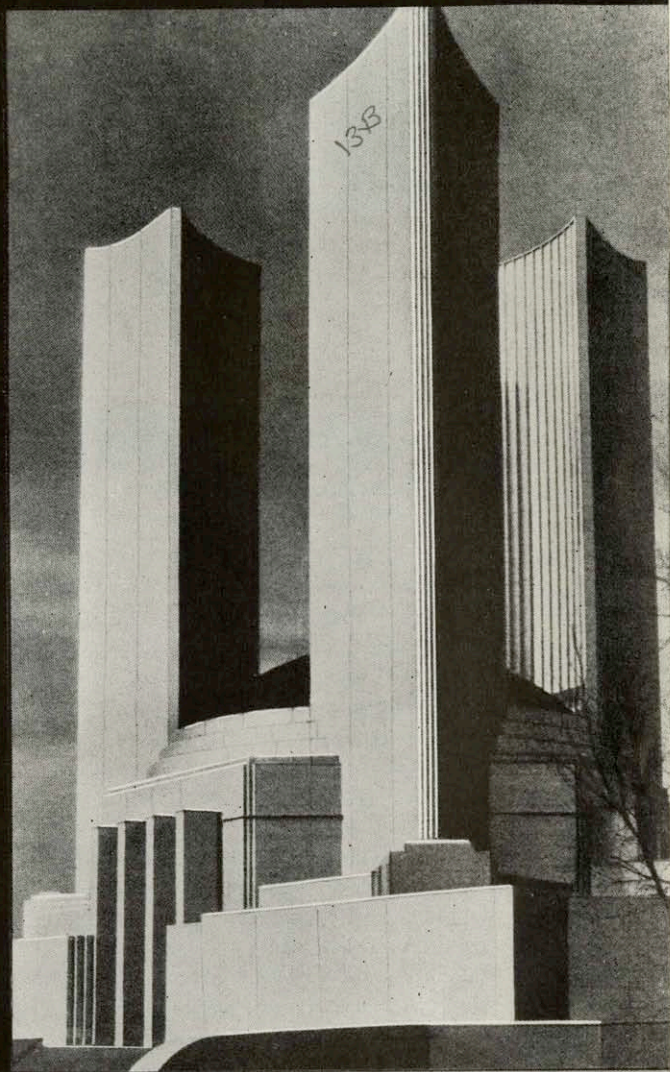


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CENTURY OF PROGRESS
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION



U.S. MARINE CORPS

CHICAGO
1934

THE STORY OF OLD GLORY

LONG BEFORE Old Glory became the symbol of our great nation, there were scores of flags representing the hopes and aspirations of our forefathers. Colonial flags show anchors, beavers, rattlesnakes, pine trees and various other insignia. Some of them bore the words, "Hope," "Liberty," or "An Appeal to Heaven." A favorite motto beneath the rattlesnake design was, "Don't Tread on Me."

The first flag to show a unity of purpose on the part of the colonists consisted of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, typifying the thirteen colonies, with a union bearing the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew combined, signifying the Mother Country. It was known as the Grand Union Flag, sometimes called the Congress Colors, and in addition, was the first Navy ensign.

The Grand Union Flag was first hoisted over our fleet in the Delaware River in December, 1775, and was flown to the breeze at Cambridge, Mass., when the Continental Army came into existence in January, 1776. It floated over forts captured by American bluejackets and marines in the Bahamas in March, 1776; received a salute from a Dutch fort in the West Indies in November of that year, and figured in many other stirring episodes.

But the Grand Union Flag was never formally acknowledged by Congress. It was the Stars and Stripes, which we so often call Old Glory, which was destined to be accorded that honor 157 years ago.

Research has failed to prove definitely just who was responsible for the design of our National Flag. But tradition points to Betsy Ross as the needlewoman whose fingers wrought with loving care the first sample of the Stars and Stripes, which was almost identical with the flag as we know it today.

Late in the Spring of 1776 her little shop in Philadelphia was visited by some distinguished patrons. A committee headed by George Washington called on Mrs. Ross and submitted a rough design of a new type of flag in which stars had been substituted for the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

The committee was of the opinion that the stars should be six-pointed. But Mrs. Ross, so the story goes, showed them how a five-pointed star could be made with one snip of her scissors, and her suggestion was adopted.

