



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

DPAA Laboratory
Offutt AFB, NE
25 August 2016



Agenda

- Introduction
- Our Business
- The Issue
- The Team



DPAA Mission

Provide the fullest possible
accounting for our missing personnel
to their families and our nation.

The Missing

82,685





OUR BUSINESS

The Remains



Disinterment of Unknowns

- National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Honolulu)
- Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (Manila)
- American Battlefield Monuments Commission cemeteries across Europe



Field Recoveries

- Conducted all over the world
- Informed by internal research and external partners

DPAA Laboratory



Accredited forensic laboratory in two locations:
Hawaii and Nebraska

- Archaeology
- Anthropology
- Odontology
- X-ray imaging
- Histology
- Isotope analysis (external)
- DNA analysis (external)



Identification

- Circumstantial evidence
- Physical anthropology (sex, age, height, ancestry, medical history)
- Odontology
- DNA evidence
- Chest X-ray Comparisons
- Identifications by Fiscal Year:
 - FY 14 – 87
 - FY 15 – 80
 - FY 16 – 120+





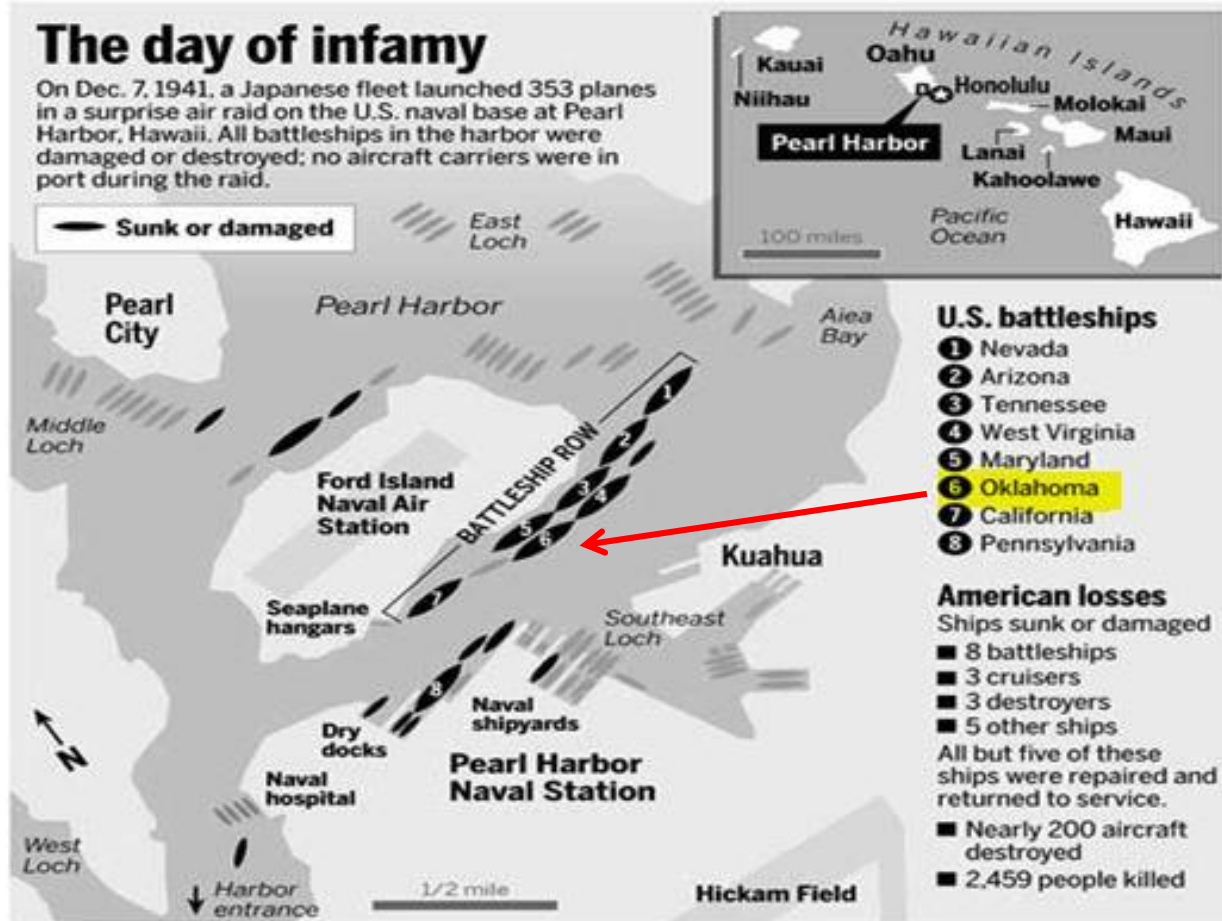
THE ISSUE

USS *Oklahoma*



The day of infamy

On Dec. 7, 1941, a Japanese fleet launched 353 planes in a surprise air raid on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. All battleships in the harbor were damaged or destroyed; no aircraft carriers were in port during the raid.



