

WOLF ROCK BELIEVED

Midway between the Lizard and the Scillies, Wolf Rock Lighthouse awaits the Trinity House relief-ship "Satellite," as Captain Horn eases his ship in towards the dangerous rocks. For 30 days rough seas and gales have made relief impossible.

Now with the seas quister, "Satellite" sends in the tender with the relief-crew. Because of sudden sea-whirls, the tender daren't go in close, but there's a buoy to which she ties up during the whole operation. As soon as the tender is secured, the lighthouse crew sling down a line and the well-proved technique goes into action.

The lighthouse crane is swung round, a rope with a bight in it lowered and relief Principal Keeper Newble of Pembrokeshire is on his way to take over. This is the only way to get on the rock.

While the hand-over is taking place, fresh food is sent up - yes, food, even if it is in a barrel - that's just to keep it dry and floating if the line breaks.

Relief completed, Principal Keeper Stephens leaves Wolf Rock. At high tide the rock is six feet under water, whilst the light flashes one hundred and ten feet above where Mr. Stephens is just about to make his touch-down.

Now it's homeward-bound till the next spell of duty. This one lasted a hundred days for Vic Perry ... and Goodbye to the Wolf Rock Light.