Unfortunately no record of this "first" flag has been preserved. However, Betsy told the story over and over again to her children and grandchildren, and it has been well authenticated by Betsy's descendants.

The flag's first official birthday was June 14, 1777. On that date Congress resolved "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Of the first appearance of the new flag there are many accounts and a score of conflicting claims.

Soon after the new design was officially adopted, John Paul Jones was at Portsmouth, N. H., preparing to sail abroad on the *Ranger*. One naval authority wrote that the young ladies of Portsmouth "wrought out of their own and their mothers' gowns a beautiful Star Spangled Banner, which was flown to the breeze in Portsmouth Harbor, July 4, 1777."

Avery's History records that another hastily improvised Stars and Stripes was used by the defenders of Fort Stanwix, near Rome, N. Y., on August 3, 1777. Captain Swartwout donated a cloak for the blue field, the soldiers gave their shirts for the white stripes, and a soldier's wife donated her petticoat for the red stripes. There are records to show that the Continental Treasury reimbursed Captain Swartwout for the loss of his cloak.

Old Glory first floated over a fortress of the Old World when Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, of the Marine Corps, and Midshipman Mann, of the Navy, raised the flag over the fortress at Derne, Tripoli, where it was flung to the breeze on April 27, 1805.

"By the dawn's early light" on September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key saw the Star Spangled Banner still waving over Fort McHenry and composed the song which is now the national anthem.

From time to time slight changes in the flag have been authorized by Congress. Both the flags used at Tripoli and at Fort McHenry had fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, a design that remained in vogue from 1795 until 1818. Then Congress authorized a return of the flag to its original form of thirteen stripes, one star being added thereafter for each State entering the Union.

Old as our flag is, the Marine Corps is still older, for it was first established way back in November, 1775.

It is the custom of the U. S. Marines to raise the flag every morning at eight o'clock. It remains flying until sunset.

Three hours after the Marines at New York, Boston, Norfolk and other east coast naval stations have raised the flag, the Marines at posts along the Pacific seaboard present arms to the colors as they are hauled smartly to the top of the flagstaff—the time interval varying only when daylight saving is in vogue.

About two and a half hours later the ceremony is repeated in the Hawaiian Islands. More than five hours more have rolled around before the flag is raised by the Soldiers of the Sea in the far-off Philippines, and at virtually the same hour the Marines hoist the flag over the American Legation at Peiping, China.

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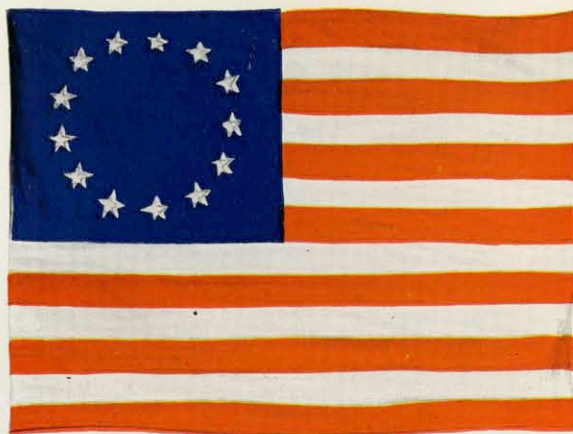
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THE FIRST STARS AND STRIPES

The Stars and Stripes, whose birthday we observe on June 14, was the first flag authorized by the Continental Congress. On that date, in 1777, they resolved: "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." As to the origin of this flag there are many theories. Some believe that Betsy Ross, a flag maker of Philadelphia, made the first model, while others think that Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, George Washington, or some other person was responsible for the design. Congress failed to designate the manner in which the stars should be placed, and it is still a subject of conjecture whether they appeared in rows, were staggered, or formed a circle. The new flag was adopted by the Continental Congress nearly one year after the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, had pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for the support of the Declaration of Independence, and the white stars in a blue field took the places of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.



