

**Introduction.**—The approximate areas flooded by Hurricane Camille tides of August 18, 1969, along the Mississippi gulf coast are shown in a series of hydrologic atlases. The area covered by the entire series of atlases extends from Bayou La Batre, Ala., westward along the gulf coast through Mississippi to the mouth of West Pearl River, a distance of 90 miles.

Flooded areas along the extreme northern shore of St. Louis Bay, and along DeLisle and Rotten Bayous, are delineated on the Vidalia quadrangle.

Camille was the most intense hurricane on record to enter the United States mainland. According to the U.S. Weather Bureau maximum winds were estimated to be at least 190 mph (miles per hour) and central pressure observed was 26.61 inches of mercury, lowest ever recorded on the gulf coast. The eye of the storm, 5 miles in diameter, traveling almost due north, passed over the Waveland-Bay St. Louis area and hurricane force winds of more than 75 mph extended approximately 50 miles on either side. The maximum precipitation near the coast during the passage of the hurricane was 10 inches recorded at the Mississippi Test Facility, approximately 18 miles northwest of Bay St. Louis.

Flooding was the most severe in the Pass Christian-Long Beach area where tides reached elevations about 25 feet above mean sea level. In the St. Louis Bay, maximum elevations were about 18 feet and in the Back Bay of Biloxi, about 15 feet.

American Red Cross casualty figures listed 139 known dead and 76 missing in Mississippi. Known dead in Louisiana totaled five. Total number of persons injured was estimated to be 8,931. The total damage caused by Hurricane Camille, as reported by the Office of Emergency Planning, was \$1.3 billion; damage by Hurricane Betsy (1965) was \$400 million.

Past tide records and some Camille tide elevations were obtained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile district. Most of the Camille flood data were obtained by the U.S. Geological Survey from August 19 to September 17, 1969.

**Tidal Records.**—Reasonably accurate records of storm tides for the Mississippi coast since 1882 have been recorded at Biloxi by the Corps of Engineers and others. A tide gage is located near the center of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad bridge across the Back Bay of Biloxi. Elevations of the annual maximum tides at this gage are shown on figure 1.

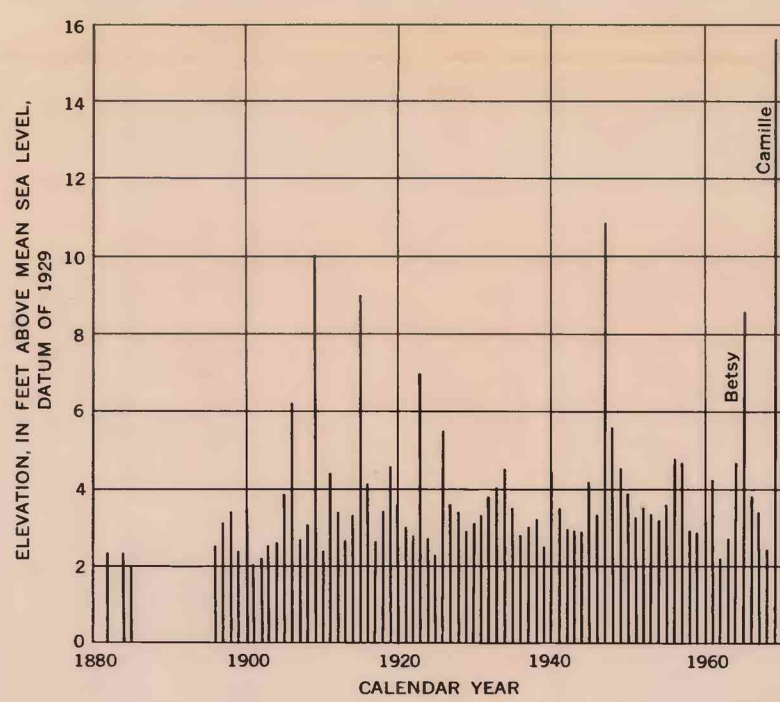


FIGURE 1.—Annual maximum tide at Biloxi, Mississippi, 1882, 1884-85, 1896-1969

Tide gages with much shorter records are operated by the Corps of Engineers at Mobile, Dauphin Island, Pascagoula, and Pearlington. Significant tide elevations at various points along the Mississippi coast for more than 20 hurricanes since 1893 have been recorded by the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geological Survey, and others. Data pertaining to some of the highest tides of record are shown in table 1. Additional data for the September 1965 hurricane tide (Betsy) are shown on the map.

TABLE 1.—Hurricane tide elevations at selected locations along the Mississippi gulf coast, 1889-1969, in feet above mean sea level, datum of 1929.

Date	Waveland		Dauphin Island		Long Beach		Gulfport		Pascagoula	
	1889	1906	1909	1915	1916	1947	1965	1969	1965	1969
Oct. 2, 1889	10.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 27, 1906	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.2	—
Sept. 20, 1909	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 29, 1915	—	—	—	11.8	—	12.6	—	9.0	9.0	—
July 5, 1916	—	—	—	*13.7	—	—	—	—	4.3	—
Sept. 19, 1947	—	—	—	<sup>b</sup> 15.2	13.4	—	14.0	14.0	<sup>c</sup> 11.1	<sup>d</sup> 7.7
Sept. 10, 1965	—	—	—	12.7	12.5	10.8	—	12.3	<sup>e</sup> 10.2	8.6
Aug. 18, 1969	—	—	—	<sup>f</sup> 21.7	<sup>f</sup> 16.5	<sup>f</sup> 24.2	<sup>f</sup> 21.0	<sup>f</sup> 20.1	15.5	<sup>f</sup> 8.5

Note: Elevations shown are from Corps of Engineers unless otherwise noted.  
<sup>a</sup> At old Vicksburg community near Kila, determined by U.S. Geological Survey.  
<sup>b</sup> Elevation 14.8 feet at Kila landing, determined by U.S. Geological Survey.  
<sup>c</sup> At main building of U.S. Coast Guard base; maximum elevation 10.5 feet recorded at automatic gage one mile northeast.  
<sup>d</sup> Elevation 10.5 feet from U.S. Weather Bureau.  
<sup>e</sup> Elevation 10.3 feet at seaward end of State dock.  
<sup>f</sup> Determined by U.S. Geological Survey.  
<sup>g</sup> Elevation 10.3 feet at seaward end of State dock.

Area flooded by high tides  
Hurricane Camille, August 1969  
Hurricane Betsy, September 1965  
High-water mark, in feet above mean sea level  
Camille 18.2  
Well for emergency water supply

## HURRICANE CAMILLE TIDAL FLOODS OF AUGUST 1969 ALONG THE GULF COAST, VIDALIA QUADRANGLE, MISSISSIPPI

By  
K. V. Wilson and James W. Hudson  
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