

Otto A Boehler

Born

October 15, 1873, Germany

Entered Service

Wahpeton, North Dakota

Company I

Young's Scouts

1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry

Philippine-American War

Died

October 15, 1910 (aged37)

Early Years

Otto A Boehler, was born on October 15, 1873, in Germany. His occupation was a carpenter. He entered service in the US Army-Air Force from Wahpeton, North Dakota.

The War Years

Private Otto Boehler was one of a hand-picked group of soldiers known as "Young's Scouts," tasked with being at the forefront of movement in rebel-controlled areas. On May 16, 1899, eleven of these scouts under Captain William Birkhimer of the 3rd US Artillery, earned Medals of Honor in a frontal attack on 300 enemy. Three days later the scouts were looking for water when they encountered a large enemy force of at San Isidro. The rebel forces set fire to the strategic bridge over the Rio Grande de Pampanga. Three Scouts immediately sprinted across the bridge, firing at the enemy from point-blank range, while the remaining Scouts took cover and returned fire on the enemy trenches on the opposite bank, only fifty yards distant. Private Boehler was one of twenty-two Scouts that braved the hail of fire to rush the burning, wooden bridge and extinguished the flames, though constantly under fire. They then attacked and routed the enemy forces numbering 600 men. Private Boehler and six other Scouts earned the Medal of Honor for this action. In all, thirteen of Young's Scouts earned Medals of Honor in the three-day period.

Medal of Honor citation

Earned The Medal of Honor During the Philippine Insurrection For heroism May 16, 1899 at San Isidro, Luzon, Philippine Islands

Rank and Organization: Private, Company I, 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry.
Date of Issue: May 17, 1906.

With 21 other scouts charged across a burning bridge, under heavy fire, and completely routed 600 of the enemy who were entrenched in a strongly fortified position.

The Post War Years

Otto Boehler, married Bernardina Smart in 1902 (per 1910 United States Census, Breckenridge, Wilkin County, Minnesota Census). Also listed was the following; Son, Charles, age 8, daughter, Elizabeth M, age 6, and son, Fredrick B Boehler, age 3 6/12.

Otto Boehler, died on October 15, 1910 in Breckenridge, Wilkin Co., Minnesota.

Private Boehler is buried in the [St. Mary's Catholic](#) Church in [Breckenridge, Minnesota](#).



Photos of grave markers courtesy of Don Morfe, "Find A Grave" contributor who researches and photographs Medal Of Honor Recipient gravesites.

Next to kin:

Charles Bernard Boehler b. 1902 Breckenridge, MN. He died in Edmonton, Alberta. He had two sons and two daughters, with his wife Emily Bertha Nixon.

Elizabeth Boehler, b. 1904 Breckenridge, Wilking Co., MN

Fredrick B Boehler, b. 1907 in Breckenridge, Wilking Co., MN

Compiled by DeAnn Caddy
Captain Robert Orr Chapter DAR

Sources:

- ["Photo of Grave site of MOH Recipient Otto Boehler at www.homeofheroes.com Home of Heroes"](#). Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- ["Home of Heroes"](#). Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- ["Otto Boehler"](#). *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*.
- [Find a Grave](#). Retrieved 2007-11-21.
- United States Federal census records and Minnesota State census records.
- Congressional Medal of Honor, www.cmoah.org
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