

REMEMBRANCE OF WAR

Ralph Kelly

Compared to the many fine lectures at this Congress which outline learned research in specialized corners of vexillology, my lecture today is a simple tale. My story is illustrated by a stamp issued by Jersey in 1970 commemorating the 25th anniversary of the island's liberation at the end of World War II¹ (Figure 1). The stamp is typical of many designs which feature flags as a central element in their design. The flags of the Allies and Nazi Germany are immediately recognized by all. Most vexillologists would note the use of flags as effective symbols of nationhood set in a historical context, but otherwise think little about the design as the flags are so familiar. They hold no mystery of discovery equivalent to some other stamps which, for example, proclaimed the design of a newly independent nation's new flag or show the design of a flag of a Brazilian state (Figs. 2 and 3)².

A simple request last year has caused me to change my view of this Jersey stamp and, I think, gives a clue as to the meaning of what defines a vexillologist as distinct from someone who collects flags or has an interest in flags. I was asked by The Image Box, a design company in Melbourne to provide artwork for one of their projects commissioned by the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The Memorial is more than a monument to the fallen. It is a large museum that conserves and displays the mementoes of the wars in which Australians have fought. The Second World War Gallery has been revitalized and the curators wanted to include in the displays and maps the flags of the combatant nations. I was asked to provide historically accurate computer graphics of all the relevant national flags as they were in the period 1939-45. As I had the computer graphics programs and sufficient computer aided drawing experience, I confidently accepted the commission for these simple, familiar flags. No complicated military standards were required, only the simple task of reproducing 16 flags of Allied and Axis countries.

It is only when one sits down to re-draw a flag that the full details of a flag become apparent. I was soon to learn that most of these familiar war flags had design details that I had never consciously noticed. The difficulties that the ordinary vexillologist encounters in obtaining fully accurate design information on flags were highlighted and I was reminded of the differences between legislated official designs and the informality in usage of many flags as well as the needs of public recognition over strictly academic correctness.

Japan

I started with the flags of the three Axis powers. The Second World War threatened Australia with invasion and the predominant image was that of the rising sun war flag of Japan (Fig. 4). Japan's flag the *Hinomaru*. Featuring a red sun, the *Hinomaru* has an ancient lineage. Its proportions and use by shipping and the military was formally prescribed in the decrees of the Meiji Restoration Government in 1870⁴. The addition of 16 radiating rays creates the war flag, adopted in 1889⁵ for use as the ensign of the Imperial Japanese Navy and also as the main flag of the Army. Both flags are considered to be officially abolished by the revocation of military era laws by Allied occupation forces but their usage subsequently resumed⁶. They continue to evoke an emotional and political response as evidenced by the current controversy over the draft legislation to officially adopt the *Hinomaru* as the national flag.

Several sources for the design of the war flag were found, though a comparison was made between pre-war and current sources to confirm that the relative size and position of the disc had not altered from wartime specifications. Note the war flag's proportions of 2:3, with a circle half the diameter of the width of the flags, positioned $\frac{7}{18}$ th along the length. Each ray is an arc of 11.25 degrees. The rays start from the top hoist corner, with the edge of the ray in the corner.

Germany

The Swastika flag of Germany, the *Hakenkreuz*, is very familiar (Fig. 5). The swastika was established on 7 August 1920 as the official banner of the German National Socialist German Workers Party⁸, and the claim has been made that it was personally designed by Adolf Hitler⁹. It was adopted as one of two co-equal national flags on 22 April 1933¹⁰ replacing the Black-Red-Gold flag of the Weimar republic. After the Bremen incident¹¹, the Reich Flag Law of 15 September 1935 declared it to be the only national flag, and only German-blooded residents were given the honour of flying the *Hakenkreuz* "as a confirmation of the German Volk and assent to the state"¹².

My principal source for the drawing was naturally *Flaggenbuch* in a reproduction of the German Admiralty book of 1939¹³. The specifications for the national and marine flag was of a flag with the overall proportion of 3:5 featuring a central disc which was off-centre, being a circle $\frac{3}{4}$ the width of the flag, positioned $\frac{9}{20}$ ths along the length. This is an aspect that I had never before realized. By moving the white disk closer to the hoist, the design recognized the practical effects of a flying flag. Just as print designers have long recognized that the optical centre of a printed page is above the geometric centre, so did the German flag designers realize that, when flown, the flag with an off-centre device appeared to have a better balance than a centred flag. It is also of interest to note that the Japanese *Hinomaru* was also slightly off-centre (49:51) in its official pre-war specification. Whilst the official specification for an off-centred swastika flag was definitely mandated as the civil ensign, the record is less clear as to land usage, as many versions of the Swastika flag appear to have been made with the disk centred. Of the standard flag reference books consulted, only Whitney Smith shows an off-centred *Hakenkreuz*, identifying it only as the civil ensign¹⁴.

