

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/07/24

FRISK

Location

Port Phillip Heads, Point Nepean

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S268

Date lost

28/05/1853

Official number

None

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Felt and yellow-metalled 1844; character for hull and stores: A1 Lloyds, restored 1849.

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Year of construction

1835

Built port

Whitby

Built country

England

Registration Port

Liverpool

Date lost

28/05/1853

Departure

Liverpool

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

General

Owner

Whiteway of Liverpool or Sunderland

Master

Captain James Sinclair

Weather conditions

Southwest force 10; clear

Cause of loss

Wrecked at Point Nepean

Number of crew

10

VHR history

The brig Frisk sailed from Liverpool, 25th January, 1853; Captain James Sinclair, a crew of 10 men, no passengers and a general cargo for Melbourne. Made Cape Otway 9.30 a.m. on the 27th. Saw Shortlarids Bluff Light at 6 p.m. same evening, shortened sail and stood on and off during the night. Bore up at 7.30 a.m. 28th, lighthouse bearing N. by E. 6 miles; Wind west, fresh breeze under single reefs ship making sail as she went along. As we entered the Heads the wind headed her and ship lost steer - age way and was taken aback, came round head to wind and fell off on starboard tack. Ship then about mid-channel opposite Point Lonsdale. Set the two courses, jib and stay sail and stood out about South'for an hour or so. Then hove about, set top gallant sails, wind still' at West, weather clear, steered in for lighthouse on a wind. Finding we could not

weather Point Nepean she was hove in stays twice but as she would not come round obliged to haul the courses up and wear her. Almost immediately afterwards, finding she would not clear the rocks, let go both anchors. Ship then came head to wind and parted one of the chains, and in five minutes the other parted also. She then struck and fell broadside onto the sea heading to the S.E. Crew stripped and took to the rigging, sea breaking over all. Captain Sinclair jumped overboard and tried to swim ashore and in half an hour Jonathan Webster followed and was lost. The rest remained by the wreck until about 3 p.m., when with the assistance of a line from the shore, J. T. Meadows, Jacob West, A.B., John Fergie, two A.B.'s, John and Peter, surnames unknown, D. Howell, cook, got safe on shore, having to leave Antonio Lucca, 2nd, officer, and James Milliner, carpenter, dead on board. They were much exhausted at noon and were put below in the only dry place in the ship. Neither the captain nor witness or any part of the crew had been to Port Phillip before. Had no jack flag for Pilot. Captain considered perfectly sober at time. ? ; ? . The Frisk, a brig of 220 tons belonging to Liverpool owners. went to pieces a day or so later.