

Agriculture officer who had been observing bird migration. He was rescued after spending 8 hours clinging to the rigging attached to the lantern. He had earlier spent the night in the warm galley wrapped in an old army heavy coat over his pyjamas. Murton had managed to escape from the cabin by pushing up the galley skylight escape hatch. Other members of the crew were unable to follow because of the sea breaking over the vessel. Murton had eventually to abandon any attempt to save his fellow crew members. He later explained that he had heard sounds from the aft end of the deckhouse but he was by then too weak to help. He held out for over 8 hours before he was winched to safety. It was only when the storm had ceased that lifeboats and divers reached the vessel. Not a single body was found and all crew were assumed to be lost at sea. It was thought that the sea had gushed into the cabin space where the crew were sheltering, flooding it.⁷⁸ The crew of the stricken lightship had come from the east-coast seafaring counties of Essex, London, Kent, Norfolk and Suffolk.