Tornadoes in Colonia Saint Jordi (Majorca) 12th/10/2004

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INTRODUCTION:

The day 12th October, 2004 took place a tornado in a coastal village in the south of Majorca Island. The name of the village is Colonia Saint Jordi. This phenomenon coincided with the time after lunch in a holiday, reason why many people could be witness and it have a great impact in press. Some pictures of this report have appeared in the media, for example, in TV3, TELE5, TVE, "Diario de Mallorca", www.mallorcadiario.com and RAM magazine.

(Pic 01)

GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION

Colonia Saint Jordi is placed in a small peninsula in the south of Majorca Island. Is a nucleus arisen in the 19th Century, under protection of the law from agricultures colonies, placed in the Ses Salinas council This council, with 39.1 km2, limits to northwest with the famous Trenc Beach, in the Campos Council, and limits to the south with the virgin zone of the S'Aball property, one of the greater large estate of Majorca, which owner is March Family.

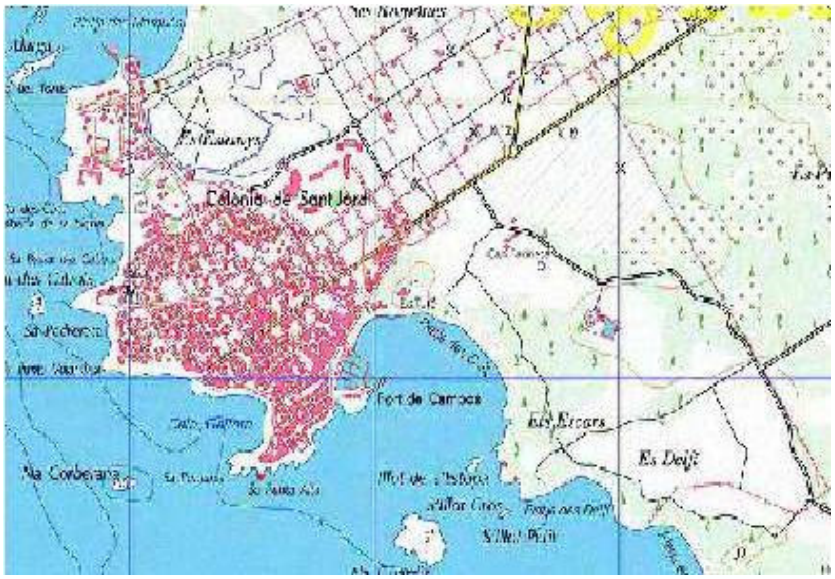
The stable population of the village is 3,000 people, but in summer there is more than 10,000.

(Pic 02)

A zoom of the South of the Island.

(Pic 03)

Closer sight:



(Pic 04)

