

Tri State Tornado

What was the Tri State Tornado?

The Tri State Tornado was a Tornado that occurred on the eighteenth of March 1925. It passed through three states destroying everything in its vicinity. It followed a straight path for three and a half hours before finally dieing.



Which states did it effect?

The three states that were effected were Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. It effected many towns like Ellington, Murphysboro, Griffin, West Frankfurt and many others.

How many people were killed?

Overall around 700 people were killed. Around 243 of them happened in Murphysboro. 127 people where killed in West Frankfurt. It also killed 45 people in Princeton and 25 in Griffin. It killed many in between.

How did it happen?

When the U.S military in charge of the weather it found that it was near impossible to predict tornadoes and it would also spread panic.

That days weather had cooling temperature and showers. The weather reporters had been tracking a low pressure system that came from Canada and looped into Oklahoma/Texas border, before going into Missouri. A warm front from Mexico raised the temperature around 10°. The warm air rapidly rose. This caused what we currently call the "lifting system" of a tornado. The clouds above Missouri then became black.

At about one o'clock the main column of air formed in Ellington and killed a farmer. It then started its three and a half hour warpath.

What could have been done to prevent ?

If the military had of allowed the study of tornadoes earlier they may or may not have been able to evacuate some of the towns.

A warning of the incoming tornado could also have been sent out to the towns so he could evacuate or at least find shelter.

What did we learn?

Many things happened after the Tri State Tornado. People now knew what tornados were and the death and destruction they bring. "Tornado watchers" were set up by day to day people.

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