

A Salute to Meigs Field



March 30, 2003 – It was Sunday night and Chicago's Meigs Field was deserted. Even the ATC tower had closed for the night. At about 11:30 p.m. a police-escorted caravan of several backhoes and large trucks carrying floodlights, generators and other equipment made its way onto Runway 18/36. Under cover of darkness the city construction crews carved a series of large, X-shaped portions of concrete out of the runway.

Mayor Richard Daley's covert action to close the 55-year-old lakefront airport came without public notice and stranded sixteen aircraft there.

"We have done this to protect the millions of people who live, work and visit downtown Chicago in these very uncertain times," Mayor Daley said at a later City Hall news conference.

Many want to know why he chose to do this in the middle of a weekend night. Mayor Daley is not likely to enlighten us.

This charter salutes the loss of a national treasure. Although Runway 18/36 was closed, the FAA approved the sixteen stranded aircraft to depart using the 3100-foot taxiway. In this "Salute to Meigs Field" charter DC-3 Airways will also arrive and depart using the taxiway.

On news of your memorial flight thousands of people have flocked to airports along your route to express their encouragement. You will begin at Sheboygan Airport, then fly over Davies Airport, Mitchell Field, Batten Airport, and Waukegan Airport to acknowledge your well-wishers gathered there and then land at Meigs Field. Having made your point to Mayor Daley that Meigs Field is closed only in his imagination, depart for Gary/Chicago airport in Gary, Indiana. There the "Friends of Meigs Field" will present you with a proclamation in honor of your flight.

A small scenery file included with this charter depicts the damage that Mayor Daley inflicted to Meigs Field. It is a very easy 1-2-3 installation and is crucial to the enjoyment of this charter. Many thanks to designer Andy Johnston, <http://flightsim.andjohnston.net> for granting permission to use his Meigs Field Scenery File.

No FSNavigator Plan is needed for this charter, fly by Pilotage and Dead Reckoning. The 2300 ft cruise altitude provides a minimum of 1500 ft clearance above the ground. Two flight timers will be helpful on this flight. **Flying time: 1 Hr, 08 Min.**

Charles Wood, DC3-001.

FROM - TO	Flight Description “Allocated runways and related information may change when flying online or using Real Weather”				COURSE (Leg) deg	DISTANCE (Leg) NM	ETE (Leg) HH+MM
	Dep. Rwy – 21	Init. Heading – 161 deg.	Init. Alt. – 2300 ft	Apt Elev. – 748 ft			
A single flight with a mid-point stop. Sheboygan (KSBM) Wisconsin, USA To Meigs Field, Chicago (KCGX) Illinois, USA To Gary (KGYG) Indiana, USA	Set FS Weather to unlimited visibility, winds calm, 4/8 Scattered Cumulous clouds, base at 3500 ft, tops at 12,000 ft, No Precip. Turn on your Marker Beacon Audio and tune Nav-1 to 108.30 Departure: Start your Timer, depart Sheboygan Rwy 21, and turn left to 161deg. Climb to 2300 ft En Route: Fly 161 deg to pass over Davies Airport, 2wi8, about 5 minutes after departure. Davies is a grass-strip Airport so be vigilant. Turn right at Davies Airport and follow the shoreline south. About 15 minutes south of Davies you should see Mitchell Field ahead, KMKE. Change heading as needed and fly directly towards Mitchell’s Rwy 19R. Maneuver to fly straight down Rwy 19R, 188 deg. At the <u>FAR</u> end of Rwy 19R, when your Inner Marker Beacon sounds and flashes white, turn left to 160 deg. Fly 160 deg from Mitchell to pass over Batten Airport, KRAC, about 5 min. away. Cross at the intersection of the runways.						
					161	12.0	00+06
					Pilotage		
					Pilotage		
					Pilotage	40.9	00+18
					160	10.9	00+05

	At Batten Airport turn right to 189 deg and fly over Waukegan Apt, KUGN. Cross the airport at the intersection of the two runways.	189	20.4	00+09
	Turn left, fly to the Lakeshore, then turn south and follow the shoreline. After 12 minutes slow to 120 kts and begin a 300 fpm descent to 1500 ft. Head for the center of the spit of land jutting out near downtown Chicago.	Pilotage		
	Maintain 1500 ft and fly over Meigs Rwy 18 surveying Mayor Daley's damage to this airport. (if you added the scenery file).	178	35.9	00+16
	At the south end of Rwy 18, turn right to 200deg, fly that hdg for 1 min 15 sec., then turn left to 358deg to return to Meigs Field.	200		
	Land on the TAXIWAY , to left of Closed Rwy 36, Meigs Field, KCGX ... 590 ft Elev., 3100 ft x 150 ft; Asphalt. Surface.	358	7.7	00+05
	On landing taxi north to the next to last ramp to the Rwy, turn right then left on to the Rwy north, then left back onto the beginning of the taxiway heading south. Tune Nav-1 to 108.30			
	Depart from the TAXIWAY using short- field take-off procedure. Turn left to 165 deg, climb to 2300 ft.	165		
	Intersect the Back Course ILS of Rwy 12, 108.30, Gary/Chicago Airport.	165	10.6	00+05
	Make visual approach, land Rwy 12 Gary/Chicago Apt, KGYG. Elev., 590 ft; Length, 6995 ft; Width, 150 ft; Surface, Asphalt.	126	6.7	00+04

	On deplaning at Gary/Chicago accept proclamation expressing the thanks of all Flight Sim Pilots and for a job well done. Tear up your speech and sadly have a cup of coffee with your Copilot.				
Flight No. 001-04	Arrival Airport Elevation: 590	Estimated Totals for Flight>>>		145.1 nm	01+08