

## Update #7 – “City of Savannah”

April 10, 2009

There was a lot of activity this week with the project. So much activity that we had to defer the strategic planning meeting to catch up with everything else that is going on.

First, and most important, four of our volunteers, Project Coordinator Jerry McLaughlin, Crew Chief Jim Grismer, and supervisors Bill Liening and Jim Argo, traveled to Douglas, GA, and met with Don Brooks and Tom Reilly. The meeting was a very successful one, with both Messer’s Brooks and Reilly providing our guys with a tremendous amount of information about equipment that we will need to acquire, and an outline for a recommended plan to follow with the restoration. As many of you may know, Don is the owner of the B-17 “Liberty Bell” which tours the US and Europe, and Tom is the man who does Don’s restorations. You will be hearing a great deal about Don and Tom in future updates.

On the local front the two Jim’s and Bill spent a full day on Wednesday power



washing the bottom of the aircraft’s right wing and landing gear. The power washer started working at 9:30 AM and didn’t get loaded onto Jim’s truck until 8:00 PM. Both the day and night crew put in a very hard day’s work.

While the cleaning work has been given a great deal of attention the last few weeks, another plane related project has been going on in a room on the museum’s second floor. Ron Gunnell has been doing a superb job photographing all of the

spare parts that arrived in the four wooden crates that came with the B-17. Many of these parts were unidentifiable to anyone working with the project. Sheila Saxon put Ron’s pictures into a boxed format and placed the pictures in a loose leaf notebook which Jerry took down to Douglas for the meeting with Don Brooks and Tom Reilly. While Don talked with our team Tom went through the book and was able to name every part for us. Thanks also to Mort Glick who helped Ron get the job done in time for the book to make the trip to Douglas.



There is still more to report. Up in Maryland the project’s research historian, Doug Reed, has been doing an absolutely amazing job turning up information on both our aircraft, and the original “City of Savannah”. Doug has uncovered so much material that we are going to prepare a special update containing nothing but his historical material. Stand by for that update.

Enjoy your weekend good luck finding those Easter Eggs.