The German Armed Forces used a more elaborate flag as both the naval ensign and the war flag. (Fig. 6) The *Reichskriegsflagge* was used at military establishments and by army units, even replacing the elaborate unit specific military standards from 1944, when the risk of capture of the standards had increased¹⁵. Whilst consistency would have suggested that the *Reichskriegsflagge* be used in the Australian War Memorial display, the *Hakenkreuz* was used because of its greater public familiarity.

Italy

The Italian war flag was the green-white-red tricolour of the 1848 unification, with the addition of the royal arms of the House of Savoy (Fig. 7). *Das Flaggenbuch* was the most convenient source for the exact specifications of the size and positioning of the arms, the width of the border and cross and the details of the crown. Whilst the Italian maritime flag continues to add arms to the tricolour, there are significant differences, most notably the absence of the royal crown and a quartering of provincial badges, rather than the coat of arms of the Republic.

Poland

A review of the Allied flags shows the same proportionate level of change - about a third have changed completely and a third have altered in the details of their design. World War II is generally regarded as having begun with the invasion of Poland on 1st September 1939. The Polish national flag remains unchanged as a bicolour of white over red in the proportions 5:8 (Fig. 8). Though the addition of the Polish eagle is often made, this is strictly speaking only appropriate on the flags of Government and merchant shipping.

Great Britain

France and Great Britain declared war on Germany on 3rd September 1939 in response to the Polish invasion. The British flag remains unchanged, though it is often drawn with less accuracy as to the relative widths of the stripes and typically in shorter proportions than the 1:2 specified by the British Admiralty (Fig. 9). "BR20 Flags of all Nations" is naturally the preferred source for a drawing of the Union Jack¹⁶. It should be noted that the British flag lacks any legal status for its use other than as prescribed by the then King's Regulations for military usage¹⁷.

Australia

Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies addressed the nation with the words:

*"Fellow Australians. It is my melancholy duty to inform you officially that, in consequence of the persistence by Germany in her invasion of Poland, Great Britain has declared war upon her, and that, as a result, Australia is also at war."*¹⁸

This reflected the reality of 1939 that the Dominions still regarded themselves as constituent parts of the British Empire rather than the fully independent nations supposedly established by the Statute of Westminster in 1931. Australia's national flag (Fig. 10) has not changed in any aspect of its design since 1908, though there remains a debate about the historical usage of the Australian blue ensign (as distinct from the Australian red ensign) as a national flag for use by civilians prior to the enactment of the Flags Act of 1954, Schedule 1 of which provides exact specifications. There is however no doubt as to what coloured ensign should be displayed at the Australian War Memorial.

New Zealand

New Zealand's national flag (Fig. 11) was given a legislative basis from 12 June 1902¹⁹, though its usage dates back to 1869²⁰. In drawing the New Zealand flag it should of course be noted that the relative position of the stars of the Southern Cross differs slightly from the Australian version, as well as the more obvious differences in colour and size.

Canada

Not only was Canada's flag changed in 1965 to its current form, but the exact status of the Canadian red ensign in 1939 and the details of the badge also differ from the flag immediately preceding the adoption of the maple leaf flag. The use of a defaced red ensign by Canadian merchant vessels was authorized by the British Admiralty in 1892, which was a concession, since the proper colours for British Empire shipping generally was the undefaced British red ensign. In 1921 Canada was granted a coat of arms, the shield of which became the flag badge (Fig. 12). The heraldic description referred to the "third division argent, three maple leaves conjoined on one stem proper"²¹. Initially, this was taken to be a green leaf but in 1957 the blazon was reinterpreted and the maple underwent an autumnal change to red, nerved with gold. Other stylistic changes occurred to the badge, most significantly being the removal of the Maid of Erin from the Irish Harp in the third quarter of the Arms.

Officially the Union Jack remained the national flag of Canada, though an Army Order of 22 January 1944 declared that "The Canadian Red Ensign with the Shield of the Coat of Arms of Canada in the fly is to be flown at all units of the Canadian Army serving with forces of other nations."²² The political fears of any new flag had prevented the official recognition even of the land use of the Canadian Red Ensign until an order in Council dated 5 September 1945, declared

*That until such time as action is taken by Parliament for the formal adoption of a national flag, it is desirable to authorize the flying of the Canadian Red Ensign on federal government buildings within as well as without Canada.*²³

South Africa

South Africa alone among the British Commonwealth Nations paused in the rush to war to have a parliamentary vote. Prime Minister Barry Hertzog preferred neutrality from a British war. However his coalition government split and war was declared the day after the Anglo-French declaration²⁴. The national flag from 1928 to 1994 reflected South Africa's rejection of Imperial sentiments and its diverse heritage (Fig. 13)²⁵. The debate about the adoption of the flag is well chronicled²⁶, though the compromise decision to include the flags of the two former Boer republics and the Union Jack resulted in a finely balanced heraldic solution²⁷. The design detail of the reversed Union Jack was often overlooked by the casual flag artist or manufacturer²⁸.

