

port of Åbo - Finnish Turku - and already in safety within the rock-barrier, was distressed in the rock-strewn areas and brought to safety to the ancient anchorage ? Here the damaged hull was left to sink when the cargo may be was saved ? - The well-preserved provincial archives of the port of Åbo = Turku may supply an answer ? The bottom-area - mostly fine sand - was surveyed in very easy conditions with max. sunlight. Again a three-legged pot was found, confirming if not medieval traffic, but the existence of seagoing vessels anchored in the middle of the basin in the 16-th, 17-th or 18-th centuries.

7. An oar-propelled warship ? at the headland of Porkkala

Some years ago a new wreck was reported in the sheltered waters around the headland of Porkkala. Rumours had a hull with heavy gun-trucks still in-situ, lying between two small rocks. In April 1975 the site was surveyed by H. Alopæus and L. Jolkkonen, both acting on behalf of the Bureau of Maritime History. A wreck of about 35 m length was found in 8 - 11 metres of water, in a crevasse between two rocks. The remnants are very lightly built in relation to the general dimensions, but erections in both ends ( of abt. 3 m. length ) are sturdy, designed to carry artillery ? Three gunports ? are seen in the hullside, close to the stern. - The gun-trucks originally reported were mere phantasy. The hull lists to port, with the port side planking collapsed outwards, the starboard side respectively inwards. The decks are ruined and the deck-planking obsolete. Masts and rigging are gone, and the armament obviously removed. Some baulks are in-situ. The galley-stove is traceable. Some kitchen-utensils are still in place. The hull, badly silted in with mud, was roughly sketched pending a thorough measuring which will be carried out in next season. Investigations were resumed in the winter of 1976, with divers working from the ice. The ice-cower enables light enough even for photo-work. Most probably the wreck, sunk between two sheltering rocks, is a Russian coastal man-of-war, lost in a fighting position common to the 18-th century tactics ? Numerous skirmishes were fought around the strategically important headland of Porkkala, still of importance in the Crimean war.

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