roof of a barn of John Jacobs, champion Indian plowman, was blown some distance.

Scamper to Safety.

The storm this morning broke about 11 o'clock. The populace received a warning in the peculiar shaped cloud which drifted from the north. As it dipped trees crashed in every direction, bringing traffic to a standstill, while pedestrians, dodging debris blown out of alleys, scampered to safety. Barely a street in the city escaped damage from falling trees, and many were blocked. It is estimated that more than 200 of the finest maples, from which Chatham gets its name of "The Maple City," were felled by the blow, which lasted almost twenty-five minutes.

Tree Blown Over Car.

City Engineer T. M. S. Kingston, in his car with City Foreman McDonald, had a close call when a large tree toppled. The upper branches of the tree closed in over the car, which was not damaged.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Paling, who conduct a small store on Amelia Street, also had a narrow escape, as a heavy timber crashed on one side of their premises.

A poplar tree at the rear of the Hydro station crashed through a 26,000-volt cable, depriving the city of electric power. It was not until late this afternoon that the service was resumed, more than 50 breaks in the Hydro cables in different parts of the city having to be repaired. Long-distance telephonic communication was interrupted. Most of the rural telephone lines were out of commission. Considerable damage is believed to have been occasioned to fruit trees, while some farmers feared the wheat crops had been ruined.

Radio Blown to Bits.

Grimsby, June 26.—Reports received today describe heavy damage in the area south of here, near Smithville, by last night's storms. At the home of Bowman Brothers on the Grimsby Centre Road, lightning struck the house, apparently entering on the radio aerial. The family were sitting in the kitchen when they saw a ball of fire in the sitting room. When smoke had cleared away they discovered the radio literally blown to bits, pictures knocked from the walls and the telephone burned out. Although slightly shocked, none of the family was injured. Big trees were blown down and others torn to pieces by lightning. The Bell Telephone Company was a heavy loser. Linemen were still working repairing the damage done by storms a week ago, when last night's storm struck. Residents of the district describe it as the most severe in ten years. Electric power failed early in the evening and the district was in darkness until nearly midnight. In the fruit belt north of the mountain little or no damage was done, except to ripe cherries.

Comber Boy Injured.

Windsor, June 26.—A small boy was severely injured and many trees and wires blown down as the hurricane struck the Border Cities and other parts of Essex County about 1 o'clock this morning. In the wake of the wind came a brief, pelting rain, followed by a drizzle. From a temperature of 79 degrees at 1 o'clock, the thermometer showed a drop of 19 points one hour later.

Carman Knister, 9 years old, of Comber, suffered a skull fracture when struck by a flying tree limb. He was rushed to Metropolitan General Hospital, Walkerville, by his father, Reuben Knister. His condition was reported as fair tonight.

The storm raced upon the Border from the northeast, where black, ugly clouds foretold its approach. It suddenly almost obliterated the Detroit sky line. Street lights snapped on and were needed for about a quarter of an hour. Great trees were uprooted, branches wrenched from trunks, and telegraph, telephone and power lines snapped. Similar damage was reported throughout Essex County.

Pennsylvania Swept.

Pittsburg, Pa., June 26.—Two deaths and several thousand dollars' worth of property damage were the toll of an electric and wind storm which struck Western Pennsylvania today. It was the second such storm in a week and the rainfall, 1.23 inches in fifteen minutes, broke a Pittsburg precipitation mark set in 1903.

Sailboat Party Saved.

Buffalo, June 26.—Clinging desperately to the sides of an overturned sailboat last night, eight persons were rescued from Lake Erie. The rescued party, two of whom were women and two small girls, owe their lives to Dr. Edward L. Eweson, owner of the cruiser Alla II., and his captain, Edmund W. Bennett. Captain Bennett was docking the boat at Point Abino, on the Canadian side, when he noticed a small sailboat in distress about a mile out. He summoned the doctor, and, while they were watching, the sailboat suddenly disappeared. Captain Bennett headed for the place where the smaller boat was last seen. By this time the wind had increased to about 48 miles an hour, and waves five feet high were piling up. They reached the stricken craft after a terrific struggle, and took aboard eight persons who were clinging to the gunwales. None of the party was known to Dr. Eweson.

Fishermen Rescued.

Detroit, June 26.—A heavy wind and rainstorm that swept across Eastern Michigan today caused the death of two men, brought serious injury to several others, and sent Customs patrol boats and rescue parties out on Lakes Erie and St. Clair, where thirty-five persons were taken from small fishing boats overturned or blown out into the lake by a sixty-mile offshore wind.

Twenty men, women and children, residents of a resort colony near Indian Trails, on Lake Erie, were taken from the lake by other resort residents who cruised in launches and removed them from overturned or water-filled boats. Two boys, William Goers, Toledo, and J. McCullough, Detroit, swam more than a mile and a half to shore after their boat upset. Several other parties were towed to safety by speedboat crews.

Customs Patrol cutters rescued fifteen fishermen in Lake St. Clair as a high wind was blowing them out into the lake. Several were clinging to overturned boats. No loss of life on the lakes was reported.

George Renno, a farmer, near Yale, Mich., was killed when lightning struck near his home. Private Charles Longava of East Chicago, Ind., was fatally injured, and Private Harry J. Lewis was seriously hurt when they were pinned beneath the door of a Selfridge Field hangar which blew over on them while they were attempting to close it. In Detroit twenty persons were treated for cuts and bruises.