

UPDATE # 115 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"
B-17 Restoration
February 27, 2012

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum's biggest project - the *City of Savannah* – is getting into the winter swing that seems to happen each year after we return from the holidays.

We need to offer a special "Thank You" in this Update to the work conducted during the last two months of Milt Stompler and Darrell Schwartz. This duo had just finished leading the way with polishing the aircraft from tail to nose, when they were tasked with cleaning 30 years of gunk from the *City of Savannah's* wheel wells. They have done an exceptional job in the wells, which are now being painted. A major "Well Done" to this dynamic duo.



(L-R) Darrell Schwartz, Milt Stompler and Bud Currey during the fuselage polishing project.

Much of the action so far this year seems to be events outside of the Savannah area. The last Update related the story of the travel team that visited our sister project at Barksdale AFB and installed their floors and radio room racks. Two more travel teams are preparing to depart this week. Jim Grismer, Bill Burkel and Jeff Hoopes are on their way to Florida for a third purchasing trip to the Jay Wisler warbird parts facility in Tampa.

A second team, made of up Darrell Schwartz and Bud Currey, is departing for Ohio and Indiana. In Ohio they will be picking up a top turret mounting frame from the Military Aviation Preservation Society Air Museum, in North Canton, Ohio. This frame will require restoration work before it goes into the *City of Savannah*, but our metal work team is more than up to the task. The frame is being donated to us by the MAPS Museum, and will be a big boost to our project. The next stop for Darrell and Bud, in Indiana, is at Grissom AFB.

The Warbird Rescue team (www.warbirdrescue.com) restoring the B-17G *Miss Liberty Belle* at the Grissom Air Museum has generously loaned us their tail turret so that our metal team can use their turret's parts as templates for the remainder of the metal work required to finish our turret. (The cooperation with the Warbird Rescue team is yet another product of our friendship with Tommy Garcia – who has been involved with the Grissom team for many years.)

On another area of the airplane, our most prolific volunteer, LMI Corporation's David Pinegar, has pulled off yet another amazing contribution to the project. This time he has really outdone himself with a unique solution to a problem. Dave was able to obtain some appropriate grade plexiglas for our side windows, and after cutting the plexiglas to fit the windows he needed to bake each window to make it strong enough to last forever in their new positions on the airplane.

Never one to let a small problem like having an oven big enough to take on this task, Dave enlisted the help of the wonderful lady who runs the museum's restaurant, Teri Bell. When Dave described what he needed done to the windows Teri turned the job over to one of her staff, baker Linda Thompson, and the problem was solved right there in the museum kitchen. Linda delayed baking that day's pies and put Dave's windows into her oven. Teri even provided Dave with a baker's hat so that he'd be dressed properly for the job. The windows came out, like Linda's pies, perfect!!



Linda Thompson and Dave Pinegar preparing to bake the new *City of Savannah* windows in the museum kitchen.

We will be reporting in the next several weeks about a new corporate partner with our project, Chroma Corporation. Chroma will be providing equipment that will eventually power various components on the *City of Savannah* to include the radio room, lighting and turrets.

As always there is more to come . . .