

The lighthouse-keepers



Lighthouse-keepers classified lighthouses according to the severity of working and living conditions; i.e., **paradise, purgatory and hell**. Ar Men was unquestionably one of the worst hells.

The change-over, when weather conditions permitted – it was not unusual for lighthouse-keepers to be stranded for three or four weeks – was done via a two-way rope sling connecting the supply boat to the anchor bracket of the lighthouse.

The pilot of the launch had to manoeuvre his engines and his helm constantly in order to compensate for the action of the breaking waves, which threatened to smash the boat against the rocks at any moment.

The lighthouse-keepers of the next watch were hoisted up first before the outgoing watch were brought down.

The lighthouse was automated in 1990.

(Photo: La Vieille lighthouse change-over - Cetmef)