Colonial Flag Badges: A Chronology

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INTRODUCTORY NOTES

A. This research note seeks to record the evolution of the system whereby distinctive flag badges have been used to deface:

(i) The fly of the Blue Ensign to serve as:

(a) Proper national colours for colonial government vessels.

(b) Unofficial colonial land flags.

(ii) The fly of the Red Ensign to serve as proper national colours for merchant vessels registered in certain overseas territories.

(iii) The centre of the Union Flag (normally within an encircling garland) to serve as distinguishing flags for colonial Governors and other officers administering overseas governments.

B. The note records the milestones in the evolution of the system in chronological order. Details of colonial-type flag badges in current use are annexed.

C. The origins of the system can be traced to two separate initiatives in the 1860s:

(i) An Admiralty initiative in 1865/66 to determine proper national colours for colonial government vessels (prompted by the Colonial Naval Defence Act 1865 and the arrangements introduced for government vessels in the United Kingdom in 1864/65); this initiative resulted in agreement between the Admiralty and the Colonial Office on the arrangements for the defacement of the Blue Ensign.

(ii) A further Admiralty initiative to determine the design of distinguishing flags used by senior diplomatic, military, colonial and consular officers; this initiative resulted in an Order in Council dated 7 Aug 1869 regulating the defacement of the Union Flag.

D. The outcome of these initiatives was that the Admiralty determined the position and dimensions of the defacements while the actual designs were the prerogative of the Colonial Office. Pictorial designs (often derived from colonial Seals) predominated during the early years of the system as few colonies had received grants of Arms. The 20th century saw a greater emphasis on designs derived from armorial achievements.

E. The note attempts to include details of all grants of Arms made since 1868 that impacted on the colonial flag badge system.
1. 1 Jan 1801. Royal Proclamation on Ensigns or Colours to be borne at sea by merchant ships; established undefaced Red Ensign as normal national colours afloat for all British merchant ships.

2. 1821. Irish Harp on blue shield adopted as Union Flag defacement to distinguish Lord Lieutenant of Ireland afloat under authority of Royal Warrant dated 9 Jan 1821; Irish waters and Saint George's Channel only. ¹

3. 1815-1864. National commercial flag of United States of Ionian Islands was flag with appearance of defaced Blue Ensign with red edging. ²

4. 1854. Merchant Shipping Act 1854; similar provisions on national colours afloat to Merchant Shipping (Colours) Act 1889 (see Paragraph 33 below).

5. After 1861. Star of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India (Order instituted 23 Feb 1861) surmounted with Royal Crown adopted as Union Flag defacement to distinguish Viceroy of India and subordinate Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, Commissioners and Political Officers (and later Political Resident Persian Gulf and subordinate Political Officers) afloat.

6. 9 Jul 1864. Order in Council abolishing Squadronal Colours and regulating future use of White, Blue and Red Ensigns; 'Blue Ensign and Union Jack, with a White border, to be carried by all vessels employed in the service of any public office ... (with the Seal or Badge of Office to which they belong ...)'.

7. 5 Aug 1864/23 Feb 1865. Admiralty Circulars Nos. 35,S and 4,N; ships and vessels in the service of any public office to carry a Blue Ensign and a small Blue Ensign as a Jack, both to be described with 'the Seal or Badge of the office to which they belong.' ³


9. 10 May 1865. Letter Admiralty to Colonial Office; inter alia required colonial warships to 'wear a Union Jack in the usual place, and the White Ensign, with either the Arms of the Colony, or such other distinguishing mark as may be chosen by the Colony, and approved by the Colonial Office and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.' ⁴

10. 19 May 1865. Colonial Office Circular inter alia covering copy of Admiralty letter dated 10 May 1865. ⁵

11. 22 Dec 1865. Colonial Office Circular notifying revised Admiralty requirements for flags for colonial warships and for other colonial government vessels (connect Paragraph 12 below) and requesting correct drawings of seals or badges to be adopted as distinguishing marks. ⁶

12. 16 Jan 1866. Admiralty Circular No. 4,S; any vessel provided and used under Section 3 of Colonial Naval Defence Act 1865 to wear 'the Blue Ensign, with the Seal or Badge of the Colony in the Fly thereof, and a Blue Pendant' – other vessels 'belonging to, or permanently in the service of the Colonies, but not commissioned as Vessels of War ... shall wear a similar Blue Ensign, but not the Pendant' – no specific mention of colonial Jacks. ⁷ Connect Paragraphs 14, 15, 18, 21, 26, 29, 47 and 89 below.

¹ W.G. Perrin (1922), British Flags (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press), p. 204 and TNA Kew, HO 267/5. Although the 1821 Royal Warrant made no reference to Saint George's Channel, such words did appear within the relevant part of the 1824 edition of Regulations for His Majesty's Service at Sea.

² This flag added the Union Flag in the first quarter to the original flag of the States before they passed under British protection under the terms of the Treaty of Paris 1815 (signed 5 Nov 1815).

³ 1 Jun 1868 addenda to 1861 edition of The Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions (QR&AIs).


⁵ Ibid., archival attachment 1.3 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/7).

⁶ Ibid., archival attachment 1.4 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/7).

⁷ 1 Jun 1868 addenda to 1861 edition of QR&AIs.
13. **26 May 1868.** Royal Warrant granting Great Seal to the Dominion of Canada and Arms to the foundation Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec. Seal device (comprising the Arms of the four provinces quarterly) and shields of provincial Arms used to deface Union Flag to distinguish Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governors (connect Paragraph 17a below). Connect also Paragraphs 28b(2), 56, 61, 72, 84, 101, 102, 105 and 116 below and Paragraph 3 of Annex A. Subsequent grants/modifications of provincial Arms that impacted on flag badges were:

   a. **Manitoba.** Grant of Arms 10 May 1905.
   
   b. **Prince Edward Island.** Grant of Arms 30 May 1905.
   
   c. **British Columbia.** Grant of Arms 31 Mar 1906.
   
   d. **Saskatchewan.** Grant of Arms 25 Aug 1906.
   
   e. **Alberta.** Grant of Arms 30 May 1907.
   
   f. **Nova Scotia.** 1625 grant reinstated by Royal Warrant dated 19 Jan 1929 (this superseding the 1868 grant).
   
   g. **Quebec.** Modification of 1868 grant by Quebec Order in Council dated 9 Dec 1939.

14. **7 Aug 1869.** Order in Council inter alia directing that 'Governors of ... Dominions in foreign parts, and Governors of all ranks and denominations administering the Governments of British colonies and dependencies, be authorized to fly the Union Jack, with the arms or badge of the colony emblazoned in the centre thereof.' Order also promulgated defacements of Union Flag to distinguish Military Authorities and Diplomatic Officers and Blue Ensign defacement for Consular Officers. Wording of Order did not mention surrounding garland for Governors etc, although accompanying illustration made it clear that garland was integral to design. Illustration accompanying Order assumed to be basis for garland being of green laurel leaves with red berries and being tied with blue ribbon.\(^8\)

15. **14 Aug 1869.** Admiralty Circular No. 51 covering copy of Order in Council of 7 Aug 1869 and accompanying illustration. Wording of Circular made it clear that defaced Union Jack for Governors etc was for use ‘when embarked in Boats or other Vessels’ (not a condition imposed by Order itself).\(^9\) Connect Paragraphs 18, 21, 26, 29, 69 and 70 below.