India

The Australian War Memorial also wished to use a flag to represent India. Prior to independence, India had a fairly unique position within the British Empire. Remarkably, India was a member of the

League of Nations, notwithstanding its lack of Dominion status²⁹. The practice appears to have developed for India to be represented outside of India by a British Union Jack defaced with the Star of India badge surmounted by an Imperial Crown (Fig. 14). Strictly this was the flag of the Viceroy, but it was also used by Indian diplomatic representatives. The alternative of a red ensign defaced by the badge would have also been used on some occasions. Whilst neither flag would have been used by Indian military forces, on balance, the use of the Viceroy's flag seemed a reasonable choice for the purposes of the display. Obtaining a good quality image of the Viceroy's flag was a little difficult in the end I resorted to creating a drawing based on the "Flaggenbuch", with the finest detail being achieved by reference to a photograph of an actual Star of India insignia (Fig. 15)³⁰.

France

France also declared war on Germany in response to the Polish invasion and in June 1940 an armistice was signed following the German invasion. A government in exile was established and Free French military forces were established under the command of General Charles de Gaulle. The Australian War Memorial wanted to clearly represent the Free French forces in its display and this was effected by adding the Cross of Lorraine to the French national flag (Fig. 16). The exact shape of the cross is still to be found in the specialist Jack used by vessels under the command of persons who were in the Free French forces³¹.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands was invaded by the Germans in May 1940 and some anti-German military forces continued to operate from England and in the colonies, most significantly the Dutch East Indies. No addition to the Dutch national flag was made by resistance forces (Fig. 17).

Greece

The Second Australian Imperial Force served in North Africa initially against Italian, and later German forces. In April 1941 the 6th Division was despatched to Greece to assist in the defence against the German invasion. The principal difficulty in reproducing the Greek national flag was to determine what shade of blue should be used. After reviewing a number of contemporary sources, I formed the view that the most prevalent shade of blue in use in the 1940's would have been a light blue. It should be noted that the striped Greek flag (Fig. 18) was more typically used outside of Greece, with the simple white St George's cross on a blue flag being the official national flag for use within Greece until 1970 when the military regime introduced new flag laws, including designating a dark blue shade of blue for the national flag and changing the proportion from the previous 2:3³².

Soviet Union

The Islamic saying of "my enemy's enemy is my friend" came into play in June 1941 following the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Again a very familiar flag, but few would realise that the form of drawing of the hammer and sickle emblem was altered from 19 August 1955³³. The original stylization of the hammer and sickle was established in November 1923 and was larger and closer to the hoist than the later version and the details of the handle and hammer-head differed (Fig. 19).

China

China and Japan had been in armed conflict since the Japanese seized the Manchurian railway in September 1931 and established the puppet state of Manchukuo in February 1932. The flag of the Republic of China dates from 8 October 1928 when it was adopted by the new Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek (Fig. 20)³⁴. The flag features the sun symbol of the Kuomintang Party, which had originally been designed in 1895 shortly after the party's founding by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The Chinese flag was referred to as the "White Sun in Blue Sky over Red Land" flag and continues to be used on Taiwan, the only territory still controlled by the Nationalists after the civil war resulted in Communist Party control of mainland China.

United States

With the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, the United States became the

last of the main combatants to enter the war. Almost everyone is familiar with the changes of the United States flag as new states are admitted, though it still surprises me how often the props department of a movie production fails to remember the long-lived 48 star of 1912 to 1959³⁵ (Fig. 21). Personally, the most remarkable aspect about the United States flag is the great difficulty it is for a private individual to obtain a correctly proportioned US flag. Virtually every flag sold in the US is made to the proportions 3:5 or 5:8 rather than the official 10:19³⁶.

An Executive Order of President Taft dated 29 October 1912 sets out detailed specifications for the size and positioning of the stars and stripes and these are most conveniently found in the 1917 edition of the *National Geographic Magazine* ³⁷. This represented the first official standardization of the design of the US flag deemed necessary after a survey of government agencies identified 66 different sizes, most with varying proportions³⁸. Standardization ended the varied constellations of star patterns, leaving only the length of the 'stripes' to the whim of the manufacturers. Perhaps vexillologists should describe a US flag corresponding to the official specifications as the state flag and war ensign and describe the shorter version as the national flag for civil use.

