

# LIGHTHOUSE MAN IS MISSING

## Skelligs Rock Mystery

Despite a thorough search of the area by the Valentia lifeboat, last night, no trace was found of 28 years old lighthouse keeper Seamus Rohu, who mysteriously disappeared off the 700 foot high Great Skelligs Rock, between 1230 pm and 2 pm yesterday. The missing man had been sent by head keeper Eugene Gillen to the rope house, a short distance from the main building. When he was away for an hour and a half and did not return, headkeeper Gillen and another keeper, Harry Staniforth began a search of the Rock, which is about 14 miles off the South Kerry Coast.

### RADIO CALL

They could find no trace of him and Mr Gillen then radioed Mizen Head, and a message was sent to the Secretary of the Valentia Lifeboat, Mr Kiernan O'Driscoll, who ordered the lifeboat, A.E.D. to go to the scene.

It left at 5 pm with a crew of nine under Coxswain Jeremiah O'Connell. They reach the Skelligs at 7 pm and circled the rock several times in their search. No trace of Keeper Rohu could be found.

Earlier in the day a Cahirciveen fishing trawler, the Rose, skippered by Denis O'Shea had approached the rock with a party of tourists. A landing could not be made because of rough seas at the landing stage. They had to return home.

The missing man is married and has two children, aged two and three years. His father a retired lightkeeper lives in Bangor Co Down, and his family has business connections with Cork. His wife is a native of Rathlin Island. A brother serves on The Maiden Rock, off Larne..

Mr Rohu had been living at Valentia for the past three years. He was landed on the Skelligs 10 days ago.

### Lifeboat's Search

Mr O'Driscoll, the secretary of the lifeboat, told the IRISH PRESS last night that the lifeboat was searching until darkness fell.

There was a possibility that the man might be clinging to a ledge at sea level. The lifeboat had all rescue gear aboard.

Last night Captain William j. Kelly, Chief Marine Superintendent Irish Lights said : Every possible action is being taken in the form of a search for the missing man. The Valentia lifeboat will remain in the area until daylight, if necessary, and will then be relieved by the Irish Lights' ship, Valonia which is speeding from Berehaven

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