

MARITIME ARCHIVES: Scandinavian Shipping Records

Collection: NSR/1628/VASA

Date: 10 August 1628

Repository: Vasamuseet, Djurgården, Stockholm

INCIDENT REPORT:

The royal warship Vasa capsized and sank in Stockholm harbor on 10 August 1628, approximately 1,300 meters into her maiden voyage. The vessel was commissioned by King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden for the ongoing war against Poland-Lithuania.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS:

Built at the Stockholm shipyard under master shipwright Henrik Hybertsson of Holland. Construction began in 1626 under contract with the Swedish Admiralty. Following Hybertsson's death in 1627, work was completed by Hein Jacobsson.

CREW AND CASUALTIES:

Captain: Söfring Hansson, who survived the sinking

Approximately 30-50 crew members and visitors perished

Vice Admiral Klas Fleming ordered the subsequent court-martial, held at the Royal Palace on 5 September 1628

SALVAGE ATTEMPTS:

Initial salvage by Ian Bulmer of England in 1628 recovered the cannons.

Full recovery of the hull commenced on 24 April 1961 under archaeologist Anders Franzén. The ship was raised by the Neptune Salvage Company using pontoons and cables.

RELATED VESSELS:

- Mary Rose, King Henry VIII's warship, sank at Portsmouth on 19 July 1545

- HMS Victory, Lord Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, now at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

- Kronan, Swedish flagship sunk at the Battle of Öland on 1 June 1676

MUSEUM EXHIBITION:

The Vasa Museum opened on Djurgården island, Stockholm, on 15 June 1990.

Director of conservation: Lars-Åke Kvarning. Over 95% of the original ship survives, making it the world's best-preserved 17th-century vessel.