

HEADQUARTERS 1ST AIRBORNE TASK FORCE
APO #758 U S ARMY

21 November 1944

GENERAL ORDERS)

NUMBER 42)

III - AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, as amended, the Silver Star is awarded to the following named officers and enlisted men:

- E X T R A C T -

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CHARLES A. DERBIN, 16109003, Technician Fourth Grade, Parachute Infantry, United States Army, for gallantry in action near Le Muy, France, on 15 August 1944. Immediately following a parachute landing, Technician Derbin discovered an officer suffering great pain from internal injuries and a broken leg. He administered morphine and made the officer as comfortable as possible and then went to locate an aid man. Making a reconnaissance of an area covered by enemy machine gun fire, he discovered an enemy strong point firmly entrenched in a nearby house. Unwilling to leave the officer alone and in great danger, Technician Derbin returned to remain with him. Several hours later the supply of morphine was exhausted and Technician Derbin decided to risk going for more. At this time an English platoon came into the line of fire from the German strong point. Technician Derbin, exposing himself to the intense enemy fire, reached the English officer and explained to him the tactical situation. Acting on the information thus supplied, the English officer called for mortar fire on the position. Realizing the injured officer would suffer further wounds from the barrage, Technician Derbin, using great ingenuity, fashioned a rope from suspension lines, crawled forward to the injured officer, tied the suspension lines, under his arms, and pulled him to safety. Technician Derbin's gallant actions undoubtedly saved the life of the injured officer. Entered the military service from Detroit, Michigan.

By command of Major General FREDERICK:

OFFICIAL:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief of Staff.

/s/T. R. MARTIN
/t/T. R. MARTIN,
Captain, AGD,
Asst Adj Gen.

A CERTIFIED TRUE-EXTRACT COPY:

Russell C. Johnson
RUSSELL C. JOHNSON,
1st Lt., 517th Pch. Inf.,
Adjutant.