

The "Reinbek", formerly "Thielbek"



After it had been salvaged and repaired, the ship went back into operation under its new name in July 1950.

Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

Map of Memorials and Cemeteries



This map shows the sites of memorials and cemeteries where around 4,000 victims of the shipping disaster are buried. Around 3,000 bodies were never recovered from the Baltic Sea.

Grafik: Teßmer/Hokema; nach einem Faltblatt des Förderkreises CAP-ARCONA-Gedenken.

Lübeck Bay



"Bocht van Lübeck. De plek waar de C.A. is vergaan." (Lübeck Bay. The place where the "Cap Arcona" sank.)

Foto: Mark Duijtshoff, September 2003. (Website des Niederländischen Freundeskreises Neuengamme)

Digging Graves



Workers digging mass graves for the dead from the "Thielbek" and the "Cap Arcona" in Neustadt-Pelzerhaken, May 1945.

Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

Burial



When the "Thielbek" was salvaged in February 1950, the salvage team also recovered human remains. This photo shows the burial ceremony in Neustadt.
Foto: unbekannt. (NHS)

Remembrance on the Wreck



A commemorative ceremony attended by Vice Minister-President Hermann Lüdemann on the wreck of the "Cap Arcona", probably in 1947. The wreck was used as a place of commemoration, but it also became a ghoulish attraction for sensationseekers.

Fotos: unbekannt. (ANg)

Salute



British soldiers firing a salute at the mass graves in Neustadt-Pelzerhaken,
7 May 1945.

Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

Memorial Ceremony on 7 May 1945



Among the attendees at this memorial ceremony in Neustadt-Pelzerhaken were survivors of the shipping disaster, liberated Polish prisoners, liberated slave labourers (with the flags of their respective nations), citizens of Neustadt, and members of the British Army.

Foto: Moldvay. (ANg)

Commemoration on the Beach



Polish participants on a commemorative journey to Neustadt beach in 1989.
Foto: Jörn Tiedemann. (ANg)

Wreath Laying Ceremony at Sea



Wreath laying ceremonies at sea are an integral part of the commemorative voyages to the site of the "Cap Arcona" wreck.

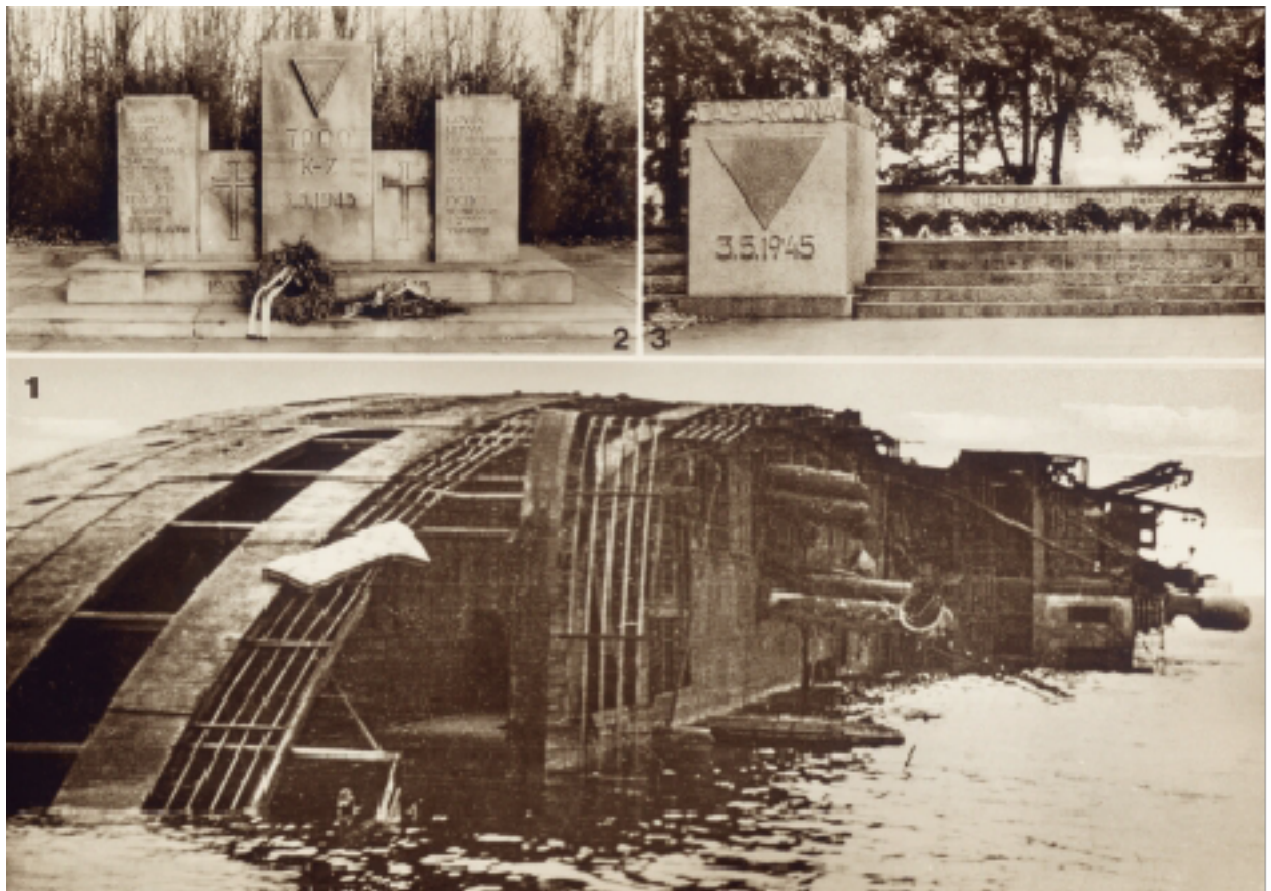
Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

