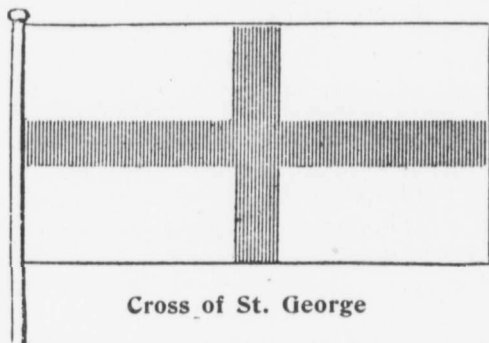


colours upon their surcoats, or jackets, to indicate the nation to which they belonged, and the holy cause in which they were engaged. It was from these crosses that they gained their name of "Crusaders" or cross-bearers.

The colour of the crosses worn by the different countries was: For France, red; Flanders, green; Germany, black, and Italy, yellow.



**Cross of St. George**

*St. George's Cross.*—The story of the life of Saint George is that he was born of noble Christian parents in Cappadocia, Asia Minor, became a valiant and distinguished soldier, and after testifying to his faith before the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, was tortured and put to death on 23rd April, A.D. 303, at Nicomedia, a city of Bithynia, in Asia Minor, then a part of the Roman Empire. He was known as the redresser of wrongs, the protector of women, and the model of Christian chivalry.

He became the popular tutelary saint of England in the days of Richard Coeur de Lion (1189-1199), and was made a patron saint of the kingdom in the reign of Edward III. (1327-1377).

In the earlier crusades the cross worn by the English was white, but in later expeditions the red cross of St. George was adopted and worn as a badge over the armour or upon the surcoat of every English soldier in the fourteenth and subsequent centuries, even if the custom did not prevail at a much earlier period, to indicate that he was in the service of the crown.