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**FLAGS IN
THE NEWS**

One of the places in the world where the United States flag formerly flew 24 hours a day was atop Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima, commemorating the historic battle of World War II. This is no longer true. The island was ceded back to Japan on June 26, 1968. Two small bronze plaques, one American and one Japanese, located at the base of the mountain, are all that remain as a memorial.

Halfway around the world, however, the U.S. flag does fly day and night on the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Va., across the Potomac from the capital. This famous statue in heroic size was designed and executed by sculptor Felix de Weldon. It depicts the Marines hoisting the flagpole with flag on the top of the mountain.

The actual flag from the battle of Iwo Jima was saved and brought back to this country. It is now on display in the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Va., 35 miles south of Washington, D.C., where it is preserved in an hermetically-sealed glass case.

ERRATUM

The Editor apologizes for a mistake that appeared in the previous issue of NAVA News. The issue was marked "Vol. III, No. 1." It should have been "Vol. II, No. 1." It is suggested that members mark this change on their own copies.

**THE EDITOR'S
IN-BASKET**

A reprint of the small booklet entitled "Our Flag" originally published by the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, Department of Defense, is now available. It is 5 x 7½ inches in size, beautifully printed in color on slick paper, and contains sections on the following:

The Story of the Stars and Stripes
Early American Flags
Flags of the Revolution
Flag Laws and Regulations
How to Display the Flag
State Flags of the United States

The booklet contains 33 pages. It is referred to as House Document No. 473, 89th Congress, 2nd Session, and is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, for 25 cents.

**GEOGRAPHIC
NOTE**

The U.S. Department of State, in a press release of December 26, 1968, numbered GE-51, reports that Southern Yemen has announced an official capital city and administrative divisions. It states: "The People's Republic of Southern Yemen (P.R.O.S.Y.) recently declared Aden to be the National Capital. Madinat ash Sha'b, previously the only capital, is now designated as the administrative capital of the country.

"The Government also established 22 directorates as the second-order administrative divisions. Previously, six governorates were named first-order divisions..."

LA GUARDIA AIRPORT UNDER SIX FLAGS

by John Lyman

Several well-known areas of the United States proudly recite their history by the display of six or more flags that signify successive sovereignty over the region. Not so well known are the areas where six or more flags are flown simultaneously in token of concurrent jurisdiction over the area.

Though a resident of North Carolina, I currently spend many working hours in New York City, having almost weekly contacts with La Guardia. In contrast to National Airport, near Washington, where only the national flag and the crimson banner of the Federal Aviation Agency are flown, La Guardia sports a row of six flag staffs in front of the main terminal buildings. Three of the flags there displayed are readily identifiable -- the national flag, the blue New York State flag, and the tricolor of New York City, all logical symbols of jurisdiction over the airport -- but the other three baffled me until I made inquiries.

A call to La Guardia revealed that the airport is operated by the Port of New York Authority, which is a quasi-official body chartered in 1921 under an interstate compact between New York and New Jersey. Two more of the flags were thus explained--the buff New Jersey state flag and the PONYA flag, which combines elements from the flags of both of its parent states. The sixth flag was identified for me by a policeman at the airport: it is the flag of the Borough of Queens.

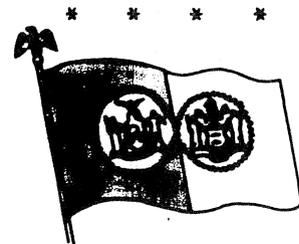
For the benefit of overseas readers, perhaps I should explain at this point what a New York City borough is. All of our 50 states save Alaska are subdivided into areas called counties (except that in Louisiana they are called "parishes"), which (except in New England) are organized as elected governmental elements, with local taxing authority and the responsibility to support courts, jails, roads, public welfare, land and will registration, and often also schools. There are just over 3,000 counties in the United States, and their typical locations are such that a 19th-century resident of any section of the county could leave home by horse and wagon, conduct business at the

courthouse, and return home all in the same day. Towns and cities are chartered by state legislatures and normally lie within the jurisdiction of a single county. There are exceptions: in Virginia, cities over 20,000 population lie outside county jurisdiction; in other states some large cities (such as Baltimore, Maryland and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) are similarly treated like counties, and in some other cities, like Honolulu, Hawaii and San Francisco, California, the city and county are co-terminous, with the Mayor of the City serving as Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.

