

**Chapter 03110M 8/13/1944**

**SS SCHODACK renamed to:**

**SS ALCOA LEADER**

**Intentionally SUNK for breakwater  
at Normandy, France**

**Albin Pierce was a  
former 1923 crew member**



8/24/2024

Ca 1955 Memory:

Glen and Gramps watched a WW2 TV movie. I asked if he were in WW2.

He explained to me his sea duty on the Schodack. Also, how the Schodack was intentionally sunk a month after D-Day for breakwater reasons.

In 1940, the **SS Schodack** was purchased by the Alcoa Steamship Company NY. The ship was renamed the **SS Alcoa Leader** and based in NY.

“The Alcoa Leader (AL) departed NYC, NY on 3/27/1944 in Convoy HX-293, which consisted of 98 ships and 22 escorts, with general cargo and a load of explosives.”

While in transit, the air waves informed the world that the Allied forces landed in the Normandy Beach area on **D-Day 6/6/1944**.

“AL arrived in Belfast, Ireland 6/9/1944, then proceeded to Milford Haven, Wales and Falmouth, England. The AL returned to Belfast, Ireland on 6/22/1944.” (author Bill Shortridge, 2012)



As the **SS Alcoa Leader** loaded military and food cargo, our relative US Army Corporal **Walter Bolembach**, a tank driver, prepared for his voyage to Normandy, France but on a different ship.



Walter was in the Patton 3rd Army, 6th Armoured Division, **15th Tank Battalion**, Company B, known as the **Wolf Pack**, tank #54.



He landed on **Utah Beach** in Normandy France on 7/19/1944. This was a month after D-Day.



The SS Alcoa Leader steamed from Ireland in July 1944 heading for Normandy arriving in August at **Omaha Beach**.

A month earlier, The Americans led the invasions at Utah and Omaha Beaches. Omaha beach received the worst of the battle.

Since June, the Allies created an artificial harbor at Normandy, France to form a weather safe area for cargo. The Allies deliberately sank about 20 old cargo ships.

The SS Alcoa Leader (Schodack) was **deliberately sunk** 8/13/1944 as part of "Gooseberry 2" breakwater. The overall artificial harbor was known as "Mulberry A". 252 ships were sunk.