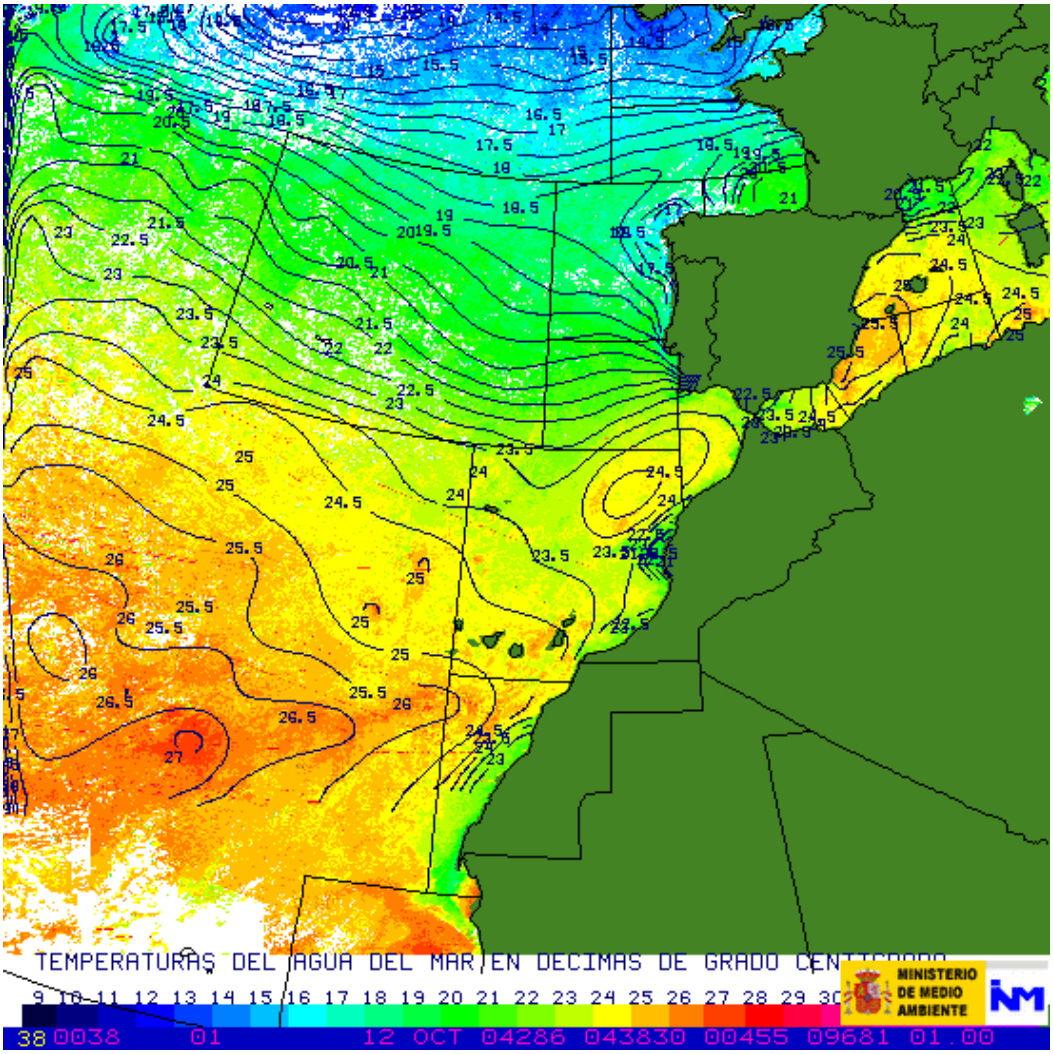
The climate of the south of Majorca is Mediterranean, dry to semi-arid. The data of the nearest weather station, located in the same council of Ses Salines, are the following ones:

Annual precipitation: 381mm,
Average of minimum temperatures in the coldest month: 5.0ºC
Average of maximum temperature in the warmest month: 30.0ºC
Average annual: 17.2ºC
Drier months: June and July
Rainier months: October and November

