



G6 Exhumed Remains: A Historic United Kingdom Case Review

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Learning Overview: After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the importance of working in an interdisciplinary forensic team. This historic United Kingdom case of exhumed remains used an interdisciplinary approach. Attendees will also learn about the application of technology in this particular odontology case report and how this could be applied in future forensic human identification. The goals of this presentation include: (1) introducing an interdisciplinary forensic case from an odontologist's point of view; (2) recording of information at the postmortem (dental, anthropology, radiology, and pathology); (3) radiography in a mortuary (dental and full body); (4) a review of the odontology report; (5) how report writing for odontology in the United Kingdom has changed; and (6) lessons learned (from the perspective of a young odontologist).

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating the need for consistency in documenting dental and anthropological evidence, the importance of working with other forensic disciplines, and the application of technology in forensic reports during cases that involve human identification.

In June 2018, a major crime review team of a United Kingdom police force enlisted forensic anthropologists/archaeologists to exhume the body of an unidentified male. New evidence led to a second postmortem as the unidentified male was believed to be associated with an attempted murder in 1993. Human identification of these remains used anthropology, pathology, and odontology, along with other supporting disciplines, such as radiology. Hard tissue and dental samples were sent for DNA analysis, which subsequently confirmed his identity and confirmed that he was indeed the suspect the police were seeking.

In 1993, a man was wanted in connection with a horrific attack on a woman. The woman suffered severe head injuries, to the extent that surgeons had to rebuild her face. The suspect subsequently fled the scene using the woman's car. The police issued a number of appeals. Advice was sought from the National Missing Persons Bureau and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Appeals were also made on the BBC television show *Crimewatch*. No proof of life was established following the suspect's disappearance. All attempts to trace him were unsuccessful, and the case remained open.

In 1995, the body of an unidentified male was recovered from the weir of a river near the locality of the attempted murder. The unidentified body underwent a postmortem examination and was subsequently buried as a "John Doe." In 2011, the car the suspect was believed to have been driving was found in the river. The front and rear windcreens were broken. The driver's seat was pushed back and a length of wood matching the length to the foot pedals was found. No body was found in the vehicle.

In June 2018, the body of an unidentified male was exhumed by forensic anthropologists/archaeologists from Alecto Forensics. The remains were thought to be the suspect. A forensic team was assembled. A home office forensic pathologist and an accredited anthropologist examined the remains. Radiographers and police photographers assisted in the capture and collection of information. Samples for DNA analysis were taken from one molar and a section of long bone. A positive identification that matched the suspect was achieved by DNA analysis.

The forensic odontology examination was a comparison to the first odontologist's chart by Dr. Bernard (Bernie) Grant Sims at the first postmortem in January 1995. Bernie was known as the father figure of forensic odontology in the United Kingdom. His expertise was utilized in many United Kingdom major crime investigations and mass disasters such as the King's Cross Underground Fire (London, 1987), the Pam Am plane crash (Lockerbie, 1988), and the Marchioness Riverboat (London, 1989).

This case will look at the biological information that was collected during the odontology and anthropology examinations conducted during the postmortem. Reflection on how we can further improve the method of collection and recording information through the use of technology will also be explored. This odontology report showcases a simple and effective way to demonstrate antemortem and postmortem comparison dental charting.

Exhumed Remains, Forensic Odontology, Odontology Report