

75-year-old aircraft stops in Winterset; destination Rome

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On a late Friday afternoon recently, Piero Angiolillo landed at the Winterset Airport in his recently purchased 1936 Boeing PT-13.

Destined for Rome, the pilot stayed the night in Winterset before continuing on to New Orleans, where the aircraft would be disassembled and placed in a shipping container for the Atlantic crossing to Sweden. While in Sweden the aircraft will be further restored to its original squadron markings. Angiolillo will then fly the aircraft to Rome, Italy, its new home.

This aircraft was one of only 26 that were manufactured in 1936. During 1937 through 1938 the engine was improved and quickly became the PT-13A and PT-13B. The C model was equipped for instrument or blind flying and the D model had the most advanced engine of the R-680 series. Just over 2,000 of these aircraft were manufactured with the Lycoming 9

cylinder radial R-680, engine. Thousands of World War II pilots received their Wings after training in the PT (Primary Trainer) -13, PT-17 and PT-18 Boeing Stearman aircraft.

—Greg Harrison, contributor



Piero Angiolillo is a Boeing 777 captain flying for Alitalia Airlines.