



Odontology Section – 2008

F43 Identification of an Unknown Sailor From the Attack on Pearl Harbor

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The goal of this presentation is to identify the processes used to identify the skeletal remains of an unknown sailor killed during the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by assisting the audience in learning of the procedures which have subsequently been used to identify the skeletal remains of several unknown service members who were killed during the attack but not identified until over 60 years later.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the tranquility of the island of Oahu, Hawaii, was shattered by the surprise attack on the U.S. Navy Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor. Close to 2,400 military and civilian personnel were killed in the attack which launched the United States into World War II. Unidentified decedents from the attack were subsequently buried at the National Cemetery of the Pacific as unknowns. Through the efforts of Pearl Harbor survivor, Ray Emory, the unknown remains of a sailor were disinterred and positively identified using forensic odontology, forensic anthropology, and mitochondrial DNA testing.

Pearl Harbor, Odontology, Identification