In the March issue two months ago, in Question # 57 on p. 23, we presented a member's concern over the presence and variation of numbers on various U.S. awards. As a partial answer, we presented another member's initial comment along with the promise that some additional information had been forthcoming from Mr. George Menegaux. Below, we now present Mr. Menegaux's contribution.

I was greatly interested in Todd Wheatley's account of the engravings on the Philippine Campaign Medal in the May 1964 Medal Collector. I know that there is quite a bit of interest in the engraving and numbering of U.S. campaign medals. Listed below are excerpts from Army Regulations, 1928. They may help to dispel some of the erroneous beliefs on the numbering of U.S. campaign medals.

U.S. Army Regulations - A.R. 600-65 Nov. 20~ 1928:
14 a) Numbering, record of. - All service medals, except the Victory Medal, will be serially numbered by the Adj. General. A separate serial number list being kept for each kind of medal. A similar record of the Victory Medals and clasps will be kept by the Commanding Officer, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, Philadelphia, Pa. The Adj. General will also keep a record showing the name, grade and organization of the person to whom or on account of whose service each medal or clasp was issued; for what service, and the highest grade held by him in the Army of the U.S. during service.

14 b) Organization Commanders will note on the service record of each enlisted man, or on the proper military record of other persons under their control, the designation of the service medal or clasp issued, its rim number and the fact and date of delivery.

14 c) The Commanding Officer, Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, Philadelphia, Pa., will keep separate serial records of the rim number of each medal issued, showing name of recipient.

17 - Act of May 12~ 1928 - Duplicates: Duplicate medals may be awarded, if loss legitimate, after a 3 month wait. Numbers engraved on rim gratuitously by Govt. Apply to Adj. Gen. Office.

U.S. Army Regulations - A.R. 600-65 Dec. 1~ 1925:
Phillipine and Mexican service medal engraving: When a Phillipine Campaign Medal is to be furnished for service rendered subsequently to 1902, or a Mexican Service Medal for service rendered subsequently to 1917, the C.O. Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, Philadelphia, Pa., will before mailing it, cause the year of service to be engraved on the reverse face, the figures to be placed below the words, "For Service", and to be approximately same height as the letters in these words. Holders of the above medals in cases where their respective medals do not bear this engraving, may send them back to C.O. Quart. Dep., Phila., Pa. for proper engraving at cost.

The legend "For Exhibition Purposes Only", engraved on the rim of the medal, will be paid for by the buyer, at cost, museums, etc.

From the above regulations, one would assume that it would be fairly simple to trace a numbered campaign medal to its original recipient. To date, I've had no luck. I'd like to hear from any member that has been successful in tracing a numbered campaign medal to its original owner.

At the present time, I have two engraved pieces in my personal collection. One is an Army Phillipine Campaign dated "1911" on the reverse. The other is a Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal with Civil War type reverse (the spread winged eagle), where the number is engraved on the rim.

The fact that these medals were obtained quite a few years ago, together with the type of engraving, leaves no doubt in my mind that they are genuine pieces. I wonder how many more are in collections throughout the U.S.?
The Knight's Cross of the War Merit Cross
"Ritterkreuz des Kriegsverdienstkreuzes" by Dr. K. G. Klietmann

In the May 1964 issue of this journal, Mr. Gary C. Krug presented interesting notes in the above series with a commentary on the Knight's Cross and 1st Class of the War Merit Cross.

It seems necessary, though, that I make some remarks on this subject too. The Knight's Cross (herein after called "K.C.") was instituted (both with and without swords) on 19 August, 1940. The first award of the K.C. occurred probably on 27 Nov. 1941 (with swords), whereas the K.C. without swords was first awarded on 20 May 1942 to the Obermeister (senior foreman) in an armaments factory - Franz Hahne. On the whole, only a few K.C.'s without swords were issued. The exact number has never been established as yet.

We know of 2 types of the K.C. w/o swords, the first type being pictured in the M.C., Vol. XIV, No. 6 (June 1963) on p. 3. The 2nd type is depicted in the M.C., Vol. XV, No. 5 (May 1964) on p. 1. In reference to the latter piece, the author thinks that it is an original, which I doubt and will try to prove.

