

# Naval News

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## JOIN THE SPIRIT OF '76



### NAVA 10

# Toronto ...1976

All NAVA members and friends are invited to attend and participate in the Annual Meeting to be held in Toronto, October 8-10, 1976. Full particulars regarding hotel reservations, etc. will be forthcoming shortly. Questions may be addressed to Mr. Frank Ranlewt, c/o Annin & Co., Ltd., 93 Pelham Ave., Toronto, Ont. M6N 1A5.

RELIGIOUS PENNANTS - U.S. Navy Ships are expected to begin flying a Jewish pennant from masts while Jewish services are in progress. It has been a Navy tradition for a long time to fly a triangular Christian pennant while Protestant or Catholic services are being held. The initiative for using the Jewish pennant was made by the Navy Chief of Chaplains, Rear Admiral John J. O'Connor, who is a Roman Catholic chaplain. Worship pennants, the only ensigns permitted to be flown above the United States flag on Navy ships, are unique to the Navy; the Army and Air Force have no corresponding tradition. (Church & State - May 1976)

ENGLISH CREST SOURCE OF U.S. FLAG DESIGN - George Washington's inspiration for his "stars and stripes" design for the United States flag came from a similar pattern that was part of the crest of Rector Lawrence Washington of Purleigh in Essex County, George's great-great grandfather, asserts the Reverend Arthur Dunlop, Anglican vicar of Maldon and an amateur historian. A ring worn by Lawrence Washington in the 1630's "seemed to have a pattern of stars and stripes, part of the crest of the rector's family," Dunlop said. "The design from the same ring handed on to succeeding generations formed the basis of the American flag." (National Catholic Reporter - 2 July 1976)

NOW, BICENTENNIAL TRASH - The Bicentennial celebration went just too far for Charles Parker when the city decided to put flags on trash containers used by street sweepers in Cincinnati, Ohio. He filed an objection to City Council, which referred the item to City Manager William Donaldson. Donaldson's response: "Waste collection is a necessary and honorable activity, and we feel that this display of the flag in the Bicentennial year adds a little dignity to it and helps keep the great significance of this birthday before the general public." The flags stay! (The Times Union, Rochester, N.Y. - 2 July 1976)

HECTIC DAY FOR THE FLAG RAISERS - Every day, if the weather is fair, Fred Crowder and his fellow laborers give 200 U.S. flags a brief moment of glory, hoisting them hastily over an obscure corner of the United States Capitol's roof.

Three seconds up; three seconds down. Then the scores of Old Glories are folded into individual boxes and sent off to schools, Boy Scout troops and just plain people across the country - each accompanied by a letter from the Flag Office certifying that the flag has fluttered over the Capitol.

Crowder and a half-dozen other workers do their hoisting on three flagpoles, for about an hour each on an average day. But this past Fourth of July was not an average day.

By the end of May, 2,300 requests for flags flown over the Capitol on July 4, 1976 had piled up at their office, according to Thomas Ward, the supervising engineer in the Capitol architect's office.

Last year, 1975, about 37,000 flags were hoisted up and down those poles. The Flag Office, tucked away near the bottom of the Capitol now has four full-time workers sorting the requests that come from the 535 congressional offices.

Since 1937, thousands of persons have been writing to their congressmen and paying \$5.16 and \$11.95, respectively for the 3-by-4-foot or 5-by-8-foot flags.

(The Philadelphia Inquirer - 30 May 1976)

PRESIDENTIAL & BICENTENNIAL FLAGS TAKEN TO TOP OF MT. MCKINLEY - Jack Horton, assistant secretary of Interior, took two small flags to the summit of Mt. McKinley, Alaska on June 2. The presidential flag and the official Bicentennial flag were brought back to Washington, D.C. and presented to President Ford.

(The Times Union, Rochester, N.Y. - 3 July 1976)



from: The Soviet Weekly  
London, England - 7 December 1974



Bicentennial Logo  
used by the  
Salvation Army in  
the United States

from: The War Cry  
10 January '76

# Red fly the banners

**HIS YEAR** Leningrad, which probably possesses as many art treasures as any city in the world, set up special workshops to survey and restore such things as old fortresses, all-wooden churches and ancient clocks. Not the least important part of their work is on historic revolutionary and trade union banners. In this picture you see work in progress on banners and posters dating from the 18-20 civil war.