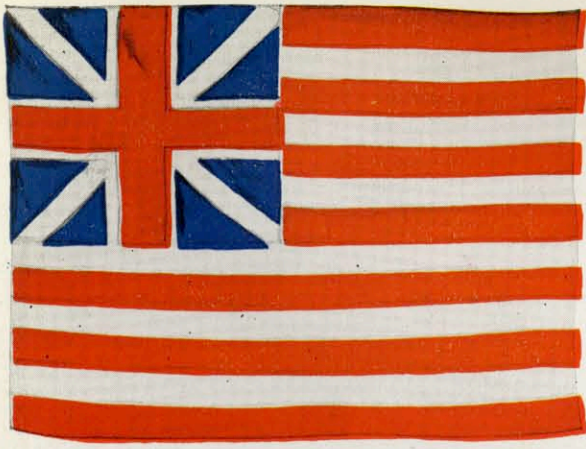
COLORS OF FIFTH & SIXTH REGIMENTS

The colors of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments, U. S. Marine Corps, A. E. F., are on display at the Marine Corps Exhibit. There are eleven silver bands on the staff. Three silver bands signify that the colors have been decorated with the Croix de Guerre, with palms on three different occasions. The French army recognized the splendid work of the Fifth and Sixth Regiments of the Marines by citing them three times in Army orders for achievements as follows:

Bouresches and Bois de Belleau
June 2-13, 1918
Aisne-Marne (Soissons) July 18, 1918
Meuse-Argonne (Champagne)
October 1-10, 1918

The remaining eight silver bands signify engagements with the enemy during 1918 as follows:

Toulon Sector Verdun, France March 15-May 13	Marbache Sector France August 9-16
Aisne Defensive France May 31-June 5 Chateau-Thierry Sector, France June 6-July 9	St. Mihiel France September 12-16
Aisne-Marne Offensive, France July 18-19	Meuse-Argonne Offensive (Champagne) France October 1-10
	Meuse-Argonne Offensive France November 1-11



THE GRAND UNION FLAG

• The Grand Union Flag, sometimes called the "First Navy Ensign," the "Cambridge Flag," and which has also been given other designations, is the immediate predecessor of the Stars and Stripes. This type of flag was carried on the flagship "Alfred" on December 3, 1775, as the navy ensign of the thirteen colonies, after Commodore Esek Hopkins assumed command of the navy built by Congress. It was hoisted by General Washington, January 2, 1776, at Cambridge, Mass., as the standard of the Continental Army, and it was also carried ashore by the Marines who made an expedition to the Bahamas in March of 1776. While this flag was never formally recognized by Congress, it was used on many occasions before June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress authorized the Stars and Stripes as the national flag. The canton, with its crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, represents a connection with the "mother country," and a severance of these ties brought about the substitution of the white stars in a blue field. It is interesting to note that the Father of Our Country made special mention of the hoisting of this flag at Cambridge. In a letter written to his secretary at Philadelphia, he mentioned that the flag was flown "out of compliment to the United Colonies."



BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE FLAG

• At the Battle of Lake Erie, September 10, 1813, Oliver Hazard Perry, who was in command of a fleet which he had been forced to construct in feverish haste from virgin timber unfurled from his masthead this challenge to sturdy Americanism—the dying words of Captain James Lawrence. Under his inspiration, the sailors and marines fought in one of the most noteworthy engagements of the war, enabling Perry at its close to send the famous message to General William Henry Harrison, "We have met the enemy and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop." In this action the U. S. Marines fought most gallantly under their commanding officer, Lieutenant John Brooks, Junior, who was killed, while several members of the Corps were either killed in action, or died of wounds. The flag was not fashioned hurriedly as the battle became imminent, but was ordered by Perry to be made some time before the actual engagement took place. He proudly displayed it before his officers and men prior to the most noteworthy naval battle of the war, where it proved to be the inspiring symbol of the victorious Americans.



FIFTEEN STARS AND STRIPES

• Following an Act of Congress on January 13, 1794, this was the flag of our country from 1795 until 1818. The addition of the two stars and two stripes came with the admission of Vermont, March 4, 1791, and Kentucky, June 1, 1792, into the Union. This type of flag figured in many stirring episodes. It inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner"; it was the first flag to be hoisted over a fortress of the Old World, when Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, of the Marine Corps, and Midshipman Mann, of the Navy, raised it above the Tripolitan stronghold in Derne, Tripoli, on April 27, 1805; it was our ensign in the Battle of Lake Erie; and was flown by General Jackson at New Orleans. Fearing that too many stripes would spoil the true design of the flag, Congress passed a law on April 4, 1818, returning the flag to its original design of thirteen stripes and providing for a new star to be added to the blue field as additional States came into the Union. Thus, for nearly a quarter of a century, this flag with its fifteen stars and stripes was an inspiration to the patriotic citizens of a growing nation.



