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Archaeological research carried out at the site of the crash of the B-24 Liberator KG-890 in Nieszkowice Wielkie, Bochnia Commune, Małopolskie Voivodeship

### Abstract

This article discusses the results of archaeological investigations carried out at the crash site of a B-24 Liberator aircraft belonging to the No. 1586 (Polish Special Duties) Flight. It was shot down by a German fighter on the night of 14-15 August 1944. The bomber was returning from Warsaw, where it had carried out a supply drop for the fighting insurgents. The plane went down in Nieszkowice Wielkie, Bochnia commune, Małopolskie Voivodeship. In 2020, archaeological research was undertaken to locate the place where the remains of the plane fell. The place where one of the four engines hit the ground was located. More than 200 fragments of the machine were found. Elements and parts of the Liberator shot down during World War II can still be found at the crash site.

### Keywords

Archaeology of WW2, Warsaw Uprising 1944, B-24 Liberator, No. 1586 (Polish Special Duties) Flight, Nieszkowice Wielkie.

### Summary

The article discusses the results of the archaeological survey carried out at the site of the crash of the B-24 Liberator aircraft, with tactical designation KG890, belonging to the No. 1586 (Polish Special Duties) Flight. The machine was shot down on the night of 14-15 August 1944, on its way back from Warsaw, where it had carried out a supply drop for the fighting insurgents during the Warsaw Uprising. Flying over the Niepołomice Forest, the plane's crew was attacked by a German night fighter. The damaged and burning Liberator exploded in mid-air and fell on one of the hills located in Nieszkowice Wielkie, Bochnia commune, Małopolskie Voivodeship.

In 2020, thanks to the efforts of the Wiśnicz Lovers' Association, archaeological search were undertaken with the aim of locating the place where the remains of the plane fell. The work was divided into three stages, which included non-invasive reconnaissance of the area using the magnetometer method, searching the area with metal detectors and making four trenches.

In addition to the discovery of more than 200 fragments remaining from the wreckage of the B-24 Liberator bomber, the survey also made it possible to capture in situ the intact layer created by the aircraft crash. Despite the limited scope of the survey work, it was also possible to encounter the site where one of the four engines hit the ground.

The investigations concluded that, despite the passage of almost 80 years, it is still possible to find identifiable parts and components of a Liberator shot down during World War II at the crash site.