U.S. battleships

- 1 Nevada
- 2 Arizona
- 3 Tennessee
- 4 West Virginia
- 5 Maryland
- 6 **Oklahoma**
- 7 California
- 8 Pennsylvania

American losses

Ships sunk or damaged

- 8 battleships
- 3 cruisers
- 3 destroyers
- 5 other ships

All but five of these ships were repaired and returned to service.

- Nearly 200 aircraft destroyed
- 2,459 people killed

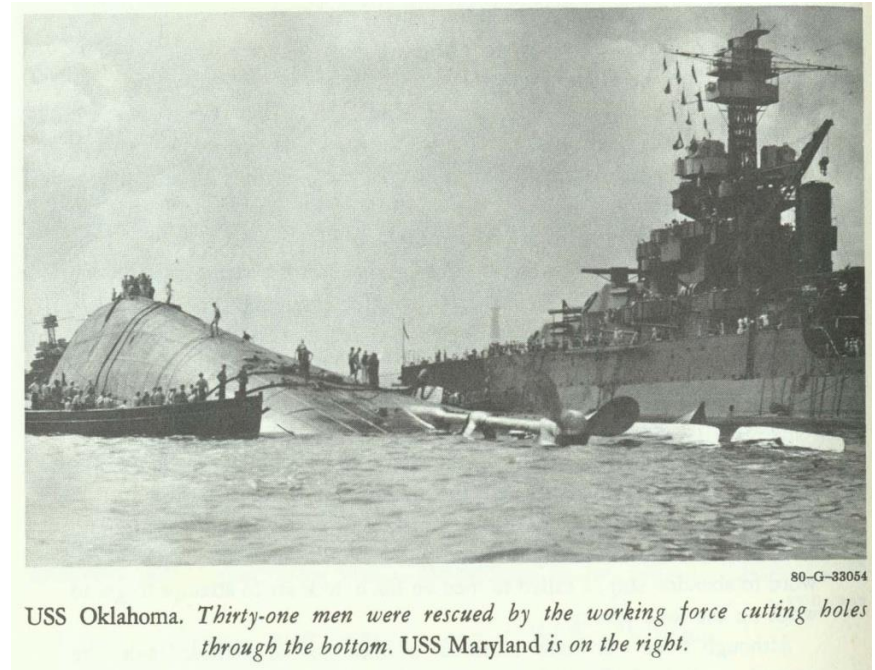
Source: HistoryNet.com

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Recovery & Salvage Operations



- Burial of Unknowns from USS *Oklahoma*
- Recoveries began immediately after attack
- Salvage continued until 10 May 1944



USS *Oklahoma* Unknowns



Past Identification Attempts



In 1947, the AGRS disinterred all the unidentified USS *Oklahoma* remains from Halawa and Nu'uauu Cemeteries.



Remains, above, being examined at the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks.



The type of original burial of these remains (approximately 415) in fifty-two (52) common graves consisting of bones of a kind buried together (i.e. one casket was filled with skulls, another with femurs, another with hip bones, and so on) added greatly ^{to} the difficulty of the undertaking. Nevertheless, a very honest effort was made to segregate all the remains from the Oklahoma; the method of segregation was based upon articulation (where possible), morphology, age, color, texture and/or proportion. It should be noted that the number of compatible criteria necessarily dwindled as the work progressed, in other words, the first remains which was segregated satisfies the meaning of the term much better than does the last remains which was segregated.



Reburial

Remains reinterred in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (The Punchbowl)





Current Day

- 2003 first casket disinterred
- 95 different mtDNA sequences
- Remains at Lab-Offutt starting in June 2015
- 12,574 bones
 - Bone type, Side, Completeness, Age, Metrics, Pathology (trauma, anomaly), Taphonomy
- 4,879 DNA samples



Current Day

Issues

- Network flat files are not for multiple users
- Analyst to paper to data entry = hours on quality control
- No user-friendly automation or reporting to find trends/matches