The giant metropolis of New York goes a step further and incorporates five counties, New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, and Richmond, which execute the same functions as the other 62 counties of the State. These same counties form the five boroughs of the city under the names of Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, and Richmond, respectively, and some city officials (a borough president and two city councilmen) are elected on a borough-wide basis.

Thus we have the remarkable situation that (big as it is) the city of Los Angeles is much smaller than Los Angeles County, whereas the city of San Francisco is exactly equal to San Francisco County, and New York City is much larger than New York County!

The sixth flag at La Guardia Airport, then, is one of the rare U.S. county flags, and five of the six flags are symbolic of some degree of legal jurisdiction over it. Since the airport is on New York soil, no jurisdiction is exerted by the State of New Jersey, and the flying of the state flag of New Jersey is only emblematic of its participation in the 1921 compact that established PONYA. No doubt the New York State flag is flown in similar fashion at Newark and Teterboro Airports in New Jersey, which are also operated by PONYA.



THE PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY FLAG

(cont'd)

PONYA FLAG The Port of New York Authority flag (see illustration on page 2) combines the seals of the states of New York and New Jersey, just as on the respective state flags except that each is on a white disk. The disks in turn are on rectangles of the color of the state flag, blue for New York and buff for New Jersey, and they are bound together by a buff and brown hawser.

EDITORIAL A new use for the United States flag with far-ranging implications has been found. Since last July, policemen in Macon, Georgia, have been wearing small U.S. flag shoulder patches on their uniforms. In the six months previous to that time 29 policemen were assaulted and injured in line of duty. Since that time not a single assault or injury to a policeman has occurred. (---New York Times, Jan 26, 1969).

Some of the policemen told the mayor that people they were attempting to arrest gave indication they would have assaulted them and then did not do so, when they saw the flag on their sleeves.

The mayor believes people in general have respect for the flag, whether they admit it or not.

At this rate, the U.S. flag might indeed turn out to be the much-needed unifying symbol bringing Americans "back together again" in the troubled cities.

FLAG MUTI-LATION At least three youths have felt the bite of the flag-mutilation bill signed last July 6th by President Johnson. One was a Falls Church, Va., student who wore a vest made from an American flag. The other two made shirts out of flags and wore them in Alexandria, Va., and on the U.S. Capitol grounds. The last-mentioned stated: "I only regret I have but one shirt to give for my country." Two of the three received a choice of fine or jail sentence and the third probation. Elsewhere, a TV man in Sweden will be tried for abuse of the U.S. flag (N.Y. Times), and in Kenya, Africa, citizens have been warned that anyone mis-using the country's red, green and black national flag will face prosecution (Christian Science Monitor).

NAVA DUES NAVA President Whitney Smith reminds all members as follows: This is the last issue of NAVA News you will receive unless you've paid your membership dues for 1969. This year will be an important one for our Association: the first full year of the new NAVA NEWS, and the Third International Congress of Vexillology in September. It will be successful, however, only to the extent that all members support the activities of NAVA by paying their dues promptly, working on committees, and attending the Annual Membership Meeting. Dues (\$6.00 for active members, \$3.00 for associate members, \$25.00 for institutional members) should be sent to Mr. Thomas M. Hill, Treasurer, 102 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Mass. 02108.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES NAVA member Emmet V. Mittlebeeler has had published a long article on "The Evolution of the United States Flag: A Study in Vexillology" in the October, 1968, issue of The Filson Club History Quarterly, Louisville, Kentucky. The article was originally read to the Club in June, 1968.

POLITICAL NOTE The Washington Post reports that the Republican Elephant is beating the Democratic Donkey not only at the polls, but also at the flagpoles! Five countries altogether--Central African Republic, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Laos and Swaziland--picture the Elephant either on their flags or in their coats-of-arms. Elsewhere, the preferred beast ranges from the sacred cow to the gnu, the zebu, and the unicorn, but no country has adopted the Donkey as its emblem!