

Pfc Kenneth Koichi Sekimura

September 8, 1913 – April 5, 1945



Kenneth K. Sekimura was born in Hilo, Hawaii, on September 8, 1913. He was the son of Kokichi and Machiyo (Kaneyoshi) Sekimura. He was educated at Waiakeakai Elementary; Intermediate School; and Hilo High School, Hawaii. Before entering the service, he was a parts department head at I. Kitagawa & Co., Hilo, Hawaii.

In February 1942, he was inducted into the Army at Hilo, Hawaii (Serial No. 30103033). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, 1st Battalion, Company C, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, France and Italy. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal; Distinguished Unit Badge with 2 Bronze Clusters; Combat Infantryman Badge; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc Kenneth K. Sekimura was killed in action on April 5, 1945, near Ripa and Bologna, in Italy during the Po Valley campaign, and is interred at the Veterans Cemetery, Hawaii.

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (GO 13, Hq 6th Army Group, 13 Dec 44)
KOICHI K. SEKIMURA, 30103033, Private First Class, Company "C", 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, for gallantry in action on 22 October 1944, in the town of Biffontaine, France. When his platoon, engaged in fierce house-to-house fighting, was denied advancement by the enemy in a building well defended with automatic weapons and rifles, Private Sekimura voluntarily advanced on the enemy-occupied building. Although under heavy machine pistol fire, Private Sekimura, utilizing the corner of a building for cover, succeeded in throwing two fragmentation grenades into the enemy-occupied position, wounding three, causing the abandonment of the structure by the enemy, and thereby contributed immeasurably to the subsequent occupation of the town. Entered the service from Hilo, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.