

## German Second World War bomber raised from English Channel decades after it was shot down



*Lifting equipment raises a Second World War Dornier bomber, the only surviving German Second World War Dornier Do 17 bomber, from the English Channel off Deal, southern England. The aircraft was shot down off the Kent coast more than 70 years ago during the Battle of Britain and the project is believed to be the biggest recovery of its kind in British waters. Attempts by the RAF Museum to raise the relic over the last few weeks have been hit by strong winds but the operation*

*was finally successful.*

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LONDON — A British museum on Monday successfully recovered a German bomber that had been shot down over the English Channel during the Second World War.

The aircraft, nicknamed the Luftwaffe's "flying pencil" because of its narrow fuselage, came down off the coast of Kent county in southeastern England more than 70 years ago during the Battle of Britain.

The rusty and damaged plane was lifted from depths of the channel with cables and is believed to be the most intact example of the German Dornier Do 17 bomber that has ever been found.

"It has been lifted and is now safely on the barge and in one piece," said RAF Museum spokesperson

Ajay Srivastava. The bomber will be towed into port Tuesday, he added.

A few fragments of the plane dropped off as it was being lifted, but officials said divers will retrieve them later.

The museum had been trying to raise the relic for a few weeks, but the operation was delayed by strong winds and choppy waters.

In 2008, divers discovered the aircraft submerged in 50 feet (15 metres) of water.

Experts say the bomber is remarkably undamaged despite the passage of time.

Museum officials plan to conserve the relic and put it on exhibition next to the wreck of a British Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft that also was shot down during the battle.