The faction of the Polish Government in Exile under President Count Juliusz Nowina Sokolnicki authorized the F.C.A.E.E. to act as the administrative body relative to certain Polish awards. Among these awards was the “For Your Freedom and Ours” Cross (see Wesolowski’s book *Polish Orders, Medals, Badges and Insignia, Military and Civilian Decorations 1705-1985* page 45). This cross, which could be awarded in three grades, was originally awarded to Poles who fought in France in regular units or the underground resistance movement. After the war, the cross was accepted as the insignia for veterans and the name was changed to Cross of Merit of the Association of Polish Combatants in France. The Cross of Merit retained the three grades of the Freedom Cross, Commander, Officer, and Knight. Issues of this cross were terminated following the disbanding of the Polish Government in Exile.

**Cross of Merit**

It is believed that the Cross of Merit was awarded in three grades: Commander, Officer (shown), and Knight. The cross is in the form of a Leopold Paty with balls on the tips of each arm. In dull silver, the obverse is in-
The significance of these particular numbers is not known at this time. The unique suspension takes the form of the number “55” with crossed swords above. The entire cross and suspender are in gilt.

The ribbon has stripes of gray, red, gray, red, white, blue, white, red, gray, red, and gray.

Fédération Nationale des Anciens des Forces Françaises en Allemagne et en Autriche

This federation is composed of personnel who served in the French occupation forces in Germany or Austria.

Souvenir Cross “Monte Cassino”

scribed “Pro / Véstra / Et Nostra / Libertate” in black enamel. A central disk displays the Polish eagle atop a shield in white (upper half) and red (lower half) with the Cross of Lorraine in the center. An ornamental stand sits beneath the eagle and shield. The reverse is plain.

The ribbon is black with red stripes near the edges. The Commander is a neck decoration, the Officer has a rosette on the ribbon as shown, and the Knight has a plain ribbon.

Committee of the Souvenir Cross “Monte Cassino” at Bedzin Museum in Cooperation with the F.C.A.E.E.

To commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Battle for Monte Cassino in Italy on 18 May 1944, a special cross was commissioned by the F.C.A.E.E. for presentation to appropriate recipients. The diploma which accompanies the cross is signed by Henry Bebak (Chairman), Menryk Muszynski (Secretary), and Captain Eugeniusz Ziolkowski (Member of the Committee and Surviving Participant of the Battle of Monte Cassino).

The Commemorative Cross is a replica of the original Monte Cassino Cross of Poland. In the center of the straight-armed cross is a square plaque with the words “Monte Cassino Maj 1944” in four lines. The reverse is numbered in the center of the square 49 / 740. The
The Medal of the F.N.A.F.F.A.

This is a circular, bronze medal. The obverse carries the facing head of Liberty with foliage in the background. The reverse has a river (Rhine?) with, on the far bank, a bridge, a factory, houses, a cliff and a castle with a flag flying. In the exergue are the words "Rhénanie-Ruhr-Tyrol."

The ribbon is blue with a narrow white center stripe and narrow edge stripes of white (inner) and red (outer).

Federation Royale les Veterans du Roi Albert Ier.

While not as numerous as their French counterparts, Belgian veterans organizations boast a rich offering of medals for the collector. Among the largest Belgian veterans organizations is the Federation Royale les Veterans du Roi Albert Ier (King Albert Ist Royal Veterans Federation).

King Albert the First of Belgian was born in 1875 and became King in 1909. He actively led the Belgian resistance to the German invasion in World War I, improved social conditions in Belgium and the Belgian Congo and won great popularity for his democratic ways. King Albert was killed in a climbing accident in 1934.

In 1948 one of the largest Belgium veteran organizations was formed and named in his honor as the Royal Federation of Veterans of King Albert I. This organization, which is still very active, awards various medals to its members and the members of kindred organizations.

Life Member Cross

This distinction, awarded to those upon whom life membership has been conferred, is in the form of a gilt Maltese Cross suspended from a Belgian crown. In the center of the obverse is a disk carrying the profile of a bust of King Albert I within a beaded border. The reverse has a similar disk within which are the words "Les Veterans du Roi Albert Ier 1909-1934."

The ribbon is blue with a narrow white center stripe and narrow edge stripes of white (inner) and red (outer).

Medal of Fidelity

This is an award for services to the Federation by its members or to deserving individuals from other veteran organizations. The Medal of Fidelity is actually a cross design. The pendent is a modified maltese cross with spear-like tips protruding between each arm of the cross. The center disk carries a profile of King Albert I simi-