

[Chinese police hunt for prison escapee](#)

A prison in southwest China's Yunnan Province offered a reward of 100,000 yuan on Wednesday for information leading to the arrest of an escaped convict.

A class-A warrant has been issued for Zhang Lincang, 27, who escaped from No. 1 Prison in Yunnan Tuesday morning.

Zhang was sentenced to life imprisonment for drug-trafficking, and started his sentence in January 2017.

"Zhang left the site where inmates were working at around 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, stole a truck and fled," the report said. He abandoned the truck on a road 2 kilometers from the prison.

[Former official sentenced to life imprisonment for graft](#)

Yang Zhenchao, former vice governor of east China's Anhui Province, was given a life sentence for accepting bribes, graft and abuse of power on Wednesday.

Yang was also deprived of his political rights for life and all his personal assets were confiscated, according to a statement from the First Intermediate People's Court of Shanghai.

[Zhang Qingwei elected Party chief of Heilongjiang](#)

Zhang Qingwei on Wednesday was elected the secretary of Heilongjiang Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China(CPC).

Zhang was elected to the post at a plenary meeting of the CPC Heilongjiang provincial committee.

Zhang was born in 1961 in Hebei Province. He was formerly the governor of Hebei, and resigned from the post last month.

Lu Hao and Chen Haibo were elected deputy Party chiefs of Heilongjiang.

[News story: Service of commemoration for 7 World War 2 Royal Air Force \(RAF\) servicemen](#)

Crew members of 514 Squadron based at RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire who died when their aircraft crashed killing all 7 onboard were honoured in a service of commemoration on Friday 28 April 2017 at Heverlee War Cemetery, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium.



The Reverend Ashley Mitchell RAF delivers the Service of Commemoration. Copyright Danielle Roubroeks. All rights reserved.

The service, organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services was conducted by the Reverend (Wing Commander) Ashley Mitchell RAF and supported by RAF Defence Staff based in Belgium. The ceremony was attended by British and Australian Defence Staff, 514 Squadron representatives and local dignitaries.



Flying Officer Lloyd Burgess RAF delivers the RAF Collect at the Service of Commemoration. Copyright Danielle Roubroeks. All rights reserved.

Beverley Simon, JCCC said:

It has been a tremendous privilege for the JCCC to have organised this service of commemoration for the 7 crew members of Lancaster NN775 and to ensure that the appropriate level of dignity, ceremony and respect has been afforded.

We are especially delighted that so many of the crew's families were able to attend the service, some from as far afield as the USA.

On 5 March 1945, the crew members of Lancaster NN775 took off from RAF Waterbeach for a raid on Gelsenkirchen, Belgium. While flying near Tirlemont, the aircraft suddenly went into a dive from which the pilot was unable to recover. All of the crew were buried together in a collective grave in Heverlee War Cemetery in Belgium.

The crew members remembered were:

Rank and full name	Role	Age	Place of birth
Sergeant Christopher George Hogg	Mid-Upper Gunner	20	South Yardley, Birmingham

Sergeant William Marsden	Flight Engineer	20	Chorley, Lancashire
Flying Officer Holman Gordon Stanley Kerr	Pilot	23	Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland
Sergeant Herbert Percival Thomas	Rear Gunner	23	Clarendon, Jamaica
Flight Sergeant Allan Olsen RAAF	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	21	Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
Flight Sergeant Sidney Smith	Navigator	21	Not stated
Flying Officer Frank Clarke	Air Bomber	Not stated	Not stated

Families of all of the crew were traced and 17 family members were present at the ceremony with wreaths being laid on behalf of all 7 crew by each of the respective families. Amongst the relatives who paid their respects included the niece of Sergeant Herbert Thomas (Joe), Paulette Thomas, who had travelled with her family from the USA to attend the ceremony. Joe's family were originally from Cuba but migrated to Jamaica. As Jamaica was under British rule in 1945, Joe was listed as a UK national.

Paulette Thomas said:

My uncle died long before my siblings and I were born but his essence was deep rooted in our family. It is awesome that there is a family thousands of miles across the ocean who knew him and can share with us memories and pictures of him. We honour his service and are proud to call him family.

Jeff Temple, nephew of Sergeant Sidney Smith said:

Our uncle Sidney was the Navigator on Lancaster NN775. My sister Susan and I were raised with Sidney very much present, with his photograph on the mantelpiece and our mother telling us stories of him fighting extremism. He was our hero, and gone, but not forgotten.

The excavation and the present commemoration have brought him to life for us, and we thank everyone involved for the opportunity to pay our respects to this young man, and indeed to all the crew. These young men are heroes to each of us, and remind us of our duty to continue with this fight for tolerance.

Purdah restrictions

As the BGS is an arm's length body of government, we face restrictions on communicating during the pre-election period and are not able to provide media comment at this time. Normal service will be resumed after the General Election when a new government has been formed.