SYNOPTIC SITUATION

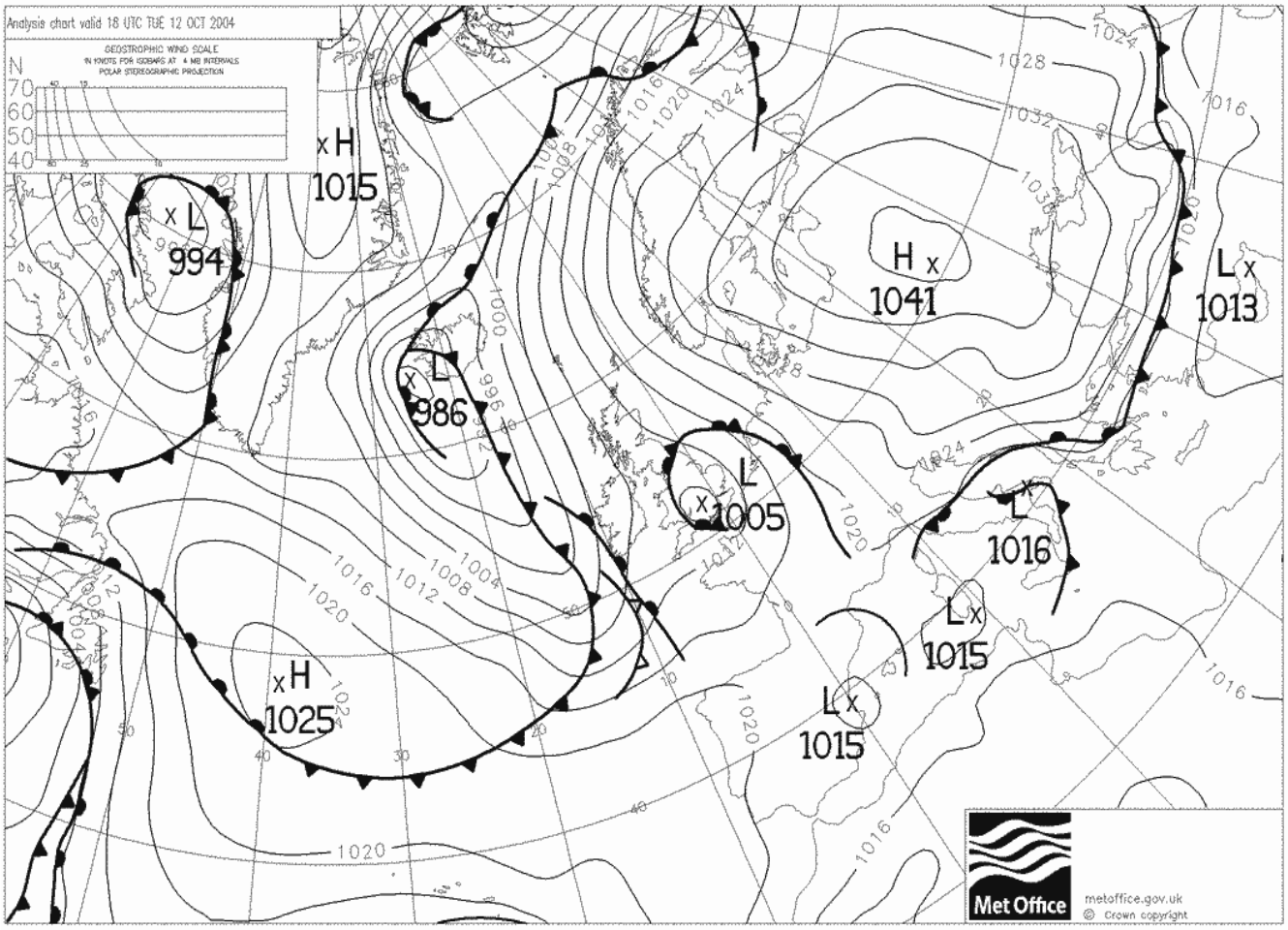
The antecedents show us that, after a June, July and August months quite normal, September was one of the warmest that are remembered. We had an African heat wave that lasted almost all September, breaking all the historic records reaching temperatures of 36.5ºC, and October began with temperatures over the average.

The sea temperature was high, as we can see in the map. The temperature in the zone that we are studying was about 25º:



