The Champaign Lady B17 Restoration Project
Champaign Aviation Museum, Urbana, Ohio

The History of B-17s and the Construction of a B-17G, the “Champaign Lady”

Bill Albers, Champaign Aviation Museum

World War II

12,731 B-17s were built.
4300 were shot down.
4000 were severely damaged.
24,000 airmen died.
40,000 were interned as POWs.
“The B-17 was the darling” of the public at home.
Model 299 - prototype.
Boeing quoted $99,620 ea.

Y1B-17A = B-17A (13) - aircraft (1936)
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B-17E  (155) Engineering Changes.
B-17F  (760) Engineering Changes.
B-17G  (634) Engineering Changes.

Many of the EC’s got incorporated in the B-24.

Last B-17G was delivered by Boeing in April, 1945.

Boeing assembled: (6990) B-17s
Douglas assembled: (2995) (starting with B-17F’s)
Lockheed-Vega assembled: (2750) (starting with B-17F’s)

US Army Air Force Strategic Bombing.

During the bombing campaigns in ETO:

The USAAF executed day time bombing
with B-17 and B-24 Heavy Bombers out
of North- Africa, England and later Italy.

The British “Bomber Command” flew
their bombing missions at night.
Who initiated the project?

- Project start.
- Museum ownership.
- Not For Profit Org. {501(c)3}
- Volunteers.
- Employees.
- Airplane completion.
Where did the parts/sections come from?

**THE MAJOR SECTIONS WERE ACQUIRED FROM (4) DIFFERENT SCRAPPED B-17G's**

**SMALL PARTS WERE RECOVERED FROM A WRECK IN ALASKA. A 1944-Douglas built B-17G.**
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44-85813 (Inboard Wing Sections)
Curtiss-Wright test bed
Black Hills Aviation – Air Tanker
Crashed 1980, Bear Pen NC

Forward Fuselage 44-83722
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