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
1	Original Accession	Individual	G-	X-	Designator	Side	Element	Completeness	Comments	Taph 1	Taph 2	Taph 3	Art
25	2003-116		G-01	X-234A	810	Mid	L vert	~Complete	Arch absent post-sampling				
26	2015-120		G-13	X-299B	403	Right	Fibula	Complete					
27	2015-120		G-13	X-299B	402	Right	Tibia	Complete					
28	2015-120		G-13	X-299C	201	Left	Ulna	Complete					
29	2015-120		G-13	X-299C	401	Left	Tibia	Complete					
30	2015-120		G-13	X-299C	402	Right	Tibia	Complete					
31	2015-120		G-13	X-299C	403	Left	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of proximal anterior end				
32	2015-120		G-13	X-299C	404	Right	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of proximal end				
33	2015-120		G-13	X-299D	401	Left	Femur	Complete					
34	2015-120		G-13	X-299D	402	Right	Femur	~Complete	missing part of head				
35	2015-120		G-13	X-299D	403	Left	Fibula	~Complete	missing head				
36	2003-116		G-01	X-234A	809	Mid	T12	~Complete	Arch absent post-sampling				
37	2015-120		G-13	X-299D	404	Right	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of anterior medial end				
38	2015-120		G-13	X-299E	201	Right	Ulna	~Complete	missing part of styloid process				
39	2015-120		G-13	X-299E	401	Left	Tibia	~Complete	missing part of distal medial and lateral end				
40	2015-120		G-13	X-299E	402	Right	Tibia	Complete					
41	2015-120		G-13	X-299E	403	Right	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of proximal medial end				
42	2015-120		G-13	X-299E	801	Mid	L5	Complete					
43	2015-120		G-13	X-299F	201	Right	Ulna	Complete					
44	2015-120		G-13	X-299F	401	Left	Femur	~Complete	missing part of head				
45	2015-120		G-13	X-299F	402	Right	Femur	~Complete	missing part of head				
46	2015-120		G-13	X-299F	403	Left	Fibula	Complete					
47	2003-116		G-01	X-234A	811	Mid	L5	~Complete	Arch absent post-sampling				
48	2015-120		G-13	X-299G	201	Left	Humerus	Complete					
49	2015-120		G-13	X-299G	401	Left	Femur	Complete					
50	2015-120		G-13	X-299G	402	Right	Femur	Complete					
51	2015-120		G-13	X-299G	403	Left	Fibula	Complete					
52	2015-120		G-13	X-299G	404	Right	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of distal medial end				
53	2015-120		G-13	X-299H	201	Left	Humerus	~Complete	proximal end damaged				
54	2015-120		G-13	X-299H	401	Left	Femur	Complete					
55	2015-120		G-13	X-299H	402	Right	Femur	Complete					
56	2015-120		G-13	X-299I	201	Right	Humerus	Complete					
57	2015-120		G-13	X-299I	401	Left	Femur	Complete					
58	2003-116		G-01	X-234A	901	Left	Innominate	Complete					X-2
59	2015-120		G-13	X-299I	402	Right	Femur	~Complete	missing part of medial epicondyle				
60	2015-120		G-13	X-299J	201	Left	Humerus	~Complete	missing proximal end				
61	2015-120		G-13	X-299J	401	Left	Femur	~Complete	missing part of head				
62	2015-120		G-13	X-299J	402	Left	Tibia	Complete					
63	2015-120		G-13	X-299J	403	Left	Fibula	~Complete	missing part of proximal medial end				
64	2015-120		G-13	X-299J	404	Right	Fibula	Complete					
65	2015-120		G-13	X-299K	401	Left	Femur	Complete	white filament proximal diaph				
66	2015-120		G-13	X-299K	402	Left	Tibia	~Complete	proximal an Oil residue				
67	2015-120		G-13	X-299K	404	Left	Fibula	~Complete	head damaged				
68	2015-120		G-13	X-299L	401	Left	Tibia	~Complete	medial malleolus epicondyle missing				



Current Day

“For years on Memorial Day we bring out his picture and toast him,”

“Everybody loves him, and we have loved him forever.”

She still has the telegram his father got on Dec. 20, 1941: “The Navy Department deeply regrets to inform you that your son . . . is missing following action in the performance of his duty.”

We need to get these guys home. They’ve been not home for too long

- Joan Roberts, niece of Machinist Mate Eugene K. Eberhardt

The Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/after-74-years-bones-from-pearl-harbor-tomb-ship-may-be-identified/2015/12/06/60263b86-8ee7-11e5-acff-673ae92ddd2b_story.html



OUR TEAM



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- Dr. Franklin Damann, Offutt Lab Director
- Dr. Carrie Brown, Oklahoma Project Lead
- Dr. Andrea Palmiotto
- Dr. Sarah Kindschuh
- Dr. Katie Skorpinski
- Mr. Jeff Lynch
- Ms. Sarah Shankel
- Ms. Carrie LeGarde



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