

Near Swinoujscie you can watch the only concrete ship that survived the war

Concrete ships

One of the most interesting German naval constructions were, so called concrete ships. In 1942 few projectes were made, i. e. tanker of 2947 grt. Because of the lack of steel, those ships shortly gain approval of the authorities.

The construction was very simple and relatively cheap. The building started from the creation of the skeleton on which many layers of concrete were put on. Created shell was intensified by the armoured-concrete bulkheads. Ships were suitable to transport of the liquid cargo. In the Western Baltic, ships were sailing under szczecin's shipowner LUBBERL & REEDEREI. After war many of those shells were abandoned and left, but today only 2 exists. Tanker "Karl Finsterwalde" [Y-364] was used in the transport of the syntetic fuel from the facotry in Police [city name]. On 12.III.1945 ship was standing near Kosa peninsula in Swinoujscie. Near 12 over 650 american bombers B-17 and B-24 bombed the port. In result of the air raid

many ships and warships rested on the bottom of the harbour canal

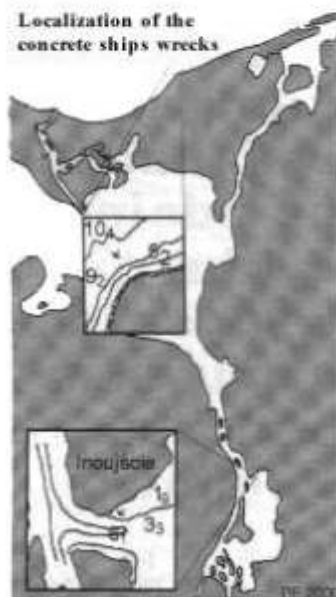
Including "Karl Finsterwalde". It seems it was his end, but Soviet troops arraigned, and it was decided to use concrete hull as a blockade

of the water path to Szczecin. Ship was raised from the bottom of canal on 30.IV.1945 and sunk in position 53'51,63N 14'17,10O. After war it was towed 1 km upstream and sunk. In the 1960's ship shotly stayed at the waters of Olds Swina, and then was towed to the Pommerania Bay and finnaly sunk near Kepa Swidnia near the cliff on the depth of 10 m.

Second concrete ship was found in Swinoujscierepair yard

in Czajno. It had complete hull, but it was without bulkhead.No documents regarding it's name or technical data remained. In 1949 when the harbour basin of Odra, was built, probably the hull was launched and towed to Swina. On 1950/60 it was blown up.The info about 3rd ship was found on 20.III.1945. It was "Ulrich Finsterwalde" which was built in 1941. It's tonnage was 2947 grt, and

Localization of the concrete ships wrecks



dimensions 90x15x6,5 meters. Like similiar Karl it sailed under Szczecin shipowner. It was heavily damaged, when soviet planes bombed the harbour. After the war it was planned to finished the ship as floating basin. However it was never realized. The wreck was towed near Inoujscie, and sunk on the even keel on the depth of 3 meters. In 1990's it was planned to remove it but becasue of the lack of the money, it wasn't realized. The hull is present there at the time.

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"Karl Finsterwalde" on the waters of Old Swina near Karsibor