16. **14 Sep 1869.** Colonial Office Circular covering copy of Order in Council of 7 Aug 1869 and illustrations of designs thereby authorized and requesting Governors etc to submit details of proposed flag badges.\(^10\)

17. **1870 et seq.**

   a. **28 Feb 1870.** Canadian Privy Council endorsed garland of maple leaves (substituting for standard garland of laurel leaves) around Union Flag defacement for officers administering Canadian governments. Canadian garland was tied with yellow ribbon.\(^11\)

   b. **Subsequent colonial/Dominion variations** from standard garland of laurel leaves around Union Flag defacements were:

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\(^8\) Kelly, op. cit., archival attachment 2.3 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/8) and TNA Kew, ADM 1/11839.

\(^9\) Kelly, op. cit., archival attachment 2.4 (also TNA Kew, ADM 7/693 and CO 323/294).

\(^10\) Ibid., archival attachment 2.5 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/10). These sources include copies of the four illustrations that accompanied the Circular.

(1) **Principal Representative of British North Borneo Company Afloat.** No garland; also authorized for use as Jack by armed vessels (Admiralty Warrant dated 5 Jan 1882).

(2) **Principal Representative of British Imperial East African Company Afloat.** No garland; also authorized for use as Jack by armed vessels (Admiralty Warrant dated 6 Mar 1890).

(3) **Administrator of British South Africa Company Afloat.** No garland (Admiralty Warrant dated 11 Nov 1902).

(4) **Governor-General of Australia Afloat.** Special design (1903?), with design of star being modified after adoption of seven-pointed star for Blue and Red Ensign defacements in 1908.

(5) **Governor (Governor-General from 1917) of New Zealand Afloat.** Garland of fern leaves (1907).

(6) **Governor-General of South Africa Afloat.** Garland of sweet-thorn sprays (1911).

(7) **Governor of Northern Ireland Ashore and Afloat.** Special design (1924).

(8) **Governor of Southern Rhodesia Afloat.** No garland (1924?).

(9) **Governor of Burma Afloat.** Special design (1939).

(10) **Her Majesty's Commissioner Tuvalu.** No garland (1976).

18. **1873.** Admiralty Circular NS 2346/73 - improved version (incorporating measurements) of illustration accompanying Order in Council of 7 Aug 1869.\(^{12}\) Connect Paragraph 21 below.

19. **3 Sep 1873.** Colonial Office Circular covering copy of Admiralty Circular NS 2346/73.\(^{13}\)

20. **Circa 1873.** George C. Hounsell's *Flags and Signals of All Nations* (London, Field and Tuer) - published by authority of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

21. **1874.** Admiralty Circular NS 905/74 - improved version of Admiralty Circular NS 2346/73. Wording clarified that defaced Union Flag for 'HM Diplomatic Servants' was for use afloat and ashore, whereas defaced Union Flags for Governors etc and for Military Authorities and defaced Blue Ensign for Consuls were for use afloat only. No reason given for anomaly.\(^{14}\) Connect Paragraphs 26, 29, 69 and 70 below.

22. **21 May 1874.** Colonial Office Circular covering copy of Admiralty Circular NS 905/74.\(^{15}\)

23. **23 Aug 1875.** Colonial Office Circular - sought approval of draft *flag badge illustrations* for first edition of Admiralty publication *Drawings of the Flags in Use at the Present Time by Various Nations*, urged submission of *flag badge proposals outstanding* (requiring design to be 'the distinctive device on the Seal of the Colony') and contemplated eventual *standardization of all flag badges* on Seal design.\(^{16}\)

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\(^{12}\) TNA Kew, ADM 1/11839.

\(^{13}\) Kelly, op. cit., archival attachment 2.6 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/14).

\(^{14}\) TNA Kew, ADM 1/11839.

\(^{15}\) Kelly, op. cit., archival attachment 2.7 (also TNA Kew, CO 854/15).

\(^{16}\) Ibid., archival attachment 3.3 (also TNA Kew, CO 949/2). A suggestion had been made in 1867 that 'each colony should have a Coat of Arms which should be engraved on seal subordinate to Royal Arms' (TNA Kew, CO 323/288; 6 Apr 1867 communication from A.B. and J.S. Wyon - engravers of colonial Seals - to Deputy Earl Marshal). The 1875 policy of standardizing flag badges on the design of the Seal is consistent with a failure to pursue the 1867 suggestion and with the fact that few colonies received grants of Arms during the 19th century. A Colonial Office Circular Despatch of 29 Nov 1905 forwarded a suggestion by Garter King of Arms that colonial governments should apply for grants of Arms; this may have prompted a few of the limited number of applications made in the early 20th century.
24. **1875.** First edition of Admiralty publication *Drawings of the Flags in Use at the Present Time by Various Nations.*

25. **29 May 1876.** Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to Cape Colony. Full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).17

26. **1879 et seq.**

   a. **1879** edition of *QR&AIs* incorporated provisions of Admiralty Circular No. 4,S of 16 Jan 1866 and of Admiralty Circular NS 905/74. **1881** edition of *Colonial Regulations* incorporated corresponding detail.18

   b. In connection with *The King's/The Queen's/Colonial Regulations* and colonial flag badges:

      (1) **Colonial Jacks** specifically endorsed in *The King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions (KR&AIs)* of 1934 and *The Queen's Regulations for The Royal Navy (QRRN)* of 1967 (BR 31). Not mentioned in 1928 *Colonial Regulations*. Connect also Paragraphs 47 and 89 below.

      (2) Amendment to *QR&AIs* dated 1 Apr 1890 introduced concept of 'distinguishing flags' for colonial merchant vessels additional to the Red Ensign. *KR&AIs* of 1934 and *Colonial Regulations* of 1928 both addressed these 'distinguishing flags'. In conjunction with requirement for merchant vessels to wear Red Ensign 'free from any badge or distinctive mark' unless authorized by Admiralty Warrant, the Regulations permitted colonial merchant vessels to carry distinguishing flags 'with the badge of the Colony thereon, in addition to the red ensign', provided that such flags did not infringe Section 73(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894. No corresponding detail appeared in the 1967 edition of *QRRN* (BR 31).

      (3) Illustrations in *Colonial Regulations*, in Admiralty publication *Drawings of the Flags in Use at the Present Time by Various Nations* (1875, 1889, 1907 and 1916) and in Part I of Colonial Office publication *Flags, Badges and Arms of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas* (1910) established norm of colonial flag badges being displayed on white background disc. No authoritative documentation traced making background disc obligatory; several 19th century examples and widespread 20th century examples of non-use of background disc for colonial defacements of Blue and Red Ensigns. No colonial defacements of Union Flag sighted which dispensed with circular configuration.

      (4) All colonial defacements of Blue Ensign (but not Indian defacements, defacements for chartered companies and defacements for the Crown Dependencies) appear to have been taken into use without accompanying authorization by Admiralty Warrant. Vessels belonging to, or permanently in service of Colonies would have been 'ships belonging to Her Majesty' and thus exempt from merchant shipping legislation on national colours afloat - see Section 431 of Merchant Shipping Act 1894 and Section 2(2) of Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

27. **1881.** HMSO publication *Arms and Badges of the Colonies*.19

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17 Subsequent grants of Arms by Royal Warrant to Orange River Colony (10 Dec 1904) and Natal (16 May 1907) did not impact on the existing flag badges.
18 TNA Kew, CO 325/54 and CO 854/22.
19 TNA Kew, ADM/116/1063B.
28. **1881 et seq.**

a. Royal Charter dated 1 Nov 1881 and subsequent Admiralty Warrant dated 5 Jan 1882 authorized Red Ensign defacement for merchant and trading vessels of British North Borneo Company (together with Blue Ensign defacement for armed vessels and Principal Representative in his yacht). Admiralty Warrant necessary for Red Ensign defacement under merchant shipping legislation; merchant vessels could not be exempted as 'ships belonging to Her Majesty'.

b. **Subsequent authorizations by Admiralty Warrant of Red Ensign defacements for colonial merchant vessels** were:

   (1) **Imperial British East African Company** (together with Blue Ensign defacement for armed vessels) (6 Mar 1890).

