



## THE AMERICAN RED CROSS NEWS SERVICE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RED CROSS CARING FOR 150 INJURED  
IN FLORIDA STORM; REPORT 80 DEAD  
OTHER RELIEF MEASURES DESCRIBED

Washington, D. C., September 4. -- The Miami Red Cross Chapter today informed national headquarters here that the rescue unit sent out by them late yesterday had checked 80 dead and collected 150 injured persons along the Florida keys as far south as Matecumbe island, victims of the hurricane which swept over the keys yesterday.

Fifty patients had been brought to Jackson Memorial Hospital, and 100 cases to the Homestead Hospital. Many serious injury cases were included. A number of the victims suffered broken backs and limbs.

The Red Cross Unit of the Homestead Hospital, comprising doctors and nurses, was sent to the scene this morning. This was in addition to the motorcade of ambulances, nurses and doctors sent last night.

Admiral Cary T. Grayson, chairman of the Red Cross, was directing the relief work at headquarters today. He had been in touch during the night with the staff of Red Cross workers who had kept headquarters open all night, receiving reports from Florida.

Admiral Grayson communicated with the White House, explaining relief steps taken by the Red Cross, and also at noon today telephoned Governor David Sholtz of Florida.

"We are very distressed here and are doing all we can to help," Admiral Grayson told the Governor. "If you know of anything else that we can do let us know." The Admiral told of the eleven Red Cross relief workers on the way or in Florida, and others to follow and described the relief work of the Miami Red Cross chapter.

Governor Sholtz expressed appreciation and said the situation was very serious. "The Red Cross is doing wonderfully -- and we could not expect more," he said.

He described the storm as centering at the time he was speaking, over Cedar Key.

Advices to the Red Cross here from Miami were that relief workers at 11 a.m. today had not yet been able to reach Camps 2 and 3 of the war veterans enrolled with the F.E.R.A.

The Coast Guard told the Red Cross that one of its planes early today had flown over the keys and that Veterans Camps 1 and 5 appeared to be completely destroyed. The rescue train sent 24 hours before to move the men out of the threatened area was sighted, and the aviators reported the engine was on the track, but all cars were overturned.

Following advices from the Coast Guard at 11:55 a.m. today that Coast Guard boat "Nemesis" reporting from St. Petersburg described some property damage there, no loss of life, but a 65 mile wind blowing and a rising tide, the Red Cross here prepared to send further relief workers to the west Florida coast. The Coast Guard reported all communications out at St. Petersburg, and the lighting system broken down. They had no word of what damage the storm had caused in Clear Water or Tarpon Springs, farther up the gulf coast.

Miss Eugenia L. Klinefelter, assistant to the director of Red Cross Nursing Service, left at 2 p.m. today for Florida to direct nursing help to the injured.

Following receipt of telephone communications from Miami Red Cross last midnight, headquarters here ordered eight relief workers into the field and the majority took the 3:45 a.m. Wednesday train from Washington. They were William Hunt, John L. Teets, Wade Downing, Harold Foy, and John T. Maloney. George Myers and Nelson Howard had entrained 18 hours earlier when first reports of the hurricane were received from the Weather Bureau. Dr. William DeKleine, medical director of the Red Cross, who was in St. Louis was directed to proceed at once to the Florida storm area.

Myers and Howard telephoned from Tampa at 8 a.m. Wednesday that the storm had passed over there, without causing damage. St. Petersburg, across the bay, was cut off from all communication, however, and they were endeavoring to get in touch to learn if there the storm had struck that community.

At 9:30 a.m. the Weather Bureau reported the storm would pass Cedar Keys in mid forenoon and was headed north - northeast, and would strike inland, with diminished intensity. Victor DeMurguiondo, Red Cross liaison man at Pensacola, was immediately ordered by telephone to proceed to Tallahassee to stand by, in the event the storm strikes in that territory.

Nat Wilson, Red Cross relief worker, was ordered from Washington at 2 p.m. today to Jacksonville to join the relief forces.

Leonard Thompson, disaster relief chairman of the Miami Red Cross Chapter, telephoned national headquarters late Tuesday that the chapter had started a rescue motorcade for the keys. He said that three ambulances, 10 doctors and 12 nurses and a number of first aid and rescue squads comprised the party. They also carried food supplies. They knew the highway was washed away and expected to build temporary structures if necessary, in order to reach the stricken communities.

The motorcade carried a portable radio set and had a radio in Miami to pick up messages. Thompson requested 40 National Guardsmen to direct transportation along the highway.

At 11 p.m. the first message came through over the short wave radio saying that 100 civilian dead had been located at Tavernier key and 35 wounded. The latter were placed in ambulances and motor cars and started back for Miami. The message asked for more doctors and more supplies. Later messages Wednesday placed the dead actually located at 80 and 150 injured.

At midnight the White House gave out the following telegram from President Roosevelt to Governor David Sholtz of Florida: "Army and Navy ordered to render all possible aid and Red Cross already at work. Let me know if there is any additional emergency rescue work Federal Government can do."