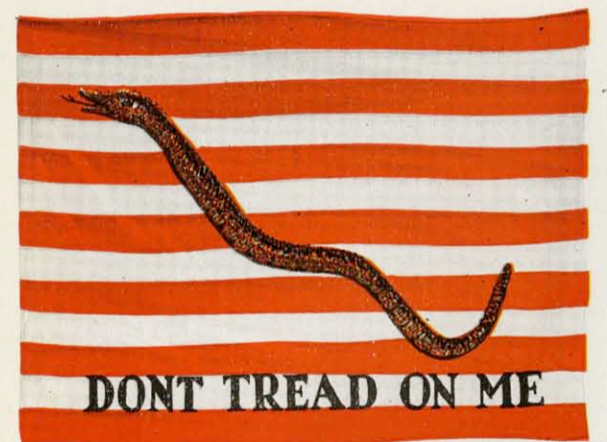
THE CONTINENTAL FLAG

• The chief symbol of this flag, which, with certain variations, was used by the colonists in Massachusetts from 1775 to 1777, is the pine tree design. The Trumbull painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill shows the pine tree in a white canton on a red field; other designs show a blue field with a plain cross and pine tree in a white canton. The pine tree was the symbol of the early Massachusetts Navy and of Washington's cruisers, although these flags were usually pine trees on a plain white banner with the words, "An Appeal to God," or "An Appeal to Heaven." Fighting men, who might well be called "Marines" fought on these ships before a corps of Marines was authorized by the Continental Congress, at Philadelphia, in November, 1775. Liberty Trees as they were called, were highly prized by the colonists, which accounts for the tree motif in many early flag designs, and in all early accounts of colonial activities, liberty trees and poles bear an important part. Pine trees also appear on early Massachusetts coins.



THE RATTLESNAKE FLAG

• The coiled rattlesnake on a yellow field, bearing at its base the words, "Don't Tread on Me," was used by Commodore Esek Hopkins as commander-in-chief of the new fleet authorized by Congress. This design was borne on the drums of the Marines who were recruiting men for the new Corps of Marines authorized by the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, November 10, 1775. This type of flag was one of three designs carried on the flagship "Alfred" on its expedition to the Bahamas in 1776, the others being a navy jack, bearing a rattlesnake, and the Grand Union flag. The U. S. Marines take a particular pride in these three flags, as they accompanied Commodore Hopkins, under their own leader, Captain Samuel Nicholas, on this, their first expedition, capturing guns and ammunition from the British. An eyewitness who wrote an account of the landing stated the colors displayed by the marines and sailors were "striped under the union (the British crosses of St. George and St. Andrew) with thirteen stripes" while "The standard (the commodore's flag) bore a rattlesnake and the motto, 'Don't tread on me.'"



FIRST NAVY JACK

• The first Navy Jack, with the rattlesnake spread across the thirteen stripes, is typical of the temperament of the times in which it was created. It appears again and again in early colonial flags. The rattlesnake motif was used by the South Carolina Navy and by the Minute Men of Culpepper County, Va. It was flown as a "jack" from the bow of the "Alfred," when that vessel was the flagship of Commodore Esek Hopkins, whose fleet made a successful raid on New Providence in the Bahamas in 1776. The rattlesnake design was gradually abandoned, as a more permanent type of flag came into use. The exact reason for adopting the rattlesnake motif is a subject for conjecture. Perhaps its true symbolism is the union of the colonies. One writer of the time points out: "Tis curious and amazing to observe how distinct and independent of each other the rattles of this animal are, and how firmly they are united together. One of these rattles, singly, is incapable of producing a sound, but the ringing of thirteen together is sufficient to alarm the boldest man living."

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THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The Marine Corps was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress on November 10, 1775.

From its establishment to the present time, it has constituted an integral part of the Navy, has been identified with it in its achievements ashore and afloat, and has continued to receive from its most distinguished commanders the expression of their appreciation of its effectiveness as a part of the Navy.

Marines serve on capital ships of the fleet; they garrison navy yards and naval stations at home and abroad; they comprise emergency forces for the protection of the lives and property of our citizens and they render constructive service in restoring peace and orderly government in disturbed areas.

Through its naval training and indoctrination, its centralized naval control and its instant readiness to despatch expeditionary forces in support of the fleet, the Marine Corps is especially fitted for its role as the spearhead of our first line of national defense.

"SEMPER FIDELIS"