   (2) **Dominion of Canada** (2 Feb 1892, with design of defacement altered by Canadian Order in Council dated 26 Apr 1922 to reflect grant of Arms to Dominion by Royal Proclamation dated 21 Nov 1921 and with further change in 1957 following Canadian Government announcement on 8 Oct 1957 on depiction of 1921 Arms - Celtic harp and red maple leaves).

   (3) **New Zealand** (7 Feb 1899).

   (4) **British South Africa Company** (together with Blue Ensign defacement for vessels 'not being trading vessels') (11 Nov 1902).

   (5) **Commonwealth of Australia** (4 Jun 1903, with amending Warrants in 1908 and 1938).

   (6) **Somaliland** (29 Jun 1904, with assumed issue of amending Warrant consequent to grant of Arms in 1950; connect Paragraph 80 below).

   (7) **Union of South Africa** (28 Dec 1910).

   (8) **Newfoundland** (25 Oct 1918).

   (9) **Indian Native States** (2 Aug 1921 and 10 Oct 1924, following Order in Council of 14 Jul 1921 resolving national status of merchant vessels belonging to the States).

   (10) **Cyprus** (31 Aug 1922).

   (11) **Tanganyika** (9 Mar 1923).

   (12) **Western Samoa** (16 Jan 1925).

   (13) **Palestine** (14 Oct 1927).

29. **1882.** Admiralty Circular 2772/82 - improved version of Admiralty Circular NS 905/74 (inter alia employing term 'Union Flag' throughout; Order in Council of 7 Aug 1869 and associated Admiralty Circulars issued before 1882 had referred to 'Union Jack'). Connect Paragraphs 69 and 70 below.

30. **9 Apr 1884.** Admiralty Warrant authorized Blue Ensign defacement (lion clasping Royal Crown between two forward paws; no background disc) for vessels in service of Indian Maritime Governments and subordinate departments.

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20 TNA Kew, ADM 116/1847B.
21 TNA Kew, ADM 116/212.
31. 21 Apr 1884. Admiralty Warrant authorized Blue Ensign defacement (Star of India with no background disc) for vessels of Indian Marine - Indian Marine became Royal Indian Marine in 1892 (connect Paragraph 47 below).

32. 1886 et seq.
   b. Defacement transferred to Blue Ensign under authority of Admiralty Warrant of 1 Feb 1888.  

33. 1889. Merchant Shipping (Colours) Act 1889 reiterated provisions of Merchant Shipping Act 1854 on British national colours afloat, including declaration that Red Ensign 'without any defacement or modification whatsoever' constituted proper national colours unless other national colours 'worn in pursuance of a warrant from Her Majesty or from the Admiralty'.

34. 1889. Second edition of Admiralty publication Drawings of the Flags in Use at the Present Time by Various Nations.

35. 1894. Merchant Shipping Act 1894 incorporated provisions on British national colours afloat from Merchant Shipping Act 1854 and Merchant Shipping (Colours) Act 1889.

36. 25 Aug 1906. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters and motto) by Royal Warrant to Mauritius. Full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc until 1923 and then no disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous flag badge (similar shield and motto but no supporters; unofficial Arms adopted in 19th century).

37. 17 Dec 1906. Grant of Arms (shield only; elephant in palm grove) by Royal Warrant to Ceylon. No impact on existing pictorial flag badge (elephant and temple) used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

38. 28 Jan 1907. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to British Honduras. The design of the existing flag badge (and the Seal) influenced the Arms but the flag badge was not modified and continued in use to deface the Blue Ensign (with white background disc until 1919 and then no disc) and Union Flag (within garland).


40. 4 Jul 1908. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to Fiji. Full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc until 1924 and then no disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous flag badge. Connect Paragraph 110 below.

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22 The defacement was derived from the crest of the Arms of the Honourable East India Company.
23 The Company challenged the Admiralty's instructions to switch the defacement to the Blue Ensign; it is possible that the defaced White Ensign remained in use for a few years subsequent to 1888.
41. 10 Apr 1909. Grant of Arms (shield and crest only) by Royal Warrant to Leeward Islands. No impact on existing pictorial flag badge used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

42. 1910. Colonial Office publication (two volumes) Flags, Badges and Arms of the British Dominions Beyond the Seas - Part I was Flags and Badges and Part II was Arms.

43. 17 Sep 1910. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to the Union of South Africa. Shield of Arms used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Red Ensign (no background disc until 1912 and then with white background disc; connect Paragraph 28b(7) above and Paragraphs 56, 59 and 81 below). Full armorial achievement used within special defacement of Union Flag to distinguish Governor-General (connect Paragraphs 17b(6) above and Paragraph 61 below).

44. 4 Oct 1910. Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to Bermuda; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

45. 25 Mar 1911. Grant of Arms (shield and crest only) by Royal Warrant to Straits Settlements. No impact on existing flag badge used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

46. 26 Aug 1911. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to the Dominion of New Zealand. No impact on existing defacements of Blue Ensign and Red Ensign, nor on special defacement of Union Flag to distinguish Governor-General (connect Paragraphs 17b(5) and 28b(3) above and Paragraph 61 below).

47. 1911. Imperial Conference established principle that warships of Dominion Navies (at that time Canada and Australia) could wear White Ensign. Scrutiny of associated detail in subsequent editions of KR&AIs/QRRN suggests that defaced Blue Ensigns worn as Jacks by Dominion warships (and warships of Royal Indian Marine from 1928) were of full dimensions, whereas defaced Blue Ensigns authorized as Jacks for colonial naval forces (eg Hong Kong RNVR) were of the traditional 'small' dimensions. Connect Paragraphs 89 and 101 below.

48. 18 Sep 1912. Grant of Arms (shield, supporters and crest) by Royal Warrant to the Commonwealth of Australia (replacing Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 7 May 1908). No impact on existing defacements of Blue Ensign and Red Ensign (connect Paragraph 28b(5) above). Crest (seven-pointed star) already in use within special defacement of Union Flag to distinguish Governor-General (connect Paragraph 17b(4) above and Paragraph 61 below). Flag badges in use by Australian States (to deface Blue Ensign and Union Flag) all pre-dated the 29 Apr 1893 grant of Arms to the then-Colony of Queensland and the subsequent grants of Arms to the other States.

49. 29 Nov 1912. Grant of Arms (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to Saint Vincent. The design of the existing flag badge (and the Seal) influenced the Arms but the pictorial flag badge was only slightly modified and continued in use to deface the Blue Ensign. No Union Flag defacement in view of status as part of Windward Islands (connect Paragraph 66 below). Connect also Paragraph 108 below.

50. 11 May 1914. Grant of Arms (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to Nyasaland. Shield of Arms used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc until 1920 and then no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous flag badge (crest of unofficial Arms of British Central Africa Protectorate adopted in 1894).

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24 The Leeward Islands comprised Antigua, Dominica (until 1940, when transferred to the Windward Islands), Montserrat, Saint Kitts-Nevis and the Virgin Islands and were a federal Colony (ie one common Governor and Government) until 1956. Connect Paragraphs 95, 106 and 122 below and Paragraphs 2a, 2e and 2i of Annex A.

25 The Royal Indian Marine achieved White Ensign status in 1928; the defaced Blue Ensign (connect Paragraph 31 above) became the Jack, displacing the former Jack (blue-edged Union Flag). The Royal Indian Marine became the Royal Indian Navy in 1934.


