

Update #26 – “City of Savannah”

B-17 Restoration
August 28, 2009

This week a great deal of good news returned to Savannah from the state of Ohio. Museum CEO Henry Skipper met with the Board of Directors of the 8th Air Force Historical Society at their annual reunion in Cincinnati and was told that the society will undertake a campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the “City of Savannah”. The operating budget for our project is currently measured in very low numbers. The efforts of the society to support our restoration, a society formed by the very airmen the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum was built to honor, will be very much appreciated, and necessary. The restoration process is currently graduating from

the manual labor and lots of sweat effort to actual restoration and re-equipping of the aircraft.

Volunteer sweat has gotten us through the first seven months of the project – now we are going to need significant financial backing to keep the project moving.



Photo Above: Jerry McLaughlin and Henry Skipper with “Memphis Belle” at Nat’l Museum of the USAF, Wright - Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH

While Henry was in Cincinnati he teamed up with Jerry McLaughlin to visit the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright – Patterson AFB, where they met with the head of the USAF’s museum system, General Charles Metcalf, and the museum’s Chief

of Restoration, Roger Deere. Roger took Henry and Jerry on a three hour personal tour of the museum’s restoration facility, where they were personally introduced to the most famous B-17’s of the WWII era, *The Swoose*, and the *Memphis Belle* – both of which are undergoing full restoration prior to becoming exhibits at the museum.

Back in Savannah we had a visit from Bill Walker of the General Aviation News. Bill interviewed Jerry and Jim Grismer, and then visited the “City”, where he interviewed and photographed the Wednesday Day Crew about their efforts on the restoration project.

Also this week, the Wednesday Night Crew removed the bomb-bay doors in preparation for their cleaning, and the Friday Crew completed final details for the paint test in the nose compartment.

More to follow.....



Photo Above: Bill Walker, General Aviation News, and Volunteer Jim Grismer, Operations Coordinator, of B-17 “City of Savannah” Restoration Project