

## Wing part from Calgary-born Victoria Cross Recipient's Aircraft to be placed on display with the Ian Bazalgette Memorial Lancaster Bomber



After spending 67 years in a French farmer's barn, the only remaining piece of the aircraft flown by a Calgary-born VC recipient has been brought to Alberta for display. S/L Ian Bazalgette was the only Albertan awarded the Victoria Cross during World War II.

On August 4, 1944 S/L Bazalgette crash-landed his flaming Lancaster Bomber near the French Village of Senantes in occupied France in an attempt to save two wounded crewmembers. Sadly the aircraft exploded and all three were killed. The Lancaster carried the markings "F2-T".

Prior to the enemy removing the wreckage, nine year old Simeon Desloges brought a two metre long piece from the wing home because it had lots of nuts and bolts in it that could be used on the family's farm. The enemy removed the remainder of the aircraft and the wing part was placed in the family's barn.

The museum's Lancaster has been dedicated to S/L Bazalgette VC and carries the markings of his aircraft "F2-T". The Town of Nanton and the Village of Senantes were "Twinned" in 2009 and this is one of the ways that the two communities are working together to honour the memory of this Calgary hero.

Simeon has donated the wing part to the museum. He and his family built a shipping crate for it and delivered it to the Paris Airport. Thanks to Simeon and to Air Canada, Karl Kjarsgaard, and Alain Ducatel for their cooperation in arranging the shipping of this historic artifact.



Ian Bazalgette over Senantes



Simeon Desloges at his farm near Senantes



The Wing Part at the Museum



The Ian Bazalgette Memorial Lancaster