27 For more detail on the flag badges of the Australian States see Kelly, op. cit. and connect Paragraphs 85 and 112 below and Paragraph 1 of Annex A.
51. **30 Jul 1914. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to **Sierra Leone**. Full armorial achievement used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing previous pictorial flag badge.

52. **1916. Fourth edition** of Admiralty publication *Drawings of the Flags in Use at the Present Time by Various Nations*.

53. **1918. Colonial Office** (at request of Admiralty) began extensive **census of colonial flag badges** to determine use/non-use of background discs.  

54. **2 Aug 1924. Grant of Arms** (shield and supporters) by Royal Warrant to **Northern Ireland**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Union Flag** (orange background and special garland). Connect Paragraph 17b(7) above.

55. **11 Aug 1924. Grant of Arms** (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **Southern Rhodesia**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (no background disc) and **Union Flag** (with white background disc but no surrounding garland). Connect Paragraph 17b(8) above and Paragraph 100 below.

56. **1924 et seq.** Canadian Order in Council dated 26 Jan 1924 authorized use of **Canadian Red Ensign** (connect Paragraph 28b(2) above) on Canadian buildings outside Canada (eg High Commissions and legations); use on land within Canada entirely unofficial. **South African Red Ensign** (connect Paragraph 28b(7) above) enjoyed similar unofficial status on land until 1928. Possible that specially-created **Indian Red Ensign** appeared at about this time for use on land outside India in connection with India's membership of League of Nations.

57. **16 Oct 1925. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to **Falkland Islands**. Connect Paragraph 78 below.

58. **1927. Revival of Arms of Newfoundland** (originally granted 1 Jan 1637). No impact on existing pictorial flag badge (derived from Seal) used to deface **Blue Ensign** (no background disc), **Red Ensign** (no background disc; connect Paragraph 28b(8) above) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

59. **31 May 1928. First official hoisting of National Flag of Union of South Africa**.

60. **1930. Admiralty publication** *Drawings of the Flags of All Nations*.

61. **1931 et seq.**

   a. **Letter from Lord Chamberlain dated 22 Jan 1931** promulgating and enclosing illustration of **new distinguishing flag for Governor-General of South Africa** in place of defaced Union Flag.  

   b. **Letter from Lord Chamberlain dated 28 Feb 1931** promulgating and enclosing illustration of **new distinguishing flag for Governor-General of Canada** in place of defaced Union Flag.  

   c. **Similar flags** authorized for **Governor-General of Australia** in 1936, for **Governor-General of New Zealand** in 1937 and subsequently for **Governors-General of all member states of Commonwealth** that acknowledged British Monarch as Head of State.

   d. **Standard design** for these distinguishing flags was **Royal Crest surmounting gold scroll with black lettering thereon, all in centre of plain blue flag**. **Variations from standard design** have been:

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28 TNA Kew, ADM 116/1847B.
29 TNA Kew, ADM 116/1847B.
29 A flag badge for the defacement of the Blue Ensign was adopted in 1929; it comprised the letters 'GNI' in red on a white background disc.
30 TNA Kew, ADM 1/8758/189.
31 Ibid.
(1) South Africa. Second scroll above Royal crest (1931).

(2) India. Gold curved lettering without background scroll (1947).

(3) Pakistan. Gold curved lettering without background scroll (1947).

(4) Ceylon. Gold lettering (illustrations sighted of both curved and straight lettering) without background scroll (1948).


(7) Canada. Royal Crest of Canada displaced standard defacement (Royal approval on 23 Feb 1981 and gazetted on 9 Jan 1982).


(9) New Zealand. Shield of Arms of New Zealand surmounted with Royal Crown on a square Royal-blue flag (replacing standard design, 2008).

62. 1931 et seq.
   a. Signature of British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement on 10 Dec 1931; inter alia recognized right of Dominions to initiate merchant shipping legislation and, subject to provisions in Agreement on harmonization, to determine and regulate national colours afloat.
   b. Canada Shipping Act 1934 was first instance of Dominion legislation in this area.

63. 1932. Joint Colonial Office/Dominions Office publication (two volumes) Flags, Badges and Arms of His Majesty's Dominions Beyond the Seas and of Territories under His Majesty's Protection - Part I was Flags and Badges and Part II was Arms.

64. 2 Dec 1935. Record made at College of Arms of Arms of Gibraltar (originally granted by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain in 1502); see Annex A for impact on flag badges and details of 19th century flag badge still in use to deface Blue Ensign.

65. 1 May 1937. Grant of Arms (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to Gilbert and Ellice Islands. Shield of Arms used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).32

66. 16 Aug 1939. Grant of Arms (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to Windward Islands.33 No impact on existing flag badge used to deface Union Flag; design of shield of Arms derived from shield within flag badge. No Blue Ensign defacement.

67. 16 Aug 1939. Grant of Arms (shield only and reflecting design of Seal already in use) by Royal Warrant to Northern Rhodesia. Full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland). The grant regularized the design/use of the existing flag badge (itself derived from the Seal).

32 The Gilbert and Ellice Islands were split into the separate colonies of the Gilbert Islands (independent as Kiribati in 1979) and Tuvalu (independent 1978) effective 31 December 1975. The Colony of the Gilbert Islands inherited the flag badge of the former Gilbert and Ellice Islands. For the Tuvalu flag badge, connect Paragraph 113 below.

33 The Windward Islands comprised Dominica (from 1940, when transferred from the Leeward Islands), Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent. They were separate Colonies sharing a common Governor (with his defacement of the Union Flag) but each using a separate defacement of the Blue Ensign. Connect Paragraphs 106 and 108 below.
68. **16 Aug 1939. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only and reflecting design of Seal already in use) by Royal Warrant to **Saint Lucia**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (no background disc), displacing previous pictorial flag badge. No Union Flag defacement in view of status as part of Windward Islands (connect Paragraph 66 above). Connect also Paragraph 106e below.

69. **16 Jul 1941. Amendment to Colonial Regulations** permitting colonial Governors to fly defaced **Union Flag** at Government House and in miniature as car flag - defaced Union Flag previously for use afloat only and undefaced Union Flag had been flown at Government House.

70. **1942. Further amendment to Colonial Regulations** authorizing flying of defaced **Union Flag** by Governor when absent from Government House (on land or embarked), on which occasions the undefaced Union Flag was to be flown at Government House.

71. **28 Dec 1943. Grant of Arms** (shield only) by Royal Warrant to **Malta**. Full armorial achievement used to deface **Blue Ensign** (no background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing previous flag badge (red/white shield without the George Cross).

72. **5 Sep 1945.** Canadian Order in Council authorized flying of **Canadian Red Ensign** on federal buildings 'within as well as without Canada' and 'wherever place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag'.

73. **1945 et seq.** Increasing **use of colonial defaced Blue Ensigns on land** to symbolize colonial representation at international conferences, sporting events etc and for decorative purposes. Such unofficial use (and similar use of defaced Red Ensign in case of Bermuda) endorsed by **Foreign and Commonwealth Office Circular Saving Despatch 74/69** (20 Aug 1969).

74. **10 Mar 1947. Grant of Arms** (shield only) by Royal Warrant to **Sarawak**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

75. **1947 et seq.**

   a. **Grant of Arms** (shield only) by Royal Warrant dated **10 Mar 1947** to **British Solomon Islands Protectorate**. Shield of Arms with words 'BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS' beneath used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing previous flag badge.

   b. **Further grant of Arms** (shield only) by Royal Warrant dated **24 Sep 1956** to **British Solomon Islands Protectorate**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing flag badge derived from 1947 grant.

