

WOLF ROCK: THE WORLD'S LONELIEST XMAS

Half-way between Penzance and the Scilly Isles, there rises out of the turbulent sea a beacon to men afloat. It's Wolf Rock - one of Britain's grimmest and oldest lighthouses. A Pathe cameraman joined the Trinity House ship Sattelite that relieved the Wolf's crew in time for the New Year, only a few days behind schedule. Precariously tied to a buoy, the little boat has only a short time for the most treacherous operation in their dangerous journey - landing the new keepers. To cross this giant moat - where the smallest slip means certain death - the Trinity House men bring a bowline into action.

Back across the raging waters - with a dipping on the way - are launched the men who spent the world's loneliest Xmas: men like Principle Keeper McLeary and Assistant Keeper Robertson. They had two months on this forbidding-looking rock. Their only link with land was a radio. Their home was a 200 foot high tower. Beyond that, there was nothing but the sea. Now, it's the turn of two others to enjoy the luxuries of Wolf Rock. A month's stay ashore lies ahead of the keepers who have come off-duty. Few have deserved it more, than they who typify the endurance of Britain's men of the lighthouses.