

UPDATE # 92 - "CITY OF SAVANNAH"

B-17 Restoration

March 25, 2011

We finally had a week at the Mighty Eighth where we were able to catch our breath. The important news this week came from Connecticut in the form of an e-mail from Kit Kittle, the son of the pilot of the original B-17G named the "*City of Savannah*", Lt. Ralph Kittle. We have been searching since January of 2009 to document the tail number of that original airplane. Kit provided us with the final documentation. His package contained a picture of the right side of the original "*City*" with the tail number clearly showing. (See below)



Kit told us that notes on the back of the picture, written by his dad, said that this was the airplane that he flew out of Savannah. Case closed.

Skip Shelton will be returning to the museum on April 6th to paint the tail number **339049** on our airplane.

Now for the bad news! It appears from the picture that the tail turret in the original “City” is a second generation Cheyenne turret and not the earlier model stinger turret that we have been searching for over the last 24 months. This is a new problem to solve.

We are including another volunteer bio this week. The man who will be running the show when the “City” radio room goes active will be the president of the Coastal Amateur Radio Society, Guy MacDonald.



Guy MacDonald testing WWII era radio equipment from the Museum archives.

Guy’s radio call sign is K4GTM. He was born into a military family, his dad being a career Marine. His family’s service to our country continues to this day. Guy’s choice of a military branch was the US Air Force, where much of his time was spent riding in an EC-135 as an electronics technician on a LOOKING GLASS airborne command crew. His post service career has continued in the electronics field, as a Network Systems Engineer and Technical Sales Representative. Guy and his wife Lorie (also an Air Force veteran) have been married for 27 years and have five children, two of which are currently serving in the military – the latest generation of the MacDonald family chose the U.S. Army for their service. Guy also serves our community as the Chatham County Coordinator for ARES, a formal communications backup system for the county in the event of an emergency or disaster.

We are very happy to have Guy and his team on our team.

More to come . . .