

Courage scrapped: The end of a sea of trouble



Courage has been here for years here in a corner of Rudkøbing's fishing port. Now it's gone and scrapped. Photo: Søren Stidsholt Nielsen

The owner - or perhaps the previous owner - of the sunken galease in Rudkøbing can not remember who he sold it to.

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RUDKØBING: With the scrapping of the galley Courage in Rudkøbing, ends not only the history of a 122-year-old sailing ship, but also a multi-year course with a sea of trouble and gross accusations.

At the center has been the ship's owner, Australian Earle De Blonville. Or owner? Maybe.

He himself told when Søsiden uncovered the story last year that he no longer owned the ship. He claimed to have sold it for 10 euros to an "old man in Rostock". To whom he could not remember.

The ship has been without owner supervision in Rudkøbing for about ten years. After being rejected in several other places, Courage came to the port in his time to be restored on the then boat building.

Before the work started, shipbuilder Bent Hartvig found out that Earle De Blonville did not have the money - and said no to the task.

Subsequently, Bent Hartvig of Earle De Blonville is accused of having removed large valuables from the ship.

- It has nothing on it, Bent Hartvig stated to Søsiden.

The port of Rudkøbing has sent several reminders to Earle De Blonville. Nothing has been paid, says harbor master Kim Rasmussen.

The sea side has earlier this week emailed Earle De Blonville several times for a comment. He has not returned.

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