76. **13 Sep 1948. Grant of Arms** (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **North Borneo**. Crest of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

77. **13 Sep 1948. Grant of Arms** (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **Singapore**. Device derived from banner held by lion in crest of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

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34 The adoption of a new Seal in 1937 triggered the adoption of the new flag badge in the same year and the grant of Arms in 1939. Thus, unusually, a flag badge of armorial design came into use two years before the corresponding grant of Arms.

35 TNA Kew, ADM 1/11389.

36 Ibid.

37 The 1947 flag badge ceased to be used to deface the Union Flag in 1953 upon the disestablishment of the office of Resident Commissioner British Solomon Islands Protectorate. The Protectorate then passed under the direct administration of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

38 The use of the 1956 flag badge to deface the Union Flag dated from the creation of the office of Governor of the Protectorate in 1974.

39 The device was similar to the flag badge of the Straits Settlements.
78. **29 Sep 1948. Grant of Arms** by Royal Warrant to **Falkland Islands** (replacing Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 16 Oct 1925); see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

79. **11 Sep 1949. Grant of Arms** (shield and crest only) by Royal Warrant to **Penang**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

80. **14 Dec 1950. Grant of Arms** (shield and crest only) by Royal Warrant to **Somaliland Protectorate**. Full armorial achievement used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc), **Red Ensign** (assumed with white background disc)\(^{40}\) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing previous pictorial flag badge. Connect Paragraph 28b(6) above.


82. **20 Mar 1951. Grant of Arms** (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **Basutoland**. Shield of Arms used to deface **Union Flag** (within garland) to distinguish Resident Commissioner.\(^{41}\)

83. **14 Aug 1951. Grant of Arms** (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **Malacca**. Crest of Arms used to deface **Blue Ensign** (with white background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland).

84. **1952. Special flag** (Arms of Quebec on white disc in centre of plain blue flag) replaced defaced Union Flag distinguishing Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec.

85. **1953. Modification of flag badge of Western Australia**; black swan (with yellow background disc) previously faced fly but now turned to face hoist.\(^{42}\)

86. **25 Jul 54. Grant of Arms** (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to **Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland**.\(^{43}\) 1955 Royal approval through College of Arms of defacement of **Blue Ensign** with shield of Arms (no background disc) as land flag of Federation (recorded at College of Arms in Standards Volume 2, p. 135; between Oct and Dec 1955). No Union Flag defacement; Governor-General used distinguishing flag of standard design described at Paragraph 61 above.

87. **8 Dec 1954. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to **British Guiana**. Full armorial achievement used to deface **Blue Ensign** (no background disc) and **Union Flag** (within garland), displacing previous pictorial flag badge.


89. **1956. Issue of Chapter 12 to 1953 edition of The Queen's Regulations**. Paragraph 1234 stated that vessels of Royal Malayan Navy, Royal East Africa Navy, Hong Kong RNVR, Malayan RNVR and Mauritius NVF wore White Ensign, blue pennant and square defaced Blue Ensign as Jack. Jack to be defaced with badge of Colony of Singapore for Royal Malayan Navy and with special badge for Royal East African Navy, otherwise with badge of Colony. Consolidated **upgrading of colonial naval forces to White Ensign status**.

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\(^{40}\) No documentation sighted concerning defacement of Red Ensign with 1950 flag badge. As defacement with the pictorial flag badge had been authorized by Admiralty Warrant dated 29 Jun 1904, it is assumed that an amending Warrant was issued in 1950.

\(^{41}\) The entries in BR 20(1) and BR 20(2) (1955 and 1958) imply that there was no corresponding defacement of the Blue Ensign.


\(^{43}\) The Federation comprised Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and came into being on 4 Sep 1953.
90. **8 Apr 1957. Grant of Arms** (shield, supporters, crest and motto\(^{44}\)) by Royal Warrant to Jamaica, this grant being an embellished version of an original grant dated 3 Feb 1661. New version of full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous version of full armorial achievement.

91. **1958.** Admiralty publication **BR 20(2) Flags of All Nations - Volume II - Flags of Rulers, Sovereigns and Heads of State; Flags of Heads of Ministries and of Naval, Military and Air Force Officers.** It seems that intention to publish third volume - Flags of Public Bodies, Badges of Territories, Colonies etc. and Badges of Public Departments when used to deface National Flags or Ensigns - was not pursued.

92. **14 May 1958. Grant of Arms** by Royal Warrant to Cayman Islands; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

93. **13 Oct 1958. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to Trinidad and Tobago. Understood that full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous pictorial flag badge until further grant of Arms/independence in Aug 1962.

94. **1959 et seq.**

a. **Grant of Arms** (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 21 Jan 1959 to Hong Kong. Full armorial achievement used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland), displacing previous flag badge (19th century origins, but redesigned in 1955). Secretary of State for Colonies reported on 27 Jul 1959 that new Blue Ensign defacement had received approval of ‘Counsellors of State in Her Majesty's absence’.\(^{45}\)

b. Under powers delegated to Hong Kong Government by Hong Kong (Legislative Powers) Order 1986, vessels registered in Hong Kong required from Dec 1990 to wear defaced Hong Kong Blue Ensign beneath normal undefaced British Red Ensign (both flags being flown from same staff). No authority existed for defaced Hong Kong Red Ensign.

95. **15 November 1960. Grant of Arms** by Royal Warrant to British Virgin Islands; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

96. **Apr 1961. Adoption of new flag badge** for Seychelles replacing traditional flag badge of similar design and used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).\(^{46}\)

97. **1 Aug 1963. Grant of Arms** by Royal Warrant to British Antarctic Territory;\(^{47}\) see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

98. **Dec 1963. New flag badge** for Bahamas replacing traditional flag badge of similar design and used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland). Defaced Blue Ensign gazetted as official land flag of Bahamas on 30 May 1964. Grants of Arms by Royal Warrants dated 5 Jun 1959 and 7 Dec 1971 had no impact on the flag badge. No official authorization for defaced Red Ensign taken into use locally.\(^{48}\)

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\(^{44}\) The traditional ‘INDUS UTERQUE SERVIET UNI’ motto was changed to ‘OUT OF MANY ONE PEOPLE’ on 13 Jul 1962. As this was less than a month before independence, it seems unlikely that the change of motto prompted alterations to flag badges.


\(^{47}\) The 1963 grant re-registered and added a crest to Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 11 Mar 1952 to the Falkland Islands Dependencies. No evidence found of flag badges derived from the 1952-63 Arms.

99. **26 Mar 1964. Royal Proclamation** amending Royal Proclamation of 1 Jan 1801 and transferring to Secretary of State for Defence those functions concerning regulation of British national colours afloat previously exercised by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

100. **1964.** Announcement in Southern Rhodesian Parliament on 8 Apr 1964 that defacement of Blue Ensign would be transferred to light-blue Ensign. This *defaced light-blue Ensign for Southern Rhodesia/Rhodesia* remained in use until 11 Nov 1968.\(^{49}\)

101. **15 Feb 1965.** First official hoisting of National Flag of Canada; Canadian Blue and Red Ensigns and Royal Canadian Navy use of White Ensign lapsed.\(^{50}\)

102. **21 May 1965.** Adoption of *defaced Red Ensign* as official land flag of Ontario; see Annex A for further details.

103. **28 Sep 1965.** Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to Turks and Caicos Islands; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

104. **21 Dec 1965.** Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant to Barbados. Not known if devices derived from Arms used to deface Blue Ensign and Union Flag until independence in Nov 1966, displacing pictorial flag badge.

105. **12 May 1966.** Adoption of *defaced Red Ensign* as official land flag of Manitoba; see Annex A for further details.