Sign for Bathers



Neustadt, on the beach outside the "Cap Arcona" memorial cemetery.
Foto: unbekannt. (ANg)

Postcard



A postcard issued by the Amicale Internationale de Neuengamme. It shows the two monuments above the wreck of the "Cap Arcona". To the left is the West German monument at Neustadt-Pelzerhaken, and to the right is the East German one at Grevesmühlen.

(ANg)

Inscriptions on Early Memorial Stones

Five of 13 monuments for the victims of the shipping disaster in Schleswig-Holstein. The inscriptions do not state the cause of death or the origin of the victims. Explanatory plaques have therefore been added to many of these memorial stones since the 1980s.

Fotos: AgN (Hg.): Gedenkstätten für die Opfer des KZ Neuengamme, Hamburg 2000.



1. Neustadt-Pelzerhaken, Memorial Cemetery

"7000 | K-Z | 3.5.1945 | 1933–1945" The nationalities of the dead are recorded on both sides of the central inscription.



2. Scharbeutz-Haffkrug, Memorial Cemetery

"Dedicated to the victims of the Cap Arcona and Thielbek disaster in Neustadt Bay on 3 May 1945."



3. Timmendorfer Strand, Memorial Cemetery

"Here lie 810 political prisoners from 18 nations who lost their lives aboard the Cap Arcona in Neustadt Bay on 3 May 1945." And on the back: "A monument to the dead – An eternal admonition to posterity."



4. Grube Cemetery, Memorial Stone

"Here lie 31 unknown concentration camp prisoners who drowned when the Cap Arcona was sunk near Neustadt. We are a people washed up on the shores of this island earth by the tempests of time."



5. Niendorf Cemetery:

"Here lie 113 political prisoners from 16 nations who lost their lives aboard the Cap Arcona in Neustadt Bay on 3 May 1945."

The Counter-Monument



Alfred Hrdlicka's sculpture "Fluchtgruppe Cap Arcona" from 1986 represents an artistic approach to the subject of the shipping disaster. It is part of an unfinished ensemble intended as a counter-monument to the memorial for the "Infanterie-Regiment Hamburg, 2. Hanseatisches, Nr. 76" which was inaugurated in 1936.

Foto: Nina Ritter, 2003. (ANg).