***Date* :** Monday, June 17, 1946

***Time* :** 7:10PM (TPSS = 6:08PM)

***Location* :** Windsor, Essex County

***F-Rating* :** F4

***Track Length* :** 19.42km (12.07mi) / UTM = 19.75km (12.27mi)

***Max Width* :** 805m (2641ft) / Average Width = 273m (896ft) / new file = 300m Some sources say 30m/100ft

***Direction* :** 255° (WSW-ENE)

***Shape* :** Cone, dark in colour.

“See photo. As the tornado struck the Canadian shore, its dark twisting cone reared up, making itself visible for several miles.”

***Injuries* :** 100+ (28 seriously)

***Deaths* :** 17

***Damage Cost* :** $1.5M? $9.663M? “Over a hundred homes demolished and 300 (400?) damaged in Windsor and more than 30 damaged along the tornado’s route as well as 150 barns or farm buildings. $½ million damage in Windsor and $1 million through the country as hundreds of orchard trees and hundreds of acres of full grown woodlots uprooted. Many victims decapitated. Soldiers requested to stop looting.”

***Notes* :** The third deadliest tornado in Canadian history, and the most deadly ever recorded in Ontario.

Violent tornado originated in the Melvindale suburb of Detroit, Michigan, and tracked ENE into Canada, arriving at Brighton Beach. It then began its extremely destructive 20km track across the Windsor area before lifting off at Belle River on Lake St. Clair. Sometimes referred to as the “Windsor-Tecumseh Tornado”

Objects lofted high into the storm by the tornado were found great distances from their origins.

An airplane was picked up by the tornado in Detroit and landed on a house in Windsor, killing the residents inside. – from “Disasters of Ontario, 75 Stories of Courage and Chaos”, (René Biberstien)

Investigated by EC as a candidate for F5 rating upgrade. It was not warranted due to lack of evidence.

“In the surrounding countryside downpours covered roads to a depth of nearly 3 feet. Floods inundated 60-70,000 acres of agricultural lands as dykes at Erieau gave way causing $5 million damage to tomatoes, corn, potatoes, beets, and onion crops. The loss considered to be a tremendous set-back to farmers striving to produce more food for post war Europe. A pair of trousers found between Belle River and No. 2 HWY by Mrs. Walter Dourocher in her garden. In the pockets were telegrams and other identification that proved the pants to Waldo Beeman who along with his 19 year old bride and their baby were killed by the tornado.

Ray Milner, pilot of an incoming aircraft described the advancing tornado. “It was ripping through power lines and the ground was covered with blue flashes like the pictures of bombs bursting. I could see from my pilots seat in the plane how it crumpled buildings like eggshells. It would pick up other objects and whirl them around.””

***Photos/Videos* :** Many photos of both tornado and damage available from newspapers and other collections including at least one photo from Harry G. Garland. See files for images.

Documentary:

“Life in Disaster Row” (History Channel Canada)

Windsor Tornado – Disasters of the Century

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9Ca6E8DXSs>