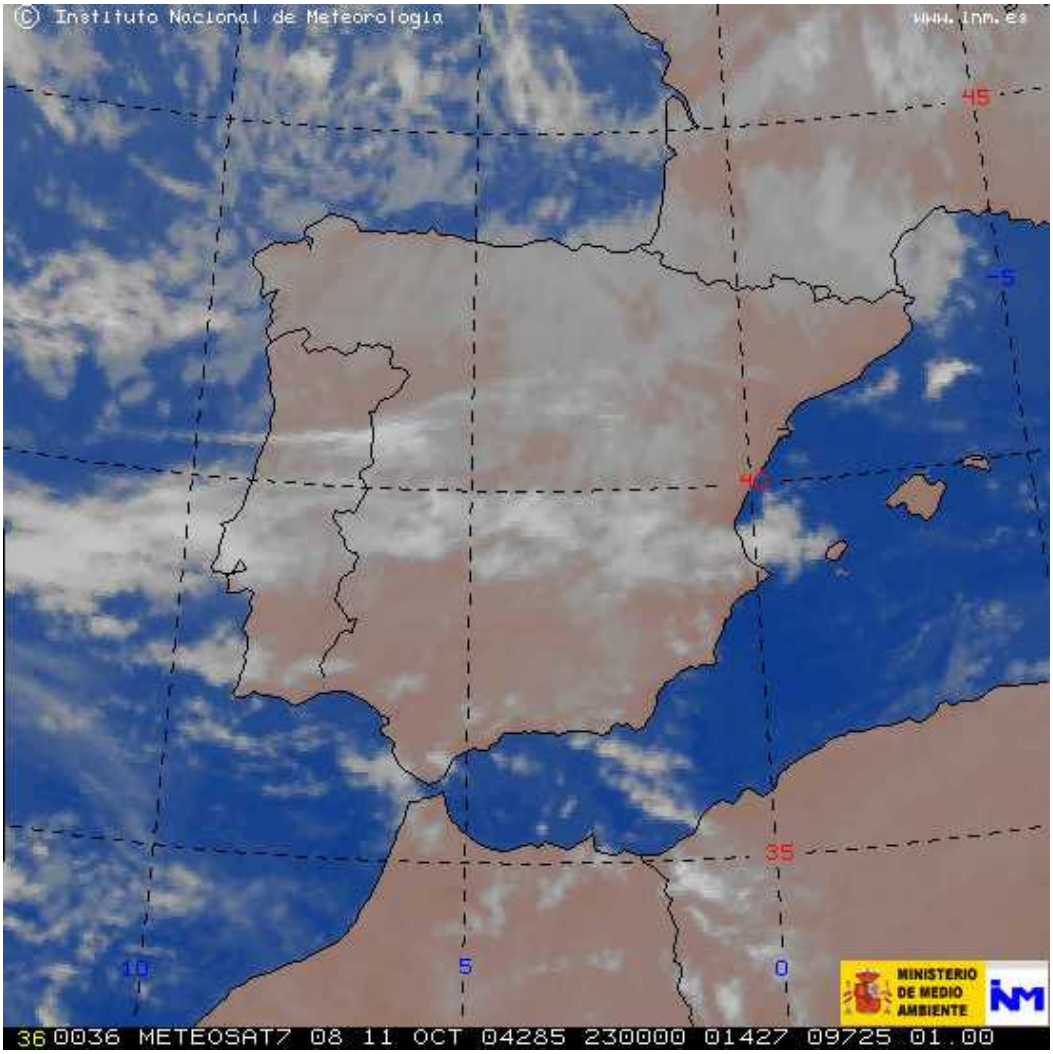
(Pic 05)

In the synoptic map we could see a little low in front of Valencian coast:



(Pic 06)

