

[News story: World War 2 airman finally laid to rest 70 years after he gave his life for his country](#)

He was given a full ceremonial burial on 16 March 2017 at Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany.

The service, led by Reverend Rebekah Cannon, Chaplain of RAF College Cranwell, was attended by representatives of the Royal Air Force, the British Embassy in Berlin and the Royal British Legion. Current members of the Queen's Colour Squadron paid tribute to their former colleague by providing a bearer party for his coffin.

Reverend Rebekah Cannon, who led the service said:

It's been incredibly moving to lay this brave young man to rest today and to be part of his military family here to pay him our final respects.

Wilfred Lawson was born on 24 April 1918 at Penrith in Cumberland, youngest child of John and Elizabeth Lawson. He was 25 years old when he died. He had two older siblings, William and Elizabeth.

Wilfred joined the Royal Air Force in July 1936, before which he had worked for an ironmonger in King's Street, Penrith. He started his RAF career as an Aircraftman Grade 2, progressing through the ranks to Sergeant by the time of his death. In September 1940 he married Margaret Grace Flood and they lived on Sefton Terrace, Leeds.

Sgt Lawson's remains were discovered in September 2014 by the Vermisstenforschung Deutschland, a German group interested in researching those missing in war. Although there were no identifying items found with the remains, the site was known to be where his Lancaster bomber LL721 had crashed in January 1944.

Investigation work led by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC), part of Defence Business Services, showed that of the 7 crew members, 3 were captured and held as prisoners of war, 2 were killed and buried at the time in the Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery and 2 remained listed as missing and were commemorated on the Royal Air Force memorial at Runnymede, Surrey.

It was possible to identify the remains through DNA analysis of samples from both Sgt Lawson's distant surviving family and relatives of the other missing airman.

Enid Townson, first cousin once removed of Sgt Lawson said:

It's amazing news that Wilfred's remains have been found and laid to rest in Berlin. I just wish that his parents and siblings had known during their lifetime what had happened to him.

They never quite gave up hope that there could have been a mistake and that he might one day come home.

Peter Nelson, first cousin once removed said:

We give Wilfred our thanks for his bravery in defending the free world. Although he's been lost for so many years he's now been found and will be in our thoughts forever.

Louise Dorr, who has led the organisation of today's service in the JCCC said:

It's the MOD Casualty Centre's mission to care for the fallen whether they're from current conflicts or historic campaigns. It's been an absolute privilege to arrange this ceremony for Sgt Wilfred Lawson. Although his blood family aren't able to be here today, his military family is honoured to be able to pay him this final tribute.

A new headstone bearing Sgt Lawson's name has been provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), who will now care for his final resting place in perpetuity.

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Tory disarray: a government agenda unravelling

Andrew

Gwynne MP, Labour's Campaigns and Elections Chair, commenting on the unravelling of the Tory Budget, said:

"The Tories are in a mess, riven by infighting and failure and disarray.

"They have embarrassed themselves over the Budget, they still have no answers on Brexit and they're fighting between themselves rather than fixing the problems.

"Theresa May says she has a plan and is sticking to it, but almost every day we see another promise broken or another change of heart. Flagship policies are being delayed or abandoned altogether while working people across this country bear the brunt of the Tories' incompetence.

"It is now clearer than ever that Theresa May cannot give Britain the change we need. Working people deserve better than Tory failure – only a Labour Government will stand up for them

and
their families.”

Ends

Rebecca Long-Bailey responds to reports Toyota is to invest £240m in a UK plant at Burnaston

Rebecca Long-Bailey

MP, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary,

commenting on reports that Toyota is to invest in a UK plant at Burnaston, said:

“The decision by Toyota to invest £240 million to upgrade its Burnaston plant is very welcome news. It is testament to the world-class workforce there whose excellence, hard work, and efficiency makes the UK car industry so strong.

“However, we should not be complacent. As the chief executive of Toyota Motor Europe warned; continued, predictable and uncomplicated tariff and impediment-free access will be important for future success. This is why the Government needs to secure tariff and impediment free access to the Single Market and Customs Union and re-enforce this with a coherent industrial strategy, which invests in the supply chain, R&D, infrastructure and skills. Only by doing this will the Government protect jobs in the UK car industry and ensure the continued success of this sector.”

Press release: Port of Boston announce full support of Boston Barrier Scheme

The Port of Boston has today announced its full backing of the proposed Boston Barrier and has formally withdrawn its objection to the Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0) application made by the Environment Agency in August 2016.

This comes after extensive discussions between the Environment Agency and the Port around the proposed Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0) which will go

to a public inquiry next month.

The multi-million pound Boston Barrier is part of the Boston Combined Strategy that will reduce the risk of tidal flooding to over 17,000 properties in the area.

Boston Barrier Director, Adam Robinson said:

We're delighted to be working alongside the Port of Boston, the statutory Harbour Authority, to secure consent and enable the delivery of such an important scheme for the town of Boston, following the December 2013 tidal surge where many properties and businesses were affected.

The Port has agreed that the Environment Agency can provide temporary berthing facilities for use by the Boston fishing fleet during construction of the proposed Barrier. They are also working with them to ensure that the sequencing of the Barrier construction works would allow the Port's operations to continue in a safe and efficient manner throughout the construction programme.

Representative of the Port of Boston, Neil Harris said:

We are pleased to announce today that we are fully supportive of the Boston Barrier Scheme that the Environment Agency are promoting for the town of Boston.

We have been working closely with the Environment Agency throughout the optioneering and development phases of the Boston Barrier Scheme and we will continue to work together during the detailed design and construction stage, particularly in relation to ensuring the continued safe navigation of all vessels on the Haven.

There will be some disruption to navigation during key construction activities, but the Port is confident these can be managed and kept to a minimum through continued partnership working with the Environment Agency and their contractor. Safety of navigation will be a priority at all times.

The Public Inquiry for the proposed Transport and Works Act Order starts on the 19th April at:

Boston Barrier Hub

Marsh Lane

PE21 7PJ

To view the Environment Agency's Statement of Case and supporting documents visit:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/bostonbarriertwao/>

Notes for editors:

To find out more:

Drop into the Boston Barrier hub every Wednesday from 12-7pm at:

Boston Barrier Hub

Marsh Lane

PE21 7PJ

Email: boston.barrier@environment-agency.gov.uk

Call: 07769937012

Twitter: @BostonBarrierEA

Facebook: [facebook.com/BostonBarrier](https://www.facebook.com/BostonBarrier)