

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 19/10/24

EDWARD

Location

Point Nepean Reef, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S209

Date lost

29/09/1912

Official number

119235

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

121.30 Feet / 26.80 Feet / 12.30 Feet

Builder

Trondjems Skibswaerft

Year of construction

1874

Built port

Drontheim

Built country

Norway

Registration Number

1904

Registration Port

Hobart

Date lost

29/09/1912

Departure

Oakwood, Tasmania

Destination

Port Pirie, SA

Cargo

200 000 ft timber
 Previously had carried sea elephant hunters (UID 152)

Owner

E.A. Sherwin

Master

Capt. W Tait

Weather conditions

strong gale, flood tide

Cause of loss

Dragged anchor and went ashore. Marine Inquiry Board found the cause of the wreck to be defective anchors and cables (UID 181)

Number of crew

8

Crew comments

Chief mate: Rollinson, crew: C. Eversum, John Thompson, Alfred Andersen, J. Jansen, Andrew Petersen, Oscar Rulburn, Stanley Harding (UID 9)

Statement of significance

<p>The Edward is historically significant as the last vessel of its type to operate in the Commonwealth</p>

VHR history

The last surviving vessel of its type in Australia, the brig, Edward called at Port Phillip Heads for provisions. After a buffeting in Bass Strait for about a month, called at Heads desperately short of food and water. Remained about 3 weeks. Drifted ashore during the night after dragging anchors. The tug Nyora refused help due to the dangerous reefs around Edward. Crew landed by lifeboat and vessel went to pieces the following day. Capt. Tait had just taken over from Capt. Halliday who retired. Brig insured for 100 pounds, cargo for 800 pounds. Sold for 11 pounds. An adventurous career; about 10 years earlier took scientific expedition to Kerguelen Island in South Indian Ocean (one source cites this as sea elephant hunters) (ID 9, 152). In 1897 engaged in trade with NZ. After the wreck, the masts and forepart drifted into South Channel. Starboard bulwarks and deckhouses strewn along beach inside Heads. Purchaser paid 9d. for each hardwood sleeper returned. Much timber on ocean beach. Victorian Marine Board found loss due to defective anchors and cables. Hobart Marine Board claimed its Certificate of Survey was in order - vessel was seaworthy (ID 181).