

Turks), was composed of the very flower of the chivalry of Christian nations. Although recognizing one leader, Godfrey de Bouillon, they were, necessarily, divided into many camps; and these various divisions of the army were distinguished by certain flags, bannerets, and badges. While on the *jacque* (or jacket) of each knight and soldier there was a large coloured cross, so that those belonging to the same legion might the more readily recognize one another.

The *Croise* (Crusader) from France wore a red cross; those from beyond the Rhine wore Yellow; the cross of the Flemings (from the Netherlands) was green; while those on the surcoats of the English were white. But each of them displayed a small red cross of woollen fabric on the right shoulder. At a later period, it appears that the cross of St. George became recognized as emblematic of England (red c. on a white ground); the cross of St. Andrew as that of Scotland (white saltire c. on a blue ground); and the cross of St. Patrick as pertaining to Ireland (narrow red saltire c.) In those days it was customary to place a *jacque* above the bowsprit of a ship, so that vessels approaching might see the denotative badge; and on the ships belonging to the fleets of the British Isles the crosses, together, formed a *jacque-unit*—or “Union Jack.” While, to this day, the little pole above the bows of a British man-of-war is called the “Jack-staff.”

The Jack was adopted as a national ensign in 1606; and it was confirmed, by a royal proclamation, in 1707.

Prior to the year 1801, there were but the two crosses on the flag: those of England and Scotland; but at the time of the union with Ireland, on the above date, the Irish cross was added to the others, and the three form the Jack of the present day. So that neither the Scotch nor the Irish might feel jealous because of one flag being “surcharged” upon the other, it was deemed advisable to show the St. Andrew’s cross as preponderating in the first and the third quarters, (i. e. the white margin broader at the top), and the cross of St. Patrick in the ascendant in the second and fourth quarters (red margin uppermost). The white border to the large red cross of St. George is doubtless indicative of the original appearance: a red cross on a white field; besides, it is in keeping with heraldic rules and requirements.

The British ensign is the Union Jack on a red “fly” (or field), without any badge, crest, or arms.

The flag of a British man-of-war is the cross of St. George on a white “fly,” in the first quarter of which is the Union Jack.

The flag of the Royal Naval Reserve is the Jack on a blue “fly.”

The flag of an Admiral is a red cross on a white ground, only, and is