

Commemoration of the "Cap Arcona" Disaster in East Germany

The bodies that washed up in the Soviet zone were buried near the coast, many of them in mass graves on the beach near Groß Schwansee. In 1955, the remains were transferred to Grevesmühlen, where a prominent memorial was erected.

From 1957, commemorative ceremonies were held each year at the Cap Arcona Memorial in Grevesmühlen, attended by locals and people from all over the GDR and from abroad. Starting in 1966, an annual "Cap Arcona Sports Celebration" was also held.

The victims of the shipping disaster were collectively honoured as antifascist resistance fighters and were used to legitimise the existence of the GDR.