

OFF Ouessant ISLAND

Developed positive : 30 meters - 100 ft

Off Ouessant Island's tormented coastline, a series of lighthouses have for the past century or so protected the navigation lines and ships in this dangerous and treacherous part of the Atlantic Ocean;

One of the lighthouses, a mere light at the top of a tower built in 1923 over a rock surrounded by turbulent waters, was out of service since 1940. Repairs were dangerous and would have meant months of difficult trips from the land to the rock standing 40 meters above ever raging waters.

Lately an engeneer had the idea that the modern ways of transportation, that is the helicopter could be used to repair the lighthouse. Therefore calling on the Civil protection organisation in Brittany who owns two light 'copters (Bell), a 5 m x 5 meters platform was built on the top of the damaged lighthouse, and in a week the work was done. Four men have worked on this dangerous tower, brought every morning to their work by an helicopter which took them back to the land every night.... 5 tons of material were necessary and the men must be sure-footed and ignoring discines with the churning water beneath.

This coverage shows :

- General view of Ouessant island coastline
- Panoramic on the various lighthouses stopping on the damaged one
- 'copter approaching lighthouse
- General View of 'copter before landing on platform
- landing, men stepping out, on platform,
- men at work on platform
- general view of platform with 'copter and workmen (one has a wooden leg)
- man with wooden leg getting down ladder inside lighthouse
- Long shot of lighthouse, workmen busy and Pan on waves down below
- long shot of lighthouse with 'copter on platform
- men going down ladder outside lighthouse walls and waves below
- 'copter taking off.