106. **Feb/Mar 1967.** Constitution of Associated States:
   a. **Antigua.**
      (1) *Device from Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 16 Feb 1967* used to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Governor.
      (2) Distinctive State Flag adopted.
      (3) *Previous flag badge (adopted on de-federalization of Leeward Islands Colony in 1956)* became obsolete.
      (4) Independent 1981, when State Flag became National Flag.
   b. **Dominica.**
      (1) *Device from Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 21 Jul 1961* used to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Governor.
      (2) State Flag was *Blue Ensign* defaced with full armorial achievement - adopted 9 Nov 1965 (ie before became Associated State).\(^{51}\)
      (3) *Previous pictorial/shield flag badge (adopted circa 1955)* became obsolete.
      (4) Independent (republican constitution) 1978, when National Flag adopted.

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\(^{50}\) The Royal Australian Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy adopted distinctive national versions of the White Ensign in 1967 and 1968 respectively.

\(^{51}\) Barracough and Crampton, op. cit., p. 52.
c. **Grenada.**

(1) Assumed that *traditional (19th century) flag badge* continued in use to deface *Union Flag* (within garland) to distinguish Governor.

(2) Distinctive State Flag adopted.

(3) Independent 1974, when received grant of Arms and adopted National Flag of different design to 1967 State Flag.

d. **Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.**

(1) Device from Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 16 Feb 1967 used to deface *Union Flag* (within garland) to distinguish Governor.

(2) Distinctive State Flag adopted.

(3) *Previous flag badge (Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 4 Jun 1957)* became obsolete.

(4) Independent 1983 and adopted National Flag of different design to 1967 State Flag.

e. **Saint Lucia.**

(1) *Shield of Arms granted by Royal Warrant dated 16 Aug 1939* continued in use as defacement of *Union Flag* (within garland) to distinguish Governor.

(2) Distinctive State Flag adopted.

(3) Independent 1979, when modified version of State Flag became National Flag.

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107. **30 May 1969.** Royal approval through College of Arms of *defacement of Blue Ensign* by *Natural Environment Research Council* vessels engaged on British Antarctic Survey work; more detail at Annex A under British Antarctic Territory.

108. **27 Oct 1969.** *Saint Vincent* assumed status of Associated State. Retained *traditional flag badge* (connect Paragraph 49 above) to deface *Blue Ensign* and *Union Flag* and did not adopt distinctive State Flag (although such flag was designed and featured on postage stamp). Independent 1979, when distinctive National Flag adopted.

109. **4 Nov 1969.** *Grant of Arms* by Royal Warrant to *Pitcairn Islands*; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

110. **10 Oct 1970.** Independence of *Fiji*; see Annex A for impact on flags and flag badges.


112. **1976 et seq.**

a. Adoption on **20 Nov 1976** of *new distinguishing flag* (State Blue Ensign with Royal Crown surmounting flag badge) to replace defaced Union Flag distinguishing *Governor of South Australia* (Royal approval recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 4; between 1974 and Oct 76).
b. Subsequent adoption of **similar new distinguishing flags**\(^{52}\) by:

(1) **Governor of Tasmania.** Similar to South Australian design; **Feb 1977** (Royal approval recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 8; between Oct and Dec 76).

(2) **Governor of New South Wales.** Similar to South Australian design; **19 Jan 1981** (Royal approval recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 70; Dec 80).

(3) **Governor of Victoria.** Gold Ensign defaced with red stars and Royal Crown; **18 Apr 1984** (Royal approval recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 108; between 2 Mar and 3 May 84).

(4) **Governor of Western Australia.** Similar to South Australian design; **12 Apr 1988** (Royal approval recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 148; between 2 Mar and 8 Apr 85).

113. **3 Dec 1976. Grant of Arms** (shield and motto only) by Royal Warrant to Tuvalu. Shield of Arms used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (with white background disc but no surrounding garland) to distinguish Her Majesty's Commissioner (connect Paragraph 17b(10) above).\(^{53}\)

114. **1 Oct 1978.** Independence of Tuvalu; see Annex A for details of defaced light-blue Ensign.

115. **4 Aug 1979.** Adoption of defaced Blue Ensign as State Flag of Cook Islands; see Annex A for further details.

116. **1981 et seq.** Authorizations by Governor-General of Canada of 'standards' (provincial arms surmounted with Royal Crown and surrounded with gold maple leaves, all in centre of plain blue flag)\(^{54}\) to replace defaced Union Flags distinguishing Lieutenant-Governors of Canadian Provinces:


   c. **Saskatchewan** (26 Sep 1981).


   e. **British Columbia** (1 Feb 1982).

   f. **Manitoba** (11 May 1984).

   g. **Newfoundland** (31 Jan 1987).

117. **4 Oct 1985. Grant of Arms** by Royal Warrant to Saint Helena and Dependencies; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

118. **9 May 1985.** Authorization by **Royal Warrant** of defaced Red Ensign for Guernsey and Dependencies; see Annex A for further details.

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\(^{52}\) Crampton, op. cit., p. 14; see also Paragraph 1 of Annex A for Governor of Queensland.

\(^{53}\) *Flag Bulletin* 171.

\(^{54}\) Department of Canadian Heritage (1995), *Symbols of Canada* (Ottawa, Canadian Communication Group), pp. 8-9; see also Paragraph 84 above for Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec and Paragraph 3 of Annex A for Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.
119. **1988.** Section 56 of *Merchant Shipping Act 1988* made provision for UK merchant shipping legislation (modified or unmodified) to be extended by Order in Council to overseas territories.


121. **2 Aug 1990.** Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to *British Indian Ocean Territory*; see Annex A for details of distinctive flag derived from Arms.

122. **27 Nov 1990.** Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to *Anguilla*; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

123. **14 Feb 1992.** Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to *South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands*; see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

124. **1993.** Schedule 3 of *Merchant Shipping (Registration, etc) Act 1993* consolidated previous legislation on British national colours afloat and reinforced Merchant Shipping Act 1988 with requirement that adoption of modified/defaced Red Ensigns for ships registered in British possessions must be authorized/confirmed by Order in Council. Royal or Secretary of State for Defence Warrants by implication deemed to be inadequate.


126. **1997.** Authorization by Secretary of State for Defence Warrant of defaced Blue Ensign for *Jersey*; see Annex A for further details.

127. **1999.** Issue of *Change 5* to 1989 Ministry of Defence publication *BR 20 Flags of All Nations*. Change 5 illustrations of defaced Blue Ensigns and Red Ensigns omitted the traditional white background discs and made all the illustrated defacements (including those of the Union Flag) larger than the traditional dimensions which had been precisely specified in the preliminary pages of the publications *BR 20*(1) and *BR 20*(2) (1955 and 1958) and in *Colonial Regulations*.


129. **2000 and 2001.** Issue of CD-Rom versions of *BR 20*; from this time paper versions of *BR 20* (and associated changes) were discontinued.

130. **21 Mar 2001.** Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant to *Tristan da Cunha* (dependency of Saint Helena); see Annex A for impact on flag badges.

131. **2007.** Issue of new CD-Rom edition of *BR 20* (disseminated within the defence community but not on sale to the general public through TSO).

132. **15 Aug 2007.** Authorization by Secretary of State for Defence Warrant of defaced Blue Ensign for *Alderney* (Dependency of Guernsey); see Annex A for further details.

133. **1 Jun 2008.** Details of colonial-type flag badges in use as at 1 Jun 2008 are at Annex A.