Here we can see the Meteosat images of the previous hours to the tornado can be seen: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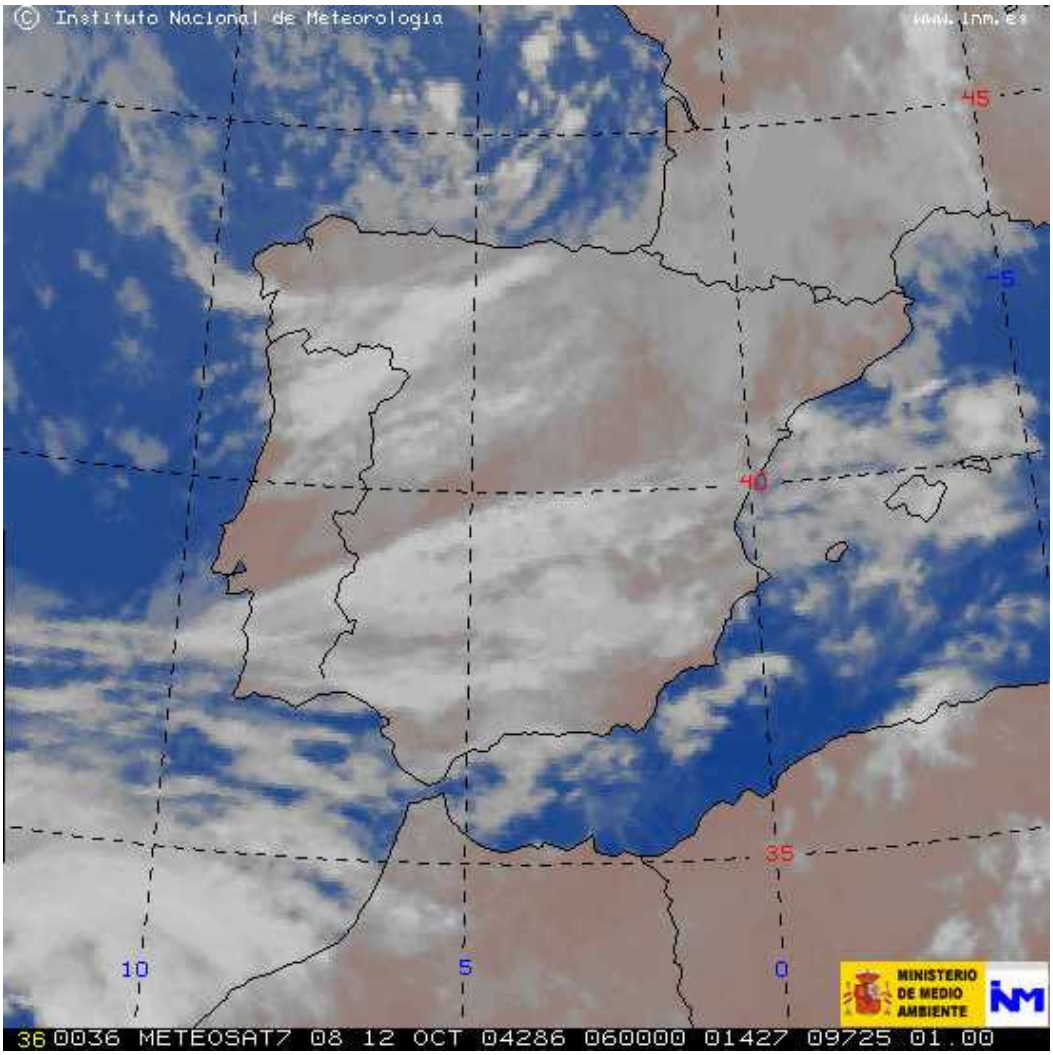
(Pic 07)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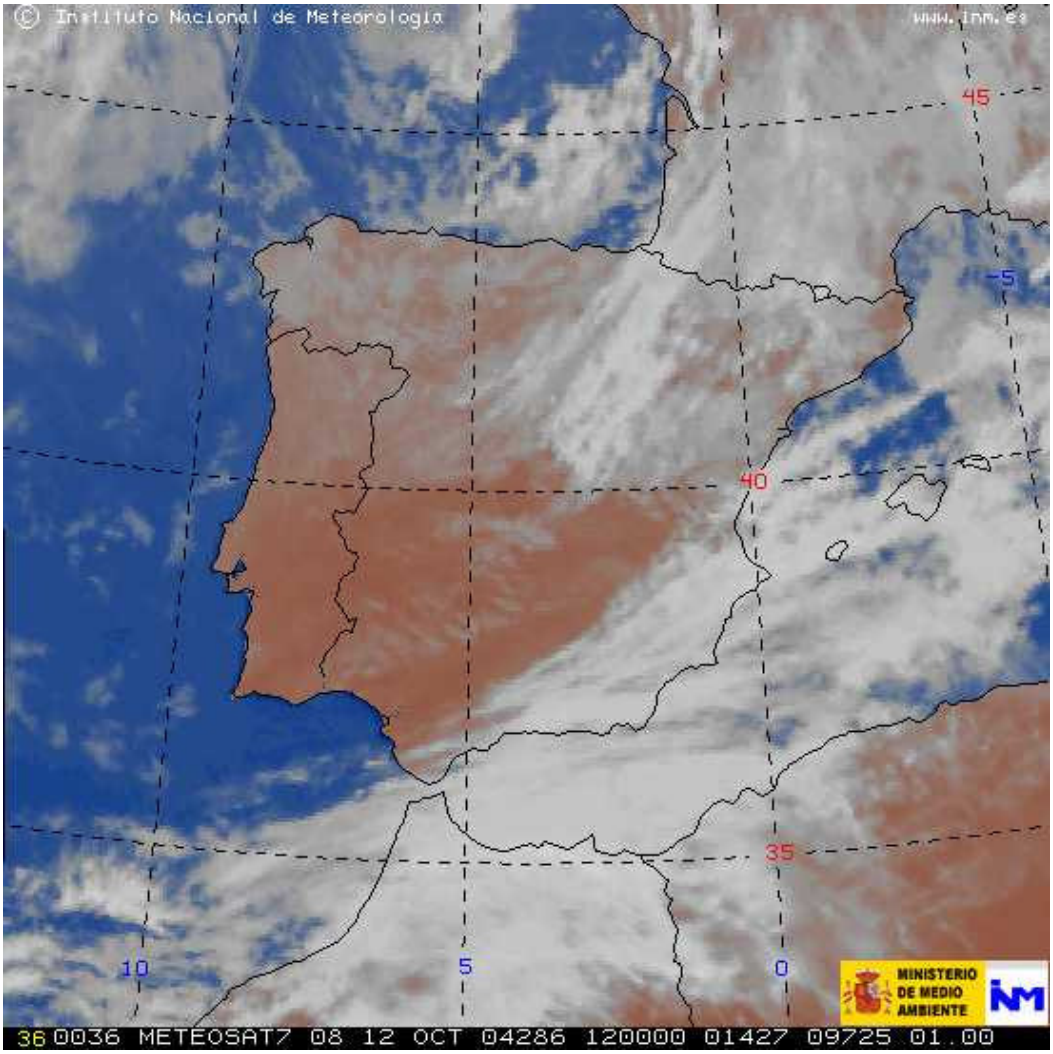
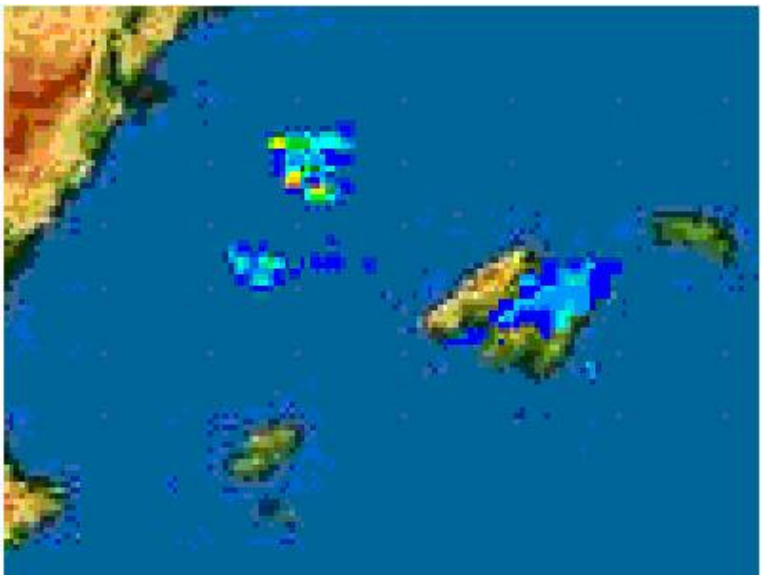
(Pic 08)



