

# **1. Summary**

## **Identification of corpses and skeletal findings**

The topic of my graduation thesis is the identification of corpses and skeletal findings. In this work I have described methods which are currently being used for an individual identification of people, and I have also paid a special attention to methods that are regarded as predecessors of modern currently-used methods. In each chapter of my thesis, I described different kinds of methods and I have also attached some short cases, just to illustrate the real work of police forensic experts after location of the corpse or the skeleton.

In the initial part of my work I have also attached the Glossary of Terms that explains some complicated technical terms. Although some of the methods which I have described in my work are used in many other branches, I have focused on the use of these methods in the forensic practice (criminal investigation) with the possible collaboration of experts in the identification work in mass accidents and disasters.

Nowadays, one of the fastest growing and most accurate methods of the identification with the widest spectrum of applications is the DNA analysis method, so I decided to devote a substantial part of my work to this method. I have described her historical development, her practical use and how this method really works in laboratories in the Czech Republic. My attention was also paid to machines and methods that are being used for obtaining the DNA profiles from the samples which are delivered by the police. I have also written about the main principles of how to prevent contamination of DNA samples which have to be followed when policemen or workers in the laboratories work with the DNA material. The fundamental part of my work is the subchapter relating to DNA databases, where I have described the development of databases and the current situation in the Czech Republic. For complexity, I have also attached the legal regulation concerning this issue and have outlined the possible solution *de lege ferenda*. I added this section by the practice case, namely the case where this method was firstly used in our republic.

To make this thesis complete I have also included the chapter which deals with the work of forensic medicine, forensic autopsy, determining time of death and postmortem changes.

The forensic biology was discussed in the fifth chapter. This biological science is of a great importance to the police practice because it deals with the identification, investigation

and evaluation of the biological traces, especially of a human origin. Its main task is to identify people at group membership or individual identification.

The forensic anthropology was discussed in the tenth chapter. It is also considered as a science of a great importance, because it helps to identify the skeleton and other skeletal findings.

This thesis is finished by the chapter, which is as a whole dedicated to the cases from the police investigation. I wanted to describe the whole process of identification of the corpse and also wanted to describe how it really works after location of a dead human body.

