

Basic Detail Report



00025982

Title

Umbrella owned by James Breaks, HMVS CERBERUS engineer

Date

1870-1900

Medium

Timber, fabric, metal

Dimensions

Overall: (Closed) 900 x 250 mm

Name

Umbrella

History

James Lenox (also Lennox) Breaks was born in Portsea, Portsmouth, England on 2 April 1848 to James and Elizabeth Breaks; he had two sisters - Elizabeth and Amelia, and a brother John. Breaks senior was a joiner, then Inspector of joiners at HM Dockyard, Portsmouth. James Lenox was employed as a junior engineer for the delivery voyage of the monitor CERBERUS from Chatham Dockyard, England to Victoria, Australia in 1870, settling in Williamstown in Victoria, raising a family and spending another 34 years working with the ship. The CERBERUS was ordered in 1868 by the Colony of Victoria in pre-Federation Australia to provide naval protection for Port Phillip. It was the first major warship to rely on steam propulsion alone and was referred as a breastwork monitor - the turrets being raised on an armoured breastwork to improve sea-keeping ability. The vessel arrived in Port Phillip in 1871 and never left. Sold for scrap in 1925, it was subsequently sunk as a breakwater in the bay in 1926. Various efforts have been made to raise and preserve her. HMVS CERBERUS was included in the National Heritage List on 8 November 2005, pursuant to section 324J of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.