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55 The illustrations omitted the traditional white background discs for Cayman Islands (Blue and Red Ensign defacements), Falkland Islands (Blue and Red Ensign defacements) and Gibraltar (Blue Ensign defacement). The new Red Ensign defacement for the Falkland Islands was obviously inconsistent with the defacement (with background disc) authorized the previous year by Merchant Shipping (Falkland Islands Colours) Order 1998.
Annex:

A. Colonial-Type Flag Badges in Use as at 1 June 2008.
ANNEX A

COLONIAL-TYPE FLAG BADGES IN USE AS AT 1 JUNE 2008

1. Australia.
   b. State Flags. Traditional flag badges defacing Blue Ensign.
   c. Distinguishing Flags for State Governors.
      (1) Queensland. 1876 flag badge (within garland) defacing Union Flag.
      (2) Victoria. Red stars and Royal Crown defacing gold Ensign.
      (3) Other States. State Flag (defaced Blue Ensign) with large Royal Crown surmounting flag badge.

2. British Overseas Territories.
   a. Anguilla.1
      (1) Grant of Arms (details to be researched) by Royal Warrant dated 27 Nov 1990.
      (2) Concurrent authorization of defacement of Blue Ensign with shield of Arms (no background disc) (recorded at College of Arms in I Series Volume 84, p. 312 under authority of Royal Warrant; 27 Nov 1990).
      (3) Union Flag defacement (circular configuration of design on shield within garland) also taken into use in 1990.
      (4) Defaced flags actually taken into use on 30 May 1990.
      (5) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.
   b. Bermuda.
      (1) Grant of Arms (shield and motto 'QUO FATA FERUNT') by Royal Warrant dated 4 Oct 1910.
      (2) Shield of Arms (but not motto) displaced 19th century pictorial flag badge to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).
      (3) For many years there was no official authorization for widespread use of defaced Bermuda Red Ensign as land flag and afloat. Admiralty review of this misuse of Red Ensign in 1950s decided to leave regulation of local flag arrangements to Governor.2 Merchant Shipping Act 1988 (Bermuda) Order 1991 (Statutory Instrument 1991 No. 1703) confirmed undefaced Red Ensign as proper colours for British ships.

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1 Flagmaster 082 and Flag Bulletin 143.
2 TNA Kew, ADM 1/26283.
Section 17(1)(b) of the local Merchant Shipping Act 2002 authorized ‘the red ensign bearing the arms of Bermuda’ as proper colours for British ships registered in Bermuda. The wording of Section 17 overall permits the use of the plain Red Ensign instead of the defaced version.

c. **British Antarctic Territory.**

(1) Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant dated 1 Aug 1963, this grant re-registering and adding crest to Arms (shield, supporters and motto) granted by Royal Warrant dated 11 Mar 1952 to the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

(2) 1969 Royal approval through College of Arms for Natural Environment Research Council vessels engaged on British Antarctic Survey work to wear Blue Ensign defaced with shield of Arms (no background disc) (recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 3, p. 126; 30 May 1969).

(3) 1998 Royal approval through College of Arms for full armorial achievement to deface White Ensign (no St. George's Cross and no background disc) as distinctive land flag and to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Commissioner (both defacements recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 5, pp. 40-41; Jun 1998 according to College of Arms records although citations sighted elsewhere of 21 Apr 1998).

(4) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

d. **British Indian Ocean Territory.**

(1) Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 2 Aug 1990.

(2) Subsequent Royal approval through College of Arms of distinctive ensign-type flag for use on land (recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 4, p. 190; between 20 Sep 1990 and 7 Jan 1991).

(3) No authorization of Blue or Red Ensign defacements for Territory, nor authorization of Union Flag defacement to distinguish Commissioner.

e. **British Virgin Islands.**

(1) Grant of Arms (shield and motto ‘VIGILATE’) by Royal Warrant dated 15 Nov 1960. Arms derived from device within grant of Arms to Leeward Islands by Royal Warrant dated 10 Apr 1909.

(2) Requirement for flag badge arose following de-federalization of Leeward Islands and constitution of British Virgin Islands as separate Territory in 1956. Possible that flag badge was taken into use before grant of Arms.

(3) Flag badge comprises shield and motto and is used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

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Flagmaster 071, Flagmaster 082 and College of Arms letter from Somerset Herald to Archivist and Registrar British Antarctic Survey dated 25 Jul 1990. The involvement of the College of Arms in the authorization of a defacement of the Blue Ensign specifically and exclusively for use afloat seems unusual. It is possible that the approval of the design through the College of Arms was followed by a separate formal authorization (eg a Warrant issued by the Secretary of State for Defence) for the Ensign to be used afloat as proper national colours.

A narrow gold band runs around the inner edge of the garland. It seems that the gold band was mistakenly copied from the Union Flag defacement of the Governor of Gibraltar (see Paragraph 2h below). An enquiry on this to the College of Arms in 2002 resulted in a reply that no satisfactory answer was obtainable on the rationale for the gold band within the British Antarctic Territory defacement.

Flagmaster 082 cites 4 Nov 1990 as the date on which the flag received Royal approval.
(4) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement (but extensive local use of unofficial defacement).

f. **Cayman Islands.**

(1) Grant of Arms (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 14 May 1958.

(2) Flag badge (adopted in 1959) comprises full armorial achievement and is used to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

(3) Red Ensign defacement authorized by Merchant Shipping Act 1988 (Cayman Islands) Order 1988 (Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1841) for 'Cayman Islands ships' (ie ships registered in the Cayman Islands). Defacement is as for Blue Ensign (with white background disc).

g. **Falkland Islands.**

(1) Grant of Arms (shield and motto 'DESIRE THE RIGHT') by Royal Warrant dated 29 Sep 1948 (replacing earlier grant of Arms by Royal Warrant dated 16 Oct 1925).

(2) Shield and motto displaced 19th century flag badge to deface Blue Ensign (with white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland). It seems that 19th century pictorial flag badge remained in use until 1948, notwithstanding 1925 grant of Arms.6

(3) Red Ensign defacement authorized by Merchant Shipping (Falkland Islands Colours) Order 1998 (Statutory Instrument 1998 No. 3147) for registered vessels. Defacement was as for Blue Ensign (with white background disc).

(4) Royal approval through College of Arms of new defacement of Blue and Red Ensigns in 2007. New defacement is of same design as previous defacement but is slightly larger and dispenses with the white background disc (recorded at College of Arms in Standards Volume 5, pp. 112-113; 9 May 2007).

h. **Gibraltar.**

(1) 19th century flag badge still in use to deface Blue Ensign (currently with white background disc, but documentation/illustrations sighted suggesting background disc not always used).7

(2) Grant of Arms (shield only) by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain dated 10 Jul 1502 recorded at College of Arms on 2 Dec 1935 (with addition of motto ‘MONTIS INSIGNIA CALPE’ and omission of gold edging to shield purported to be integral to 1502 grant).

(3) 19th century flag badge used to deface Union Flag (within garland) until 1982, when Royal approval through College of Arms of new defacement to distinguish Governor (concurrent with Royal approval of City Flag). New defacement (within garland) is circular configuration of 1502 Arms, edged in gold (recorded at College of Arms in Standards Volume 4, p. 91; 8 Nov 1982).8

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7 In recent years use of this defaced Blue Ensign has been confined to vessels of the Port Department (which became the Gibraltar Port Authority in 2000).

8 College of Arms letter from Portcullis Pursuivant to N.C.F. Weekes dated 30 May 1995 and further information identified during a subsequent visit by Weekes to the College of Arms. It is important to note that the gold edging is integral to the defacement itself; it is not an embellishment of the inner edge of the surrounding garland.
(4) Merchant Shipping (Gibraltar Colours) Order 1996 (Statutory Instrument 1996 No. 281) authorized defaced Red Ensign for registered vessels. Defacement comprises shield of 1502 Arms and motto scroll configured differently to that recorded in 1935; no background disc. Illustrations sighted suggest that shield is outlined in black rather than in gold; gold would be consistent with Union Flag defacement and purported edging of 1502 shield.

i. Montserrat.