(Pic 09)

Radar images, October 12th, 2004:

(Pic 10)



(Pic 11)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

That holiday, I went with my girlfriend to our apartment in Colonia Saint Jordi, to make DIY works. The day woke up cloudy in Palma, and when we were approached to the south of the Island, I watched that the clouds was developing spectacularly. The sultry supported and the small Cut-Off Low that was in height, beginning to take effect. The sky was announcing the party…

The morning passed with cloudy intervals, and some cells could be seen to the west and the north of our position.

At lunch time, we were in a restaurant. We show as a car stopped in the middle of the street and the driver get out. I supposed that it had been a small accident with the car, so, I didn't give it more importance. In a few seconds, I watch outside again and…, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. In front of me there were 2 little tornadoes, perfectly formed, quite near one each other, moving slowly to my left.

I warned my girlfriend to looked out, while, I said to her to stand there while I went to the apartment, to catch the camera. I began to shoot pictures:

(Pic 12) 15.03h, this is the first picture that I took. It is a little bit blurred, but we can notice the second tornado that was been dissolved.

(Pic 13)Second picture: the tornado moves slowly towards the left. The smallest is disappearing.

(Pic 14) Third picture: The smallest continue dissolving and the great one continue moving to the left.

(Pic 15) Fourth picture: 15.04

(16) 15: 04 fifth picture

(17) 15.05, sixth picture

(18) 15.05, seventh picture

(19) 15.06, eighth picture

(20) 15.06, ninth picture, it began to lose force.

(21) 15.07, tenth picture, here we can see how it was disappearing.

