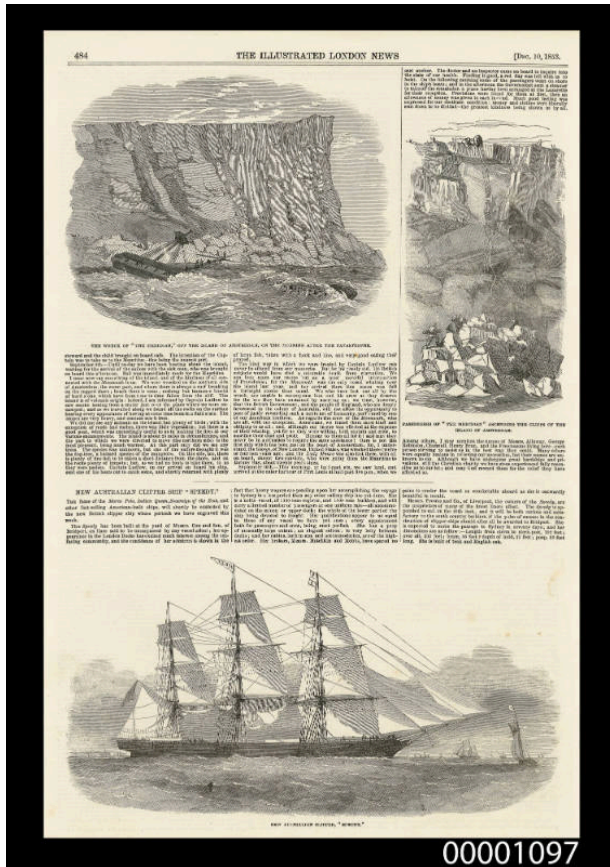


# Basic Detail Report



00001097

## Title

The new Australian clipper SPEEDY

## Date

1853

## Primary Maker

Illustrated London News

## Medium

Ink on paper

## Dimensions

Overall: 400 x 270 mm

## Name

Engraving

## History

THE MERIDIAN sailed for Australia in June 1853 and was wrecked off Amsterdam Island on 24 August. Three of 108

passengers, including the captain, lost their lives. The survivors were rescued by Captain Isaac Ludlow of the American whaler MONMOUTH and taken to Mauritius where the government found them passages to Sydney. An account of the wreck, subsequent time marooned on the island and later rescue was written by one of the passengers on board at the time, Alfred Lutwyche. Lutwyche tells of the initial frustrations and difficulties aboard the ship which he felt was very undermanned and by inexperienced hands at that. A major criticism was also levelled at the owners, whom he accused of focusing on carrying maximum cargo at the expense of the comfort and safety of the passengers aboard. The stay on the island was very difficult as he had the other passengers were very underprepared and vulnerable, especially the approximately 40 children. Captain Ludlow was much praised for his perseverance and heroism in rescuing the survivors as it became a long and difficult process to get them off the island.