

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 13/10/24

WINCHESTER

Location

Port Phillip Bay, off Queenscliff

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S728

Date lost

16/04/1853

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Pitch Pine topsides, sheathed with felt and yellow metal 1838, yellow metalled in 1845, 1849. Some repairs 1843.

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet

Year of construction

1837

Built port

Sunderland

Built country

England

Registration Port

Bristol

Date lost

16/04/1853

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Newcastle

Cargo

50 pounds of gunpowder on board

Owner

Bristol owned

Master

Captain Curry

Weather conditions

SE force 2. Clear

Cause of loss

Burnt at sea

VHR history

Was at anchor as a strong wouth-westerly breeze prevented proceeding to sea, head pointing north-east. At about 11 am fire broke out in lazarette (aft of vessel). The crew immediately took to the boats, refusing to assist in putting out fire. The Mate apparently prevented crew from leaving without captain. The 50 lbs gunpowder on board exploded after about 2 hours; half an hour later the vessel was burnt to within a few feet of its waterline. Lying between the two Pope's Eye buoys, the lighthouse bearing N by W. According to captain, fire resulted from disobeying orders and carelessness when a crew member went below with a naked light. Either the captain did not issue the appropriate orders or the men would not obey him and the fire was not extinguished. Crew of 16 on 1853 voyage Bristol-Melbourne. The Winchester was burnt to its waterline while lying at anchor off Queenscliff. The crew did not want to assist the captain in extinguishing the fire.