(22) 15.08, eleventh picture,

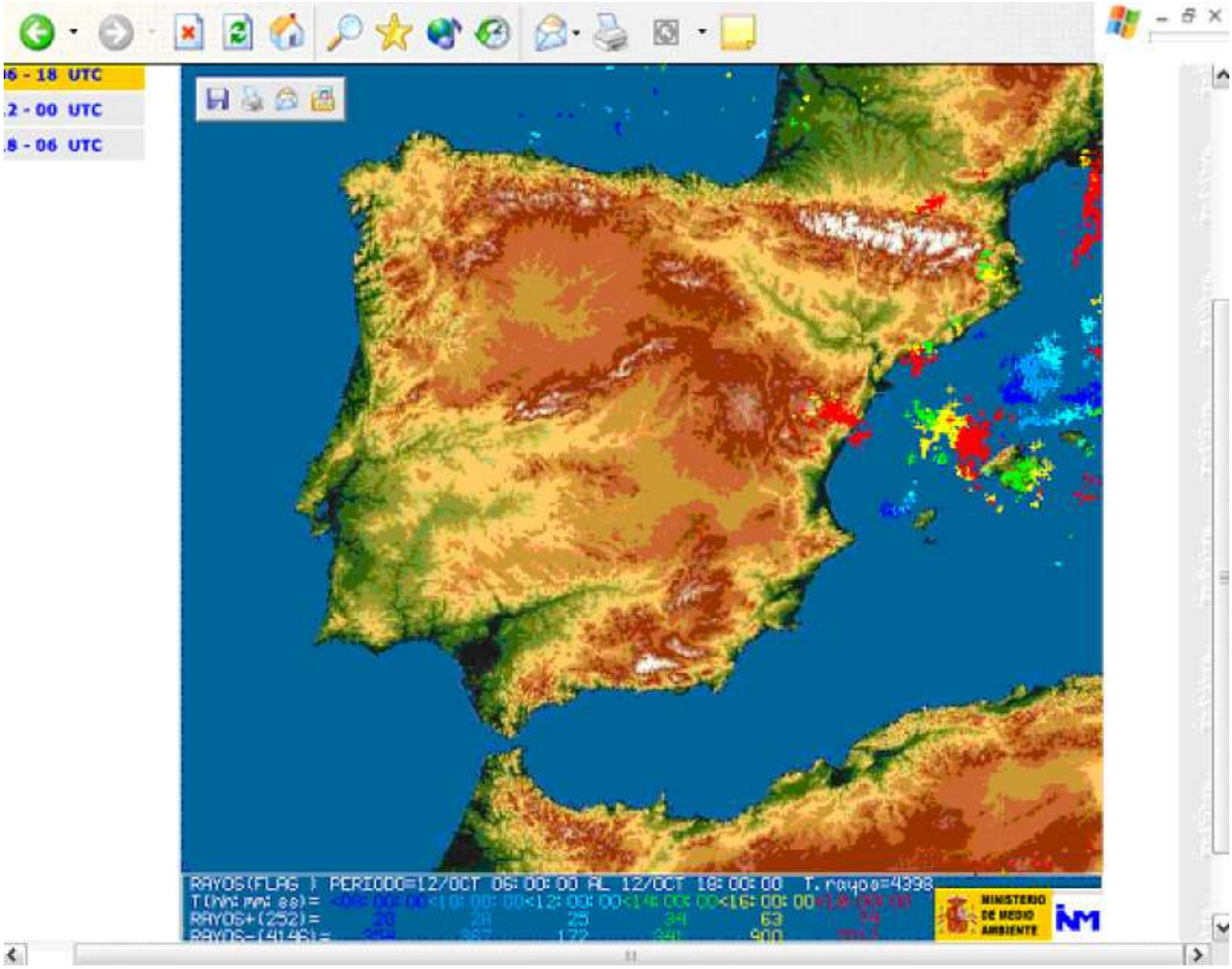
(23) 15.08, twelfth picture.

(24) 15.08, thirteenth picture, only remain a little funnel cloud.

(25) 15.08, it is finished.

(26) Meanwhile, to the north, in the opposite direction of the previous pictures, it was breaking a storm. It was approximately in Porreras-Felanitx:

(27) This picture, from the local newspaper "Diario de Mallorca", show us the same tornadoes, from another location



(28) This is the ray map of day 12th . It had so much electric activity all over the Balearic Archipelago.

About 15.10 , I went down to the restaurant again. We paid the bill, and went to the port. From the car, we could see that a new tornado was forming over the sea, and it were to touch the coast.

We parked where we could and looked for a good place to observe the phenomenon:

(29) 15.17 This is the first picture that I could take. The emotion exceeded me. We can observed the brown colour of the funnel cloud, because of the soil that had lifted.

