



# Taking care of “George”

## the start of a Lancaster’s restoration

The full story of the Memorial’s Lancaster, “G for George”, was told in *Wartime 3*. After 44 years on display, the aircraft has been removed for restoration. Here is a curator’s eye view of the start of a massive and historic conservation project.



After removal of the undercarriage, “G for George” is ready to be lowered on hydraulic jacks for disassembly.



It takes three men to move one wheel – the size of the task ahead of the aircraft’s conservators now becomes apparent.



3

The original reason for “G for George”, the bombload, is removed from the bomb bay.



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The Merlin engines are taken off in pairs; the outer pair is removed before the inner pair. Here they have been stripped and await removal.



5

Preparing to raise the tail for dismantling.



6

Its undercarriage, engines and wings gone, “G for George” becomes increasingly unrecognisable.



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The fuselage is only one of over twenty major sections of the Lancaster: it is dismantled at the transport joints and moved away from the rest of the aircraft.



8

Now separated from the rest of the fuselage, the nose section sits on trolleys before its removal from the building.



9

The trailing edge section of one of the wings is carried towards a waiting truck.



12

The Lancaster's nose and centre fuselage leave the Memorial on their way to the Treloar Centre.



10

The four propellers are loaded for their trip to the Memorial's conservation annex, the Treloar Centre.



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Memorial staff, contractors, and volunteers pose next to "G for George" before the dismantling begins.

The nose section is towed down the ramp from the Bradbury Aircraft Hall.

### David Crotty Australian War Memorial



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