



SCHAF Newsletter for September, 2019

Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place on Saturday, Sept 14, 2019 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.

Foundation Happenings

SCHAF members, Joe McDonagh and Emily Dobbins, recently visited our friends at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum. They were able to visit with fellow SCHAF member, Bill Rouw, who is the Flight Engineer for the CWHM's B-25, Hot Gen. Joe and Emily were in awe of the planes and displays at the museum. They said Bill was an excellent host. If anyone is ever in Hamilton, Canada, we highly recommend visiting the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.



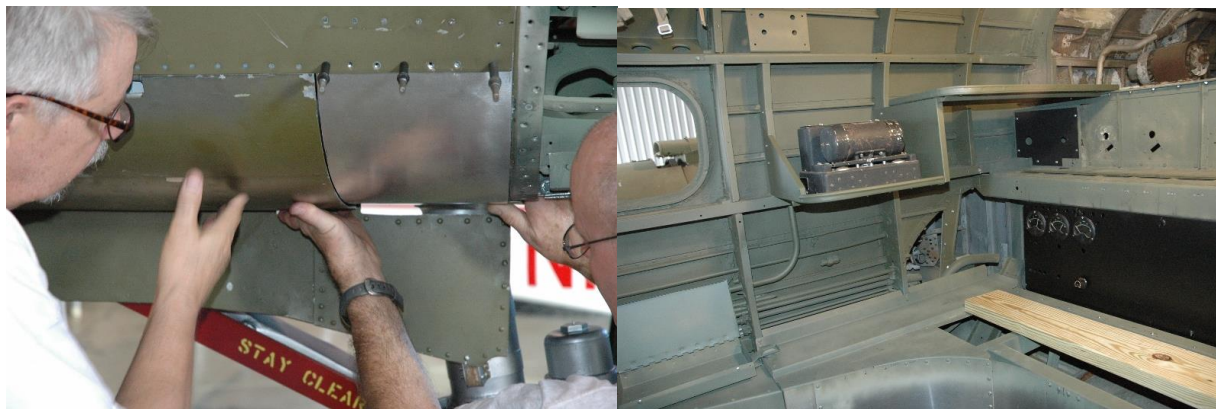
DONATIONS to SCHAF

We were thrilled to receive this recent donation from the folks at the Department of Juvenile Justice. Thru their wood working department, they made us 16 wooden “bombs” to be used in making our drift flare replicas for the navigator’s section. In a previous newsletter, we posted pictures and a description of our original drift flare. They used the original flare as a model for making our replicas. Pictured below is Sam Bower and his son, Donald. Donald even made two of the flares.



RESTORATION PROGRESS

We have been hard working on getting the skin back on the nose of the plane. The restoration of the navigator’s section has been coming along nicely. It takes several test fittings before the skin is ready for drilling and riveting. The navigator’s area was completely empty so everything you see in the picture is being hand made using manuals and pictures.



Edwin and David test fitting the skin before drilling the holes for riveting

Progress in navigator’s area. You can see the new black instrument panels.

History of GF2

As stated in last month's newsletter, we are very excited and appreciative to the Index-Journal newspaper in Greenwood, SC for sending us articles from their past reporting on GF2.

It is funny how memories fade over a short period time. In 1961, just 17 short years after the accident, there was an effort made to locate GF2. The following is from an Index-Journal article from Nov 15, 1961:

Cold Hot or Warm

Time dims the memory of all.

A story in today's Index-Journal tells about the effort to locate a B-25 bomber which crash-landed and sank in Lake Greenwood 17 years ago.

All efforts to determine the month when the accident happened turned up entirely different answers.

"All I remember was that it was cold weather," Red McClain said. He was the man who picked up the five crew members who were aboard the plane.

"It was warm weather," a woman said. "Early in the spring."

"It was hot weather," another man said. "In August, I think, because the lake was being sprayed for mosquitos."

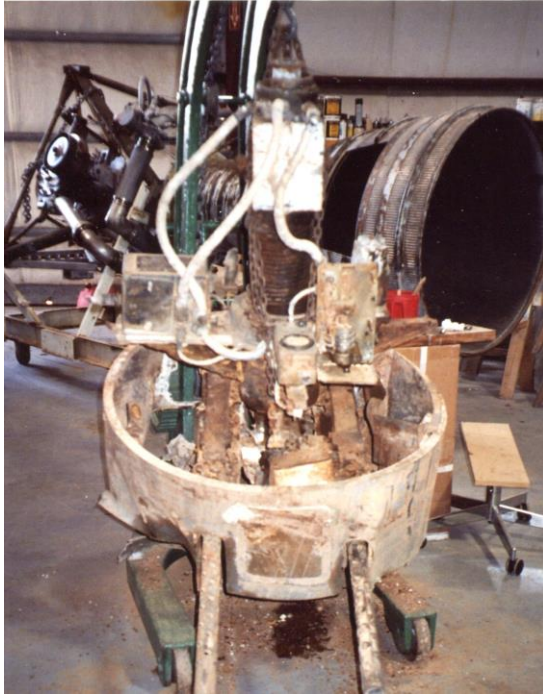
A long eye-watering search through the microfilmed pages of the Index-Journal published in 1944 finally turned up the answer: June 6, 1944, a cloudy and mild day.

June 6, 1944 is also a date that everybody should find easy to remember. It was D-Day in the Normandy invasion but nobody evidently connected that momentous day with the day a plane fell into Lake Greenwood.

HISTORY OF GF2 – PART 2

We recently received some original GF2 pictures from SCHAF member, Ron Shelton. These pictures were obtained over the years from different sources. Joe McDonagh spent several hours scanning each picture for us. We have also placed them into a photo album to be stored at the hangar. We are working hard to document the history of GF2. The Holy Grail would be finding a picture of GF2 when she was flying during the war. I have not given up hope!

The following pictures are two of the ones from Ron Shelton. GF2 was an early B25C with the bottom turret. The frame for the turret is still in the rear of the plane. When the crew escaped from the wreckage, they were picked up by a local. Since they did not have to use the life raft, it was still on board and found when the plane was raised. SCHAF does not own any of these items so we are glad to be able to see and document some of the original equipment.



Bottom turret from GF2



Life raft from GF2

GOOD READS

I just purchased the book: Dam Busters Canadian Airmen and the Secret Raid Against Nazi Germany by Ted Barris. I have recently become very interested in the Lancaster Bomber. This book was highly recommended by more than one SCHAF member. I am looking forward to reading this one.

Odds and Ends:

If you have something you would like to share in a future newsletter, please send an email directly to SCHAF at info.schaf@gmail.com.

South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation 803 731 3254
3100 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205
www.schistoricaviation.org



JOIN TODAY

DONATE NOW