## *This Busy World* **S. Carolina Flag was U. S. first**

South Carolina colonials can claim the honor of flying the first flag flouting the authority of King George III, according to researchers at the College of Charleston.

The discovery that a blue pennant with three silver crescents was flown over Ft. Johnson at the entrance to the Port of Charleston in 1765 to protest the Stamp Act was made by a researcher at the school library gathering material for a scheduled founders' day.

Dr. L. Wayne Jordan, assistant professor of history at the 206-year-old school, reported the event, which he said is significant because it occurred 10 years before the more famous Battle of Concord and the Boston Tea Party.

The writings of the son of William Henry Drayton, whose raiding party seized the fort and flew the flag, de-

tailed the event, Jordan said.

Gen. William Moultrie, a colonial hero for South Carolina in the Revolutionary War, flew a similar flag over the fort in 1775, but it contained only one crescent and eventually was used as the basis for the current state flag.

Both men borrowed the idea of the crescents and blue background from Francis Marion, the famed "Swamp Fox," whose men wore a silver crescent on their caps when they operated out of the nearby Hell Hole Swamp. Their uniforms were blue.

The Stamp Act, which required the affixing of excise tax stamps to newspapers and other legal documents as a means of gaining more money for the crown, raised the ire of Charlestonians and Drayton capitalized on it.

from: The Cleveland Press  
6 January 1976

from: "The Canadian" - Toronto Star  
7 February 1976

**Q**

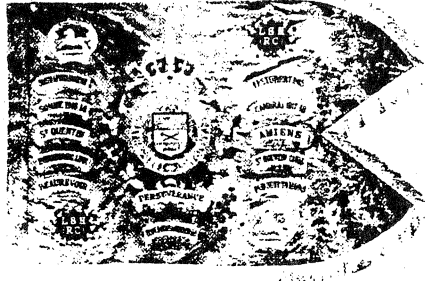
Can you explain the history and significance of the regimental guidon flag?

H.E. Saunders, Sherbrooke, Que.

**A**

Guidons have been in existence at least since the Middle Ages, and have been used by cavalry regiments for hundreds of years.

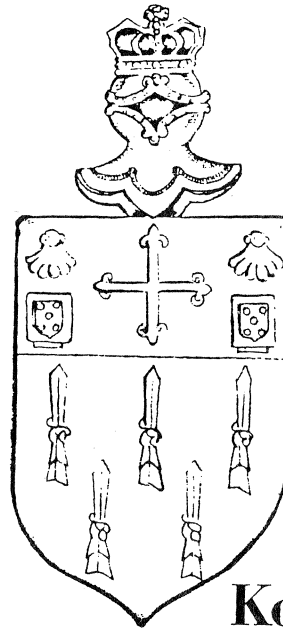
The name was apparently coined around the 16th century and is a corruption of the old French *guyd-homme*, which meant "guider of men."



**GUIDON OF LORD STRATHCONA'S HORSE**

In the hierarchy of military flags, the guidon — which is cleft at the end opposite the staff side, having rounded ends, swallow-tails or fish-tails — ranks beneath the square standard. During the medieval period, junior-grade knights carried guidons into battle; and when they distinguished themselves sufficiently, the tails of their guidons were cut off to produce a square standard-like flag.

From the 17th century on, superior European cavalry corps (known as Regiments of Horse) were given square or oblong standards to carry. Lower-ranked British dragoons carried guidons, as did Napoleonic French dragoons later on. British hussars and lancers had no flag at all.



*Armorial shield of the Kingdom of Kongo*

## Kongo: The Dream That Failed

The great kingdom that Diogo Cão visited was one of the most illustrious ever created by the Bantu-speaking peoples. And its centuries of close contact with Portugal, launched by Cão's mission, provide one of the most poignant examples of destructive European influence in African history.

The kingdom of Kongo was centered in the northern part of what is today the Portuguese colony of Angola. At its zenith it stretched more than 200 miles from north to south, between the modern Congo (Brazzaville) and the modern Angolan capital of Luanda, and roughly the same distance east to west, between the Atlantic Ocean and modern Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire.

from: "The Bantu Civilization of Southern Africa" by E. Jefferson Murphy (New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1974)

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY**

10 - 14 June 1977  
Washington, D.C.

\* The following people graciously submitted articles and tear-sheets of vexillological interest for possible use in NAVA NEWS: James A. Barr, Robert S. Gauron, Russel E. Lane, Michael L. Larsen, Frederick Patten, John Purcell and Michael E. Tancey. Merci!