

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

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## HOLYHEAD



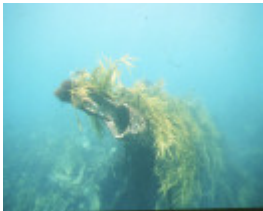
S326 Holyhead  
PortPhillipBayLonsdaleReef  
HistoricView



S326 Holyhead  
PortPhillipBayLonsdaleReef  
Anchor



S326 Holyhead  
PortPhillipBayLonsdaleReef  
FrameView



S326 Holyhead  
PortPhillipBayLonsdaleReef  
RudderPost



S326 Holyhead SitePlan  
diveinfosheet 1992

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### Location

Lonsdale Reef, Port Phillip heads

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S326

### Date lost

12/02/1890

### Official number

96831

### Construction material

Iron

## Hull

2 decks, 1 part iron; 1 bulkhead cemented; poop deck 37';forecastle 36'; moulded depth 26'3"; freeboard amidships5'7-1/2". Special survey Lloyd's A1.

## Propulsion

Sail

## Number of masts

4

## Length/Breadth/Depth

294.00 Feet / 42.00 Feet / 24.50 Feet

## Builder

R. J. Evans & Co

## Year of construction

1889

## Built port

Liverpool

## Built country

England

## Registration Port

Liverpool

## Date lost

12/02/1890

## Departure

Liverpool

## Destination

Melbourne

## Cargo

1000 tons of iron rails, 1000 tons of slates, liquor, spirits, general cargo to the value of 60, 000 pounds (UID 9). Fishplates, pipes, bars, chemicals, crockery, softgoods, beer in bulk and bottle (UID 9)

## Owner

W. Thomas & Co

## **Master**

Captain Thomas Williams

## **Weather conditions**

Thick; Wind SE; heavy seas

## **Cause of loss**

Signalled unsuccessfully for pilot, ran in towards land. Warned by lookout, missed stays, anchors let go, but struck and jammed on reef.

## **Number of crew**

32

## **Crew comments**

Including 1 with dropsy. John Roberts (First Mate), David Jones, Owen Owens (second officer), Levital Mark, Albert Griffiths, John Hughes, John Richard Jones (acting 3rd mate)

## **Statement of significance**

<p>The Holyhead is historically and archaeologically significant as an example of an A1 classified ship from a renowned Liverpool shipyards on its maiden voyage.</p>

## **VHR history**

The Holyhead was on its maiden voyage, a new A1 classified ship intended for the India trade. After an uneventful voyage from Liverpool, the Holyhead was wrecked about 3.30 pm very near the George Roper wreck. The ship had signalled unsuccessfully for a pilot, and eventually ran in towards land. Warned by lookout, missed stays, anchors let go, but struck and jammed on reef. Within 10 minutes 7 ft of water was in hold. The lookout station at Queenscliff summoned a lifeboat which in heavy swell against tide reached wreck at 4.45pm. Two trips removed the crew except for two who stayed on board. At the time of wreck the first mate, who had never been to the port before, was in charge. Claimed Admiralty-certified chart on board (later lost) did not have the reef marked opposite Point Lonsdale. Court of Marine Inquiry found Capt. Williams guilty of gross misconduct. One charge was not being on deck when vessel so close to land. Certificate suspended for 2 years, fined 20 pounds. First Mate John Roberts' Certificate suspended for 18 months, 10 pound fine. Vessel valued at 25,000 pounds; cargo at 60,000 pounds.