



Lawrence E. Woods

1913-1941

By [Messenger Staff](#) / Published on December 09, 2020

Lawrence E. Woods was born near Greenwood in Wise County Nov. 18, 1913, to Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Woods.

Woods graduated from Greenwood High School and later enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Dallas Oct. 28, 1940. Woods reported for duty on the USS Oklahoma Jan. 26 1941.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, the USS Oklahoma was berthed in Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii when the base was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The Oklahoma capsized due to damage sustained from multiple torpedoes. Four hundred twenty-nine sailors and marines from the Oklahoma were killed in the attack. F1c Woods was initially listed as missing; his status was later amended to reflect he died as a result of the attack.

During salvage operations, numerous remains were recovered, interred in mass graves, and listed as "unknowns". In 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed the remains associated with the USS Oklahoma and transported

them to one of two DPAA laboratories at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickman, Hawaii, and Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska for forensic and scientific analysis in order to identify them.

F1c Woods was identified through mitochondrial DNA analysis in August 2019. His remains was sent to Greenwood Cemetery where he was buried near his parents, brother Merlin Woods, and sister Ina Bea Woods Jameson.

F1c Woods younger brother Machinist Mate 1c Winfred Woods was also assigned to the USS Oklahoma and was also killed in the attack. Authorities were able to identify Winfred and he is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.