



The SILVER STAR is awarded to ARTHUR D. KESSLER, 35 140 332, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for gallantry in action on 10 January 1945, near Leutenheim, France. When a ten-man enemy patrol attacked the positions of Private Kessler's machine gun squad, he immediately went to his gun through the bitter cold although only partially clothed. Picking it up, he stood in a completely exposed position and directed a deadly stream of fire at the onrushing enemy forces. Completely disregarding the murderous fire striking all about him, he continued to fire the gun from the hip, single-handedly repulsing the attack and killing or wounding the entire enemy patrol. Private Kessler's exceptional courage and aggressiveness completely frustrated the enemy attack without casualty to our forces. Entered military service from

Indianapolis, Indiana.

General Orders #52, 1946, 42nd DIVISION

The Rainbow Battle Deaths WWII database lists PFC Kessler as killed in action on 02/23/45. This database is found here:

<https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/42nd-Rainbow-Division-Battle-Deaths-World-War-II-v2-June-2025.pdf>

The BRONZE STAR MEDAL (POSTHUMOUS) is awarded to ARTHUR D. KESSLER, 35 140 332, Private First Class, Infantry, Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment, for heroic achievement in action on 23 February 1945, near Lichtenberg, France. While on an outpost guarding his light machine gun section in positions near Lichtenberg, France, Private Kessler heard suspicious noises nearby and advanced to investigate. Although armed only with a pistol and a grenade, he proceeded through the darkness until he discovered an enemy patrol attempting to infiltrate the company area. As he shouted the alarm, he was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Private Kessler's heroic self-sacrifice enabled his company to prepare to repulse the enemy threat.

General Orders # 49, 1946, 42nd Division

Read the story of Pfc. Kessler's unit, *The Story of Company I, 232nd Infantry Regiment*:

<https://rainbowvets.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Story-of-Company-I-232nd-Inf-42nd-Division-WWII.pdf>