

Jul 21
1945

It Posthumous Award for T-5 Primeau

The Silver Star has been awarded posthumously to the late T/5 Francis W. Primeau, Wisconsin Rapids, who was killed in action November 18, 1944 at Metz, France. The soldier's wife, Lillian, who resides on Route 1, received word of the citation from the war department.

The citation reads:
"For gallantry in action against the enemy, on November 18, 1944. Primeau was a radio operator with the artillery observer team attached to the First division. His battalion was halted by German mortar, machine gun and sniper fire. To contact friendly artillery and reduce the German resistance, Primeau crawled under the shelling to a foxhole from which he could observe the German mortar observation post. The foxhole held a good deal of water and to protect his radio Primeau crawled out to pick up material for a temporary platform.

"German snipers fired on him but he calmly picked up enough wood to improvise a radio stand. Then he established communication with his field artillery battalion fire direction center and kept in communication while his battalion's shells demolished the German mortar observation post.

"Primeau remained at his perilous station, directing further artillery support for the infantry battalion until 1400 that afternoon when, still performing his duty in a boldly superior manner, he was killed in action. His heroic devotion to duty and great technical skill reflect lasting honor upon him and upon the military service."

Primeau entered service July 20, 1942 and went overseas August 20, 1944.

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