



Left: sun sets on Lighthouse starting up for the night shift



Left: Winding stairs going to the top of the tower

Middle: Close-up of the light houses light source

Right: Close-up of lighthouse bell tower

Sea Guardians Crumble

“THE NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL LIGHTHOUSES HAS DECLINED TO LESS THAN 1,500 WORLDWIDE.”

An aid for navigation and pilotage at sea, a lighthouse is a tower building or framework sending out light from a system of lamps and lenses or, in older times, from a fire. Lighthouses also provide coordinate location for small aircraft traveling at night. More primitive navigational aids were once used such as a fire on top of a hill or cliff.

Because of modern navigational aids, the number of operational lighthouses has declined to less than 1,500 worldwide. Lighthouses are used to mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals away from the coast, and safe entries to harbors.

Perhaps most famous lighthouse in history is the Lighthouse of Alexandria, built on the island of Pharos in ancient

Egypt. The name of the island is still used as the noun for “lighthouse” in some languages, for example: French (phare), Italian and Spanish (faro), Portuguese (farol), Romanian (far), Bulgarian and Russian (фaр), and Greek (φάρος). The word “pharology” (study of the lighthouses), is also derived from the island’s name. Lighthouses originally contained an open fire. Later, they were gas-powered and electric.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria was a tower built in the 3rd century BC (between 285 and 247 BC) on the island of Pharos in Alexandria, Egypt to serve as that port’s landmark, and later, its lighthouse. With a height variously estimated at between 115 and 135 metres (383 - 440 ft) it was among the

tallest man-made structures on Earth for many centuries, and was identified as one of the Seven Wonders of the World by classical writers. Two lighthouses, each called the Pharos, were built at Dover soon after the Norman conquest of England. They were sited on the two heights (Eastern Heights and Western Heights) and modeled on the one built for Caligula’s aborted invasion at Boulogne.

The lighthouses in Finland as of the year 1909, showing differing architecture. In order to conserve power, the light is concentrated.

In old lighthouses:

- vertically the light is bundled into horizontal directions
- horizontally the light is bundled into one or a