The Mystery of the Missing Keepers at the Flannan Isles Lighthouse

In December 1900, a boat called *Hesperus* set sail for the island of Eilean Mor, one of the seven islets (also known as the "Seven Hunters") of the Flannan Isles off the coast of northwestern Scotland. Captain James Harvey was tasked with delivering a relief lighthouse keeper as part of a regular rotation. _____. None of the normal preparations at the landing dock had been made, the flagstaff was bare, and none of the keepers came to greet the *Hesperus*. The keepers, as it turned out, weren't on the island at all. All three of them had vanished.

Further investigations led nowhere, though the lighthouse log book provided a new set of confounding details. On December 12, an entry from Marshall described "severe winds the likes of which I have never seen before in twenty years." He wrote that Ducat had been quiet and McArthur had been crying, _____.

Speculation ran wild. Was it something supernatural? Sea creatures? A case of madness and murder? A government operation? Foreign spies? Aliens? Ultimately, it was evidence outside the lighthouse that provided the most promising lead in explaining what had become of the three keepers. _____ . Ropes that were usually affixed to a crate on a supply crane were littered about.

While this seems possible, the explanation left considerable room for doubt._____. In the years following, other keepers claimed to hear voices in the salty air screaming out the names of Thomas Marshall, James Ducat, and Donald McArthur.

1- Over at the western landing platform, damage from the recent storms reached as high as 200 feet above sea level

2- The journey was delayed a few days by bad weather, and when Harvey and his crew finally arrived, it was clear that something was awry

3- which would have been odd behavior for a man with a reputation as a tough and experienced seafarer

4- The lack of bodies, supposedly calm conditions, and sheer experience and know-how of the lighthouse keepers still hadn't been accounted for, and never would be

5- Night coming on, we could not wait to make something as to their fate

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