(1) Territory has not received grant of Arms nor College of Arms endorsement of flag badge.

(2) Flag badge in use is derived from device within grant of Arms to Leeward Islands by Royal Warrant dated 10 Apr 1909. Requirement for flag badge arose following de-federalization of Leeward Islands and constitution of Montserrat as separate Territory in 1956.

(3) Flag badge comprises shield and is used to deface Blue Ensign (without background disc, although some illustrations incorrectly include a white background disc) and Union Flag (within garland).

(4) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

j. Pitcairn Islands.

(1) Grant of Arms (shield and crest only) by Royal Warrant dated 4 Nov 1969.

(2) 1984 authorization by Royal Warrant of defacement of Blue Ensign with full armorial achievement (no background disc) (recorded at College of Arms in I Series Volume 84, p. 190 under authority of Royal Warrant; 2 Apr 1984).

(3) No evidence traced of corresponding defacement of Union Flag to distinguish Governor (ex officio UK High Commissioner in New Zealand).

(4) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

k. Saint Helena and Dependencies.

(1) Grant of Arms (shield, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 4 Oct 1985.

(2) Subsequent adoption of defacements of Blue Ensign (shield of Arms - no background disc) and of Union Flag (shield of Arms and scroll bearing motto 'LOYAL AND UNSHAKEABLE', all within garland). These defacements displaced the 19th century pictorial flag badge.

(3) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

(4) Tristan da Cunha (Dependency of Saint Helena).

(a) Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 21 Mar 2001.

(b) Proclamation by Governor and C-in-C of Saint Helena dated 20 October 2002 authorized defacement of Blue Ensign (no background disc) and of Union Flag (within garland).

9 Flagmaster 082 and Flag Bulletin 111.
garland) to distinguish Administrator. The defacement in both cases is the full armorial achievement.
1. **South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.**

   (1) Grant of Arms (shield, supporters, crest and motto) by Royal Warrant dated 14 Feb 1992.

   (2) Associated defacements of Blue Ensign and of Union Flag (within garland to distinguish Commissioner; ex officio Governor of Falkland Islands) were subsequently taken into use. Union Flag bearing defacement kept at Government House Stanley for use by Commissioner when visiting South Georgia.\(^{10}\)

   (3) It seems that at various times Blue Ensigns and Union Flags were manufactured defaced with the full armorial achievement and with just the shield and with and without the traditional white background disc.

   (4) These inconsistencies were resolved in 2007 when Royal approval was given for the defacement of both flags to be the full armorial achievement (recorded at College of Arms in *I Series* Volume 85, pp. 96-97 under authority of Royal Warrant; precise date of Warrant to be researched). The Blue Ensign defacement dispenses with the traditional white background disc. The Union Flag defacement is within a garland; it is understood that a narrow gold band runs around the inner edge of the garland. If this is correct it repeats the error made in the design of the defacement for the Commissioner of the British Antarctic Territory (connect Paragraph 2c(3) above and associated footnote).

   (5) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

m. **Turks and Caicos Islands.**

   (1) Grant of Arms (shield, supporters and crest) by Royal Warrant dated 28 Sep 1965.

   (2) Flag badge comprises the shield of the Arms and is used to deface Blue Ensign (no background disc) and Union Flag (within garland). This defacement of the Blue Ensign received Royal approval through College of Arms in 1968 (recorded at College of Arms in *Standards* Volume 3, p. 113; 7 Nov 1968) and displaced the traditional ‘igloo’ pictorial flag badge used for many years (for most of which the Territory had been a Dependency of Jamaica). Not known when Administrator/Governor first adopted defaced Union Flag.

   (3) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement (but extensive local use of unofficial defacement).

3. **Canada.**

   a. **Manitoba.**

      (1) Grant of Arms (shield only) by Royal Warrant dated 10 May 1905.

      (2) Shield of Arms defaces Red Ensign (no background disc) to form provincial land flag; introduced on 12 May 1966 following provincial legislation and Royal approval (recorded at College of Arms in *I Series* Volume 83, p. 59 under authority of Royal Warrant; between 1 and 23 Sep 1965).

   b. **Nova Scotia.**

      (1) Restoration of 1625 grant of Arms by Royal Warrant dated 19 Jan 1929.

\(^{10}\) Information provided by private contact in FCO in 1997.
(2) Shield of Arms (within Canadian garland) defaces Union Flag to distinguish Lieutenant-Governor.

c. Ontario.

(1) Grant of Arms (shield only) by Royal Warrant dated 26 May 1868; augmented with crest, supporters and motto by further Royal Warrant dated 27 Feb 1909.

(2) Shield of Arms defaces Red Ensign (no background disc) to form provincial land flag; introduced on 21 May 1965 following provincial legislation and Royal approval.

4. Cook Islands (New Zealand Associated State).

a. Blue Ensign defaced with circle of 15 white stars introduced as State Flag on 4 Aug 1979 (recorded at College of Arms in I Series Volume 84, p. 64 under authority of Royal Warrant; 31 May 1979).

b. A similar flag with the Royal Crown within the circle of stars is used to distinguish The Queen's Representative.


a. Guernsey and Dependencies.

(1) 19th century flag badge used to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Lieutenant-Governor.

(2) 1985 authorization by Royal Warrant of defacement of Red Ensign with gold cross together with Guernsey land flag (recorded at College of Arms in I Series Volume 84, p. 272 under authority of Royal Warrant; 30 Apr 1985).

(3) Identical Blue Ensign defacement authorized by 11 Jul 2000 Secretary of State for Defence Warrant for all vessels owned by States of Guernsey.

(4) Alderney (Dependency of Guernsey). Blue Ensign defaced with 'the coat of arms of the States of Alderney' authorized by 15 Aug 2007 Secretary of State for Defence Warrant for 'vessels owned, chartered or hired by the States of Alderney'.

b. Jersey.

(1) 19th century flag badge used to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Lieutenant-Governor.

(2) Same badge defacing Blue Ensign (no background disc) authorized by Admiralty Warrant dated 2 Mar 1907 for specific steam tug owned by the States of Jersey. A similar Secretary of State for Defence Warrant was issued on 15 Jun 1967. A further Secretary of State for Defence Warrant issued in 1997 authorized the same Blue Ensign defacement for all vessels owned by the States of Jersey. Admiralty/Secretary of State for Defence Warrants considered necessary because Jersey not a colony.

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The 30 Apr 1985 Royal Warrant imposes a geographical restriction on the use of the Ensign; vessels owned by companies that are registered in Guernsey and have their principal place of business there may only fly and display the Ensign in waters adjacent to the Channel Islands. There is no such restriction on vessels owned by 'Our Subjects of Our Island of Guernsey'.

Flagmaster 093.
(3) No authorization of Red Ensign defacement.

c. Isle of Man.

(1) 19th century flag badge used to deface Union Flag (within garland) to distinguish Lieutenant-Governor.

(2) No authorization of defaced Blue Ensign for Government vessels.

(3) Red Ensign defaced with 'three legs in armour argent garnished and spurred or flexed at the knee and conjoined at the thigh' authorized by Royal Warrant dated 27 Aug 1971 for vessels belonging to 'Our faithful Subjects of Our Island of Man'; no stipulation that such vessels must be registered. Isle of Man Department of Trade and Industry advice is that the norm for Manx ships is the plain Red Ensign but that registered owners resident in the Isle of Man may, if they wish, fly on their British ships the defaced Red Ensign.

6. Fiji.

a. Grant of Arms by Royal Warrant dated 4 Jul 1908; the colonial flag badge comprised the full armorial achievement.

