

FLY-IN

# Warbirds heading for Watsonville

Ghosts of World War II began arriving at the Watsonville Municipal Airport for the annual Fly-In.

The Fly-In is mustering one of the largest assemblies of World War II-vintage airplanes seen on the West Coast since the end of the war a half century ago.

Fifty years ago this weekend, Allied forces were poised in England to invade German-occupied France. Hundreds of thousands of men, and thousands of ships and planes had been assembled for the invasion.

Today, just a handful of those planes remain.

Some of them will be at the West Coast Fly-In this weekend at Watsonville Airport.

A P-47 Thunderbolt, nicknamed

R-P-5-26-94  
the "Jug," is already hangered at Watsonville Aviation. The most powerful fighter of the war, the P-47, along with the lighter P-51 Mustang, was instrumental in maintaining air superiority over European skies during the later part of the war.

A twin-engine B-25 Mitchell bomber, the same type flown on the 1942 Doolittle raids over Tokyo, and a pre-war GeeBee racer will arrive at the airport today.

A B-17 and a B-24 bomber, both four-engine heavy bombers used in Europe, will be flown into the airport around 2 p.m. tomorrow.

The B-24 is the last operational bomber of its type in the world.

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A C-46 cargo plane, which flew the "Hump" over the Himalayan mountains from Burma to China, and a C-47, the military version of the famous DC-3, will also be at the air show.

⊙ The air show gets underway at noon Saturday with a fly-by, featuring four P-51 Mustangs and a twin-engine A-26 Invader medium bomber.