

South Dakota Medal of Honor Recipients

Willibald C. Bianchi

Rank and organization:

First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 45th Infantry, Philippine Scouts

Place and date:

Near Bagac, Bataan Province, Philippine Islands,
February 3, 1942

Entered service at:

New Ulm, Minnesota

Born:

New Ulm, Minnesota

Memorial Dedication:

September 22, 2000 in Brookings, South Dakota



Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy on February 3, 1942, near Bagac, Province of Bataan, Philippine Islands. When the rifle platoon of another company was ordered to wipe out two strong enemy machine gun nests, 1st Lt. Bianchi voluntarily and of his own initiative, advanced with the platoon leading part of the men. When wounded early in the action by two bullets through the left hand, he did not stop for first aid but discarded his rifle and began firing a pistol. He located a machine gun nest and personally silenced it with grenades. When wounded the second time by two machine gun bullets through the chest muscles, 1st Lt. Bianchi climbed to the top of an American tank, manned its antiaircraft machine gun, and fired into strongly held enemy position until knocked completely off the tank by a third severe wound.

To listen to Captain Willibald C. Bianchi's story, click link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4om6UItk6CM>

