

Update # 53 - "City of Savannah"

B-17 Restoration

May 24, 2010

What an exciting two weeks it has been... since our last Update. The "City of Savannah" restoration team has completed a great deal of work on the airplane, and the project has made several major appearances in the local media.

Work continues on the interior of the aircraft with all four crews applying paint stripper throughout the fuselage with excellent results. Sixty years of paint, in many layers, and just old fashion dirt have been removed. Assistant Project Manager JEB Harper reports that he is confident that the interior work, including cleaning, anti-corrosion applications, and painting, will be completed by mid September.

JEB is also involved in another endeavor that will have major impact upon the "City" – he has been designated as the point of contact to work with Mr. Owen W. Hughs. Mr. Hughs is 91 years young and was assigned as a young soldier with artistic talents to paint nose art on 8th and 9th Air Force aircraft in England during WWII. Sixty-five years later he is still painting aircraft. He became aware of our project and contacted the Museum to volunteer his services painting the appropriate unique art on the "City of Savannah". JEB has been in contact with Mr. Hughs and will be coordinating his traveling to Savannah this summer to apply his talents to our airplane. While Mr. Hughs and his wife are with us he also plans to address the Birthplace Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society on the subject of his almost 70 years as an aviation artist.

Those of you who live in the Savannah area will have noticed that our project has been noted recently on both WTOC-TV and in the *Savannah Morning News*. We are very grateful to Bill Cathcart from WTOC and Chuck Mobley from the newspaper for their efforts on our behalf. Several events garnered all of this attention; the first was the Armed Forces Day broadcast from beneath the wing of the "City" by the Coastal Amateur Radio Society (CARS) using WWII era equipment from the Museum archives. The second event took place this past Wednesday at the 70th Anniversary of the opening of Hunter Army Airfield. Thanks to the efforts of our own Saturday Crew member, General Jeff Phillips, one of the highlights of that celebration was the display of the Museum's 1940

Ford fire truck, which served at Hunter during WWII. Museum CEO Henry Skipper and Marketing/Public Relations Manager Mandy Livingston represented the museum at this event. Deputy Project Manager Jim Grismer will be working with the fire fighters at Hunter and Fort Stewart to restore the truck to its 1940's configuration so that it can be part of the final "*City of Savannah*" story in our combat gallery.



**Coastal Amateur Radio Society working at the event
Lester Lamhut, Mark Bolton, Guy McDonald, Stephen D. Jonas**

Now that the work of preparing the outside of the aircraft for final painting is completed, and work on the interior is progressing quickly, the enthusiasm of the various teams working on the project is increasing. As part of that enthusiasm we are hoping that in the near future we will see some "outline" changes on the shape of the "*City*" fuselage - to include a top turret dome and a new nose piece.

More to come.....



Fire Truck at Hunter Army Airfield's 70th Anniversary Event