

SANDBAR MITCHELL RESCUE

Patrick Mihalek of Legend Of Aces Aviation and Todd Trainor from the Aeronca Aircraft History Museum are planning to rescue B-25J Mitchell, 44-30733, N9088Z from its crash site on a sandbar in the Tanana River near Fairbanks, Alaska where it crash landed in 1969.

After serving with the USAAF from 1944 to 1959 the bomber was one of a number employed as fire-suppression aircraft, becoming Tanker #8. On 27th June, 1969 the B-25 was called to help fight the Manley Hot Springs fires however shortly after takeoff it experienced double-engine failure forcing pilot Herm Gallaher to put the aircraft down, gear up, in the middle of the River. He walked



away, but the right wing was damaged and the forward fuselage was wrinkled. After removing engines, propellers and wheels (lower photo) the

wreck was abandoned and has since suffered from souvenir hunters, the major damage being the cutting off of the outer wings, along with the forward and aft section of the fuselage. Fortunately the centre section remains in good condition and recovery efforts are to begin in June. Using parts from other salvaged B-25s the goal is to eventually return the Mitchell to the air as the centre piece of a new non profit museum, the 'Warbirds of Glory Museum.' Funding and donations to help rescue and restore the wreck are being sought. If you can help please visit www.sandbarmitchell.org or www.facebook.com/sandbarmitchell.

Thanks to Patrick Mihalek & Todd Trainor

