

Harry Westley Orndoff



Born	November 8, 1875 Sandusky, Ohio
Died	July 14, 1938 (aged 62)
Place of burial	Highland Park Cemetery, Highland Hills, Ohio
Allegiance	 United States
Service/branch	United States Marine Corps
Years of service	1896 - 1902
Rank	Private
Battles/wars	Boxer Rebellion
Awards	Medal of Honor

Harry W. Orndoff (November 8, 1875 – July 14, 1938) was an American private serving in the United States Marine Corps during the Boxer Rebellion who received the Medal of Honor for bravery.

Orndoff was born November 8, 1875 in Sandusky, Ohio the son of John and Julia Clark Orndoff. He enlisted into the Marine Corps from Mare Island, California on October 17, 1896. After entering the Marine Corps he was sent to fight in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion.

After serving in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War and the Insurrection which followed, Private Orndoff was assigned to the USS Newark, operating off the China coast between May and August of 1900. The Newark, part of an international relief expedition, helped put down the Boxers, a secret Chinese society angered by foreign commercial exploitation, and rescued personnel in U. S. legations in Peking and Tientsen.

Early at the turn of the century a rebel force in China that called itself the Society of "Righteous and Harmonious Fists", subsequently called the "Boxers", initiated a rebellion in China that threatened the legations of several nations in Peking and Tientsen. Two detachments of Navy Bluejackets and Marines from the U.S.S. Oregon and U.S.S. Newark were dispatched as guards for the American Legations. On June 13 an estimated 50,000 Boxers began a two-month siege on Peking during which seven men received Medals of Honor for repulsing an attack by 300 militants with a bayonet charge. On June 20 the American guard fought a full-day battle against hidden snipers, and on June 21 turned fought a heated battle against a Chinese cavalry charge. On June 22 the Bluejackets and Marines fought their way through the wall of an enemy fort. Orndoff was wounded 23 June. Private Harry Orndoff was one of twenty members of this American Legation Guard (of 59 total awards during the Boxer Rebellion) to be awarded the Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct in the presence of the enemy during all four of these engagements.

He received the Medal for his actions in China on 13 and 20–22 June 1900 and it was presented to him December 10, 1901. He was discharged from the marines due to a medical survey on January 12, 1902.

Orndoff married Louise E. Touhey in Cleveland 23 May 1906. After working as a machinist for some time, he opened his own company, Emergency Road Service, Inc., operating it for many years. During the last five years of his life, he and his wife owned and operated Orndoff's Cafe in Lakewood. He died July 14, 1938 and is buried in Highland Park Cemetery, Highland Hills, Ohio. The couple had no children.

Citation

In action with the relief expedition of the Allied forces in China, 13, 20, 21, and 22 June 1900. During this period and in the presence of the enemy, Orndoff distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.