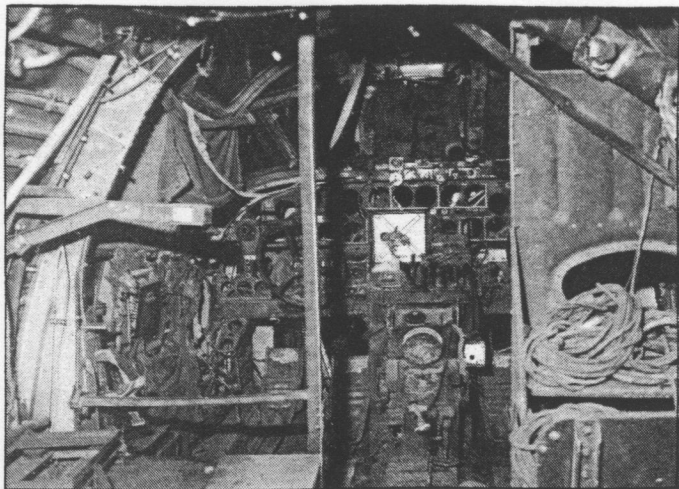


Rediscovered Liberator



The cockpit area of the recently 'rediscovered' Australian Liberator.
(Nigel Apperley)

RECENTLY located in Victoria was the fuselage of B-24M-10-CO Liberator, A72-176 (ex USAAF 44-41956). Nigel Apperley tracked the relic down on the property of

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George Toye, it having been there since 1950. Mr Toye originally planned to use the fuselage as shelters for cross-country skiers and hikers in the Mount Baw Baw area. The plans did not come about and it has lain ever since, slowly being submerged in dense foliage.

Received from the USA on January 7, 1945 the Liberator joined the RAAF's 7 OTU at Tocumwal, NSW, in February 1945. In 1946 the B-24 moved with the OTU to East Sale, Victoria. In August she became instructional airframe No 5 before being put up for disposal in March 1948.

Mr Toye bought A72-176 and spent months dismantling it, as he only wanted the fuselage. Since 'discovery' again it is hoped that the fuselage can be preserved and negotiations are going on to this end. Nigel Apperley would appreciate any leads on B-24 equipment, particularly ambitious items such as wings, tail feathers and engines. (We will forward mail.)