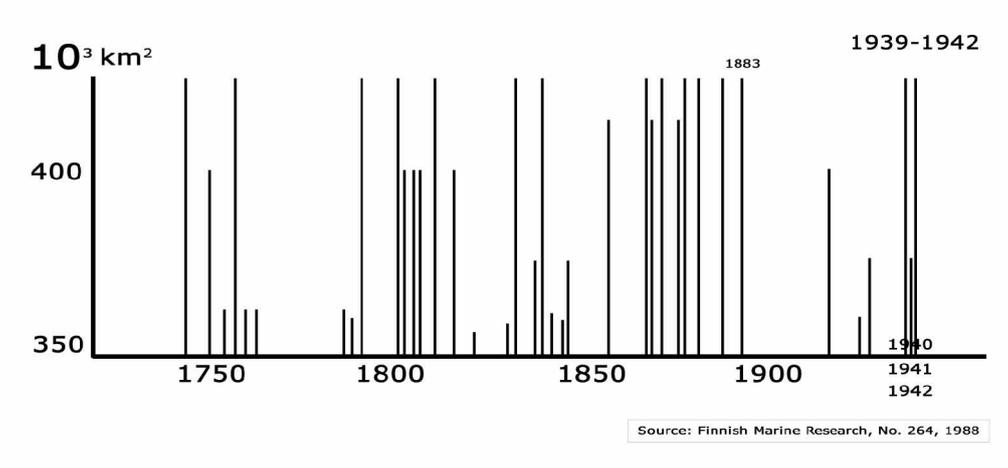


*The icing of the Northern Baltic Sea*

Another important argument which supports our thesis that nothing but the war at sea had turned the Baltic Sea into an ice age sea is the extent of the ice cover during the three years in question. According to a graph made by the Finnish Institute<sup>i</sup> and showing the ice cover in the Baltic Sea, 57° North latitude (ca. Visby - Riga latitude), there has never been one group of three successive years with such an important extent of ice cover as the ice phenomenon of the war years of 1939-1942 since 1720 (when such observations were recorded).



As the graph provided by the Finnish Institute actually shows figures only after 1720, the ice cover during the winters of 1939-42 could have been the most extensive in many hundred years. During the 200-year period, only 15 winters reached the highest ice volume possible, including those of 1939/40 and 1941/42. One of the reasons which would explain the rarity of this phenomenon is the fact that, from the moment the Baltic Sea reaches a high ice cover, the water body no longer transfers heat to the atmosphere, the deeper waters retaining more heat for the following winter season. But because of the intensive 'stirring and mixing' of the sea caused by military activities, a record ice coverage had been achieved in the Baltic Sea during the three war years of 1939-42. This was an inevitable phenomenon. There is virtually no other explanation available. Can any thesis offer a better explanation why not one year since 1883 experienced excessive ice condition, which only showed up again during war winters 1939/40 to 1941/42 after a pause of half a century?

<sup>i</sup> Finnish Institute of Marine Research; M. Leppiranta et al.; 'Phases of the ice season in the Baltic Sea' No. 254, Suppl2; Helsinki 1988