

EAA Aviation Foundation's B-17 "Flying Fortress"

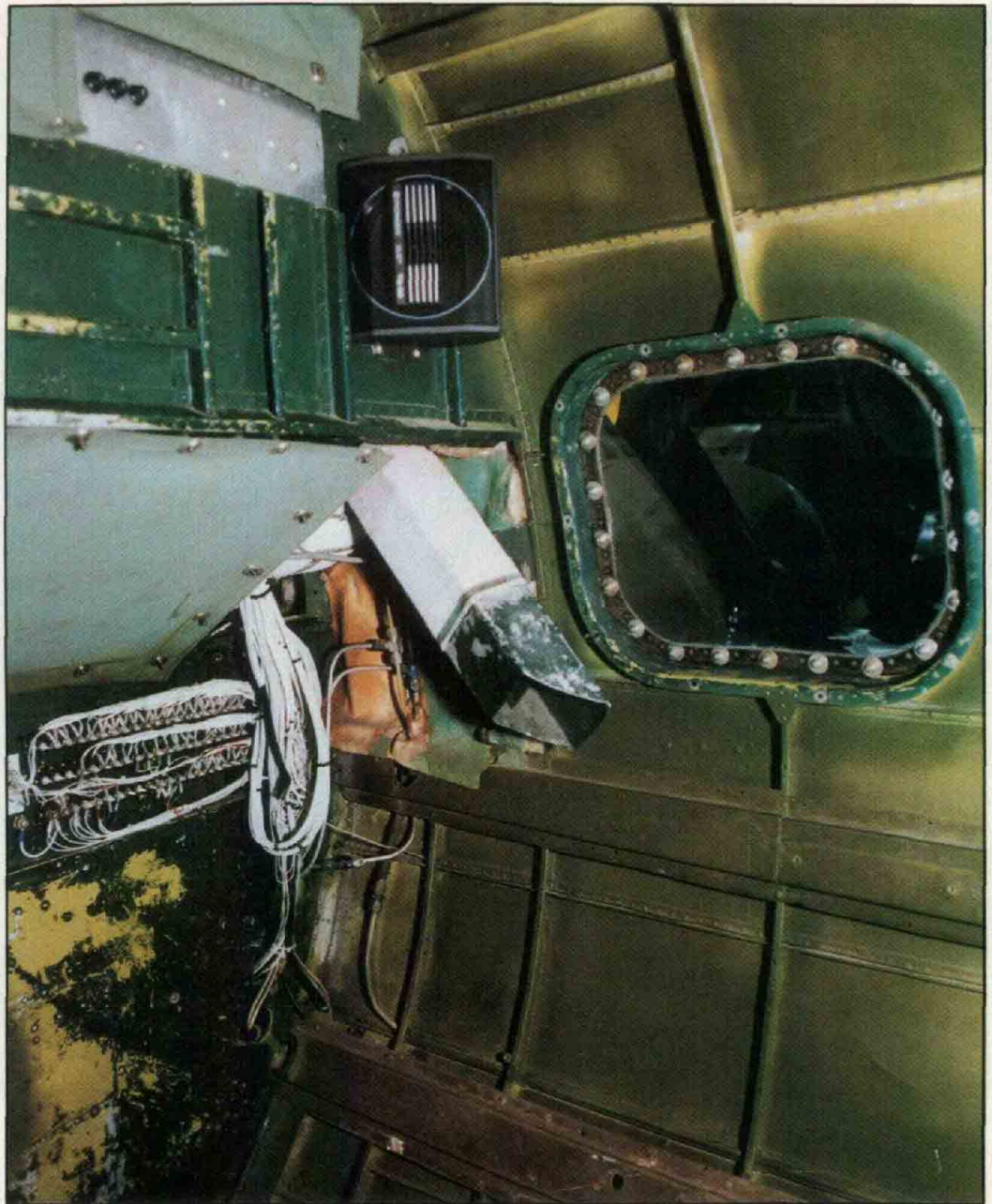
HELP NEEDED TO RESTORE B-17's INTERIOR

"The Boeing B-17 was more than a plane and its story and that of its crews is more than history. It is drama, romance, adventure, tragedy and folklore set against that panorama of the greatest war in history. To the men who flew in the B-17, and particularly to those who feel they owe their lives to this majestic aircraft, it was more than a metal monster with four engines and a hundred foot wing. The B-17 was almost human - the Queen of the Bombers, the Big Bird, a Glory Wagon, affectionately named 'Rosie's Riveters', 'Memphis Belle', 'Swoose', 'Suzy-Q', 'Hell's Angels' - names which during the bittersweet years of war became as celebrated as the men who fought in them."

The above quote from Edward Jablonski's book, "Flying Fortress", makes one realize just how important the B-17 is to our history. It is **more** than just an airplane, it is a symbol of freedom and adventure and it must be preserved.

According to Boeing records, 12,735 B-17s were manufactured during the war. Thousands were lost in combat, others were lost in various ways throughout the years after the war. They were used as airliners, photo planes, cargo planes or just taken to the scrap yard. Out of the remaining B-17s, only a handful have been documented as flyable and the EAA Aviation Foundation's "Aluminum Overcast" is one of them.

Thanks to a group led by Bill Harrison, EAA Aviation Foundation Director and Warbird member, the "Aluminum Overcast" is now the centerpiece of the



The current condition of the navigator's station in the "Aluminum Overcast".

EAA Eagle Hangar. Over the years, various restoration projects have been completed. She is painted in the colors of the 398th Bomb Group and has new cheek and waist guns, a chin and ball turret, original insulation in the cockpit, but that is not all she needs to bring her back to full glory.

Much work still needs to be done. A complete radio room, navigator's table, top turret, navigator's astrodome and

much, much more. You can help us restore this venerable aircraft to its rightful place as an outstanding piece of our aviation heritage by making a donation to the EAA Aviation Foundation's B-17 restoration program.

For more information, write B-17 Restoration Program, EAA Aviation Foundation, EAA Aviation Center, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3065, or call 414/426-4800.