After the institution (Aug. 1940) of the K.C. of the War Merit Cross, samples were made by the direction of the Orders-Chancellory. A larger War Merit Cross in silver was made, which showed no difference between the examples with or without swords.

It was the personal idea of the Director of the Order-Chancellory in the Presidential Chancellory of the Führer and Reichs-Chancellor to somehow distinguish each of these awards from one another by some detail. For this reason, the cross w/o swords was to have a simpler form of the suspension for the neck ribbon. A sample was not specially made, but a photograph was touched up to show these differences. This photo was published in an addenda sheet of H. Doehle's book "Die Orden und Ehrenzeichen des Grossdeutschen Reichs" (1940/41) and also in the editions of 1941 and 1942.
It is clearly noticeable that only these parts on these pictures were touched up. But, all other known pictures show the same type of suspension as on the K.C. w/swords, since Hitler had declined this distinction and had ordered that only one model be made. Therefore, all contemporary pictures show always the same type of suspension, as shown on the piece illustrated with this article.

In connection with this subject, I would like to refer to an article by Edmund Ware May: "The Cross and Medal for Wartime Merit", published in the Numismatic Review for Oct. 1946. On plate XXXV there is shown a K.C. w/o swords with the same suspension as used on the K.C. w/swords. Furthermore, we know that at this time (1946) there were no fakes or copies which would have been made.

In my own collection there is a K.C. w/o swords, which I received on official order from the manufacturer in 1941 (shown here in the accompanying photo). This cross also shows the same type (ribbed) of suspension. So, it would seem proof enough to me that the suspensions on both divisions of the K.C. were the same. Later copies were made based on the picture in Doehle, since the manufacturers of such copies could not have known that this picture was just based upon ideas of the author.

When in 1956/57 the war decorations were changed into those forms w/o swastika, the War Merit Cross was also changed. Its general shape was retained except the swastika on the obverse was replaced by "1939" and the reverse had no device (blank). As on the originals produced during the war, the suspensions on the K.C. w/swords and w/o swords are the same.

Dr. K. G. Klietmann - Berlin

(Translated from the German text by Mr. Walter P. Huber.)

EDITOR'S NOTE - Since it is my article that initiated this very welcome rebuttal from our most generous contributor and authority - Dr. Klietmann - I feel I must add some additional words of clarification and justification of my original notes in the May 1964 issue.

It was not lightly that I decided to publish this piece and classify it "la" (=Pieces of original fabrication at time of 1st issue. Usually of superior die-work and metals, sometimes in actual precious metals and so marked - see p. 20, April 1964 issue). First of all, it was the finest K.C. of this decoration that I ever had the occasion to examine, and I have examined several dozen up to then in both silver and in silvered war metal. Secondly, it had markings that have also been seen on undeniably authentic K.C.'s w/swords. Thirdly, I did have some information as to its source and to how it had gotten over to the United States. Tracing it back to the American dealer that first sold it to a collector, I was told that this dealer had purchased it from an American serviceman, who had found it and a number of other German decorations in a specific building in a specific city in Germany. From the caliber and quality of the other items that had accompanied it in the same lot brought back, it seemed inconceivable that any of the items were prepared after the war for collectors. In addition, the items had been very modestly priced and they had sold on their own merits only, not on any trumped-up story of their origins or importance.

Now, this still does not preclude the possibilities put forth by Dr. Klietmann. I can only relate my limited knowledge of this specific piece and my own evaluation of it. When my notes were written and published it was and still is in the Bert A. Beyerstedt collection. Since that time, I have seen a second example in the very fine Eugene Pabich collection in Chicago. It is my understanding that he has owned it a number of years and obtained it from another collector who in turn had it in a private collection an even greater number of years.

Since these are the only two that have ever come to my attention, and since I have seen ever so many other examples of the K.C. that have been in so many ways questionable for other reasons than the suspension device, I can only cite my judgement in light of the above notes. It is hoped that perhaps in the future someone will turn up