

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 02/10/24

MEROPE

Location

Portland Bay, 15 miles east of Portland

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S466

Date lost

17/02/1853

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Carvel built, poop and two decks, square stern

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

90.80 Feet / 27.00 Feet / 9.25 Feet

Year of construction

1818

Built port

Fort Gloster, Bengal

Built country

India

Registration Number

4 of 1847

Registration Port

Fremantle

Date lost

17/02/1853

Departure

Portland

Destination

Swan River, Adelaide

Cargo

Ballast, Mixed cargo

Owner

Captain Daniel Scott

Master

Captain John Merritt

Weather conditions

E by S and very slight

Cause of loss

Struck submerged reef, 2 mile east of the mouth of Fitzroy river.

Number of crew

13

VHR history

The Merope sailed from our port on Thursday afternoon for Adelaide and was seen from the shore in the evening rounding the south-east point of the bay. It appears that at about 10 o'clock that night she altered her tack, standing to the north east side of the bay. The Captain states that he then gave instructions to the mate to steer that course for 2 hours and then call him. The Captain went to sleep in the cuddy after these directions, and when he went back up at half past 12 he found the vessel along the breakers. The part where she struck was about 3 miles eastward of the Fitzroy or Second Rivers half way between Portland and Belfast. There were 125 souls onboard the Merope, bound for Adelaide, no cargo. The passengers and crew got safely to shore. Several of the former came into town on Saturday. The vessel, although now bedded in sand, cannot be got off., being so much

injured: she struck first on a ridge of rock close to the beach and was then forced over that to the sand