(30) 15.18 Second picture. The lifted dust amount was greater.

(31) 15.18 It begins to move away. The amount of dust that it lifted was great.

(32) 15.19 The tornado didn't touch the ground yet.

(33)15.20 In less than a minute the funnel cloud disappeared, leaving behind himself the lifted dust.

(34) Looking to the south, to Cabrera Island, the sky was cloudless, but the sea was being stirred up per moments

(35) 15.20 Little funnel-cloud that remains after the disappearance of the tornado.

(36) 15.22 Another funnel-cloud could be seen to the south

(37) 15.22 The first funnel cloud still can be seen

(38) 15.24 While, the north storm had a very threatening aspect. The firsts lightning were seen.

(39) The funnel-cloud grew up, but not finished to form a new tornado.

(40) While, the storm continued threatening.

(41) Zoom to see the funnel-cloud, that continued developing.

(42) Zoom on the storm under which there was something very suspicious. I believe that it was only a shred of the cloud, but after which it had been seen already, it was possible to wait for another tornado.

(43) 15.35 We continued observing, but under that cloud there was something strange

(44) A new funnel cloud was being formed. This time with much more force.

(45) It didn't reach the coast, and began to weaken.

(46) 15.37. Lasts moments of the funnel-cloud

(47) 15.38 Last picture of the funnel cloud. It had passed only half an hour. It was unforgettable. Since then, I have not seen the clouds in same way.

(48) In the image, we can watch an approximated sketch of where the phenomena that we have explain in the article took place.

Medios De Comunicación

Noticia en prensa: Diario de Mallorca 13/10/2004 (www.diariodemallorca.es)

Dos ´caps de fibló´ recorren la costa frente a la Colònia de Sant Jordi
Numerosos curiosos presenciaron los tornados en el mar, que no causaron daños en tierra *B. PALAU. PALMA.* *Dos ´caps de fibló´ atravesaron ayer al mediodía la costa frente a la localidad de la Colònia de Sant Jordi, en el término municipal de ses Salines. Los tornados recorrieron varias millas en el mar y se acercaron a tierra, donde perdieron fuerza. Según informaron ayer fuentes policiales, no hubo que lamentar daños personales ni materiales en los alrededores.* *Este fenómeno meteorológico se produjo aproximadamente a las tres y media del mediodía, cuando también se registraron algunas precipitaciones puntuales de lluvia de intensidad media.* *Numerosos curiosos presenciaron las rachas de viento que cruzaban el mar desde diversos puntos costeros como ses Covetes, s´Estanyol, sa Ràpita, Cala Figuera o la misma Colònia de Sant Jordi. Los ciudadanos se acercaron a la playa para observar los ´caps de*

fibló´ y tomar fotografías. Varios testigos presenciales indicaron que habían avistado cuatro remolinos sobre el mar, aunque fueron desapareciendo paulatinamente.

El servicio de Emergencias 112 informó de que habían recibido cuatro llamadas telefónicas de vecinos de la zona que observaron el fenómeno a mediodía. Los tornados recorrieron la costa frente a la Colònia de Sant Jordi sin causar destrozos, según las mismas fuentes.

Pequeños vendavales

El Servicio de Meteorología de Balears comunicó a la central de Emergencias 112 que no existía ninguna situación de riesgo ni de peligro en la zona comprendida entre Cap Blanc (Llucmajor) y Cala Figuera (Santanyí), ya que se trataba de ´caps de fibló´ de poca intensidad.

Meteorología apuntó además que las rachas de viento fueron perdiendo fuerza a medida que se acercaron a la costa. Al parecer, uno de los remolinos desapareció en el momento de tocar tierra.

Una vecina comentó que en Cala Figuera avistaron cuatro pequeños tornados en cuestión de diez minutos. "Observamos diferentes columnas que se iban difuminando sobre el mar. Eran ´caps de fibló´ totalmente verticales que caían en el agua", agregó la mujer.

Otro testigo sostuvo que en cuestión de segundos se formaron dos columnas que avanzaban por el mar frente a la localidad de la Colònia de Sant Jordi.

I hope you have enjoy the article the same that I have enjoy doing it..

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6th January 2005

Volver al Principio