Conclusions

What then are the lessons of my tale? Certainly the task was more complex than anticipated due to the standards of accuracy I imposed upon myself. I believe that the exercise showed me that yes I had crossed over from the flag enthusiast to the vexillologist. I was interested in the history and origins of the flags, the details of usage, variations in the finer details of the designs and I had pride that I could share the information through my historically accurate drawings. The difference is analogous to that between a stamp collector and a philatelist. A degree of specialization is involved in becoming an "expert", but I personally have sought to maintain a general interest in world national flags alongside my specialist research into Australia's flag history.

The other lesson centres on the practical difficulties of ordinary flag enthusiasts acquiring the knowledge to become a vexillologist. Some delegates to this Congress have commercialized their interest in flags - mostly as flag manufacturers or retailers, some as authors and consultants. By profession I am a corporate financial advisor and one of the arts of consulting is to display enough expertise to impress the prospective client that he has a need for your professional advice, but to not give away enough information as to enable the prospective client to avoid paying you for your services. My brief dabble in commercial flag consulting brought home to me that there is a real tension between the needs and desires of non-commercial vexillologists for an open exchange of information and the copyright and business interests of commercial vexillologists.

I don't think that the answer lies in efforts to preserve the exclusivity and secrecy of information. The wider fields of science acknowledge the ethical and commercial needs to protect intellectual property rights and proprietary products, but if these rights are fully acknowledged and, as appropriate, paid for then the knowledge is available for other scientists to build upon to the betterment of the particular scientific field. To withhold information on what should be the correct transformation of a shade of red from the Standard Color Reference of America cable number 80108 to a Pantone Matching System number, without the payment of a fee to a flag consultant, merely denies Americans accurately produced flags.

Non-commercial vexillologists sometimes do give away information on flag specifications, but only because they are appalled at the lack of quality in so many flag items. The manufacturers of shoddy flag items are not denying the professional flag consultants a fee, for they are not sufficiently quality conscious to seek the advice. In the field of Law, the legislation and case precedents are not secret, but good lawyers exist to identify the relevant law, interpret it and provide advice relevant to the client's specific circumstances. Good lawyers use commercial legal information services which have as their goal the accurate collection and classification of information for as wide an audience as possible. The wider availability of reliable semi-public information lifts the standards expected of the professionals in a virtuous circle of quality.

My exercise in trying to obtain highly accurate information on 50-year-old flags would be only a little easier for a set of modern flags. The challenge in expanding the ranks of vexillologists is for there to be a shared recognition that the so-called "hobbyist" should not be forced to reinvent the wheel. Whilst the so-called "professionals" should be entitled to commercial returns for their efforts,

this should be balanced with an obligation on flag consultants to provide a quality of information to hobbyists equal or indeed a superior information service, because they are more interested. This Congress is a meeting that shares the views of vexillologists from around the world - I hope it inspires all of us to think about the balance of interests involved in us all progressing the science of vexillology.

Notes

- 1 Stamp issued 9 May 1970, Scotts Catalogue Number 26 (Jersey)
- 2 Fig. 2 shows a stamp issued 12 July 1979 to commemorate the Independence of the Gilbert Islands as Kiribati (Scott Catalogue no. 325, Kiribati). Fig. 3 is one of a series of Brazilian stamps issued from 1981 to 1985, this stamp featuring the state flag of Mato Grosso.
- 3 More information on the Australian War Memorial can most readily found at its web site at www.awm.gov.au.
- 4 Decree 57 of the Central Government of the Restoration, dated 27 January in the third year of Meiji (1870 AD) established the Merchant Flag with a proportion of 7:10, the diameter of the circle being 3/5ths of the hoist and the disk centred on a point off-centre towards the hoist at a point 49/100ths of the length. Decree 651 dated 3 October 1870 established the navy flags with a proportion of 2:3, the diameter of the circle also 3/5ths of the hoist but fully centred. These proportions are sourced from "The Proportions of the Japanese Flag" by Tokuo Tanino, *The Flag Bulletin*, Vol. 6 No.4 (Issue 23) Fall 1967. *The National Flags of the World* by Tsutomu Kano (1972, Color Books, Hokusha Publishing Co, Osaka) indicates use of the rising-sun flag as early as the 7th century and states that the first display of the Hinomaru as the symbol of the nation was on the occasion of its use by the ship, Kanrinmaru on its voyage to the United States in 1860 carrying the first overseas diplomatic delegation.
- 5 November 3, 1889 - Source: *Flags Through the Ages and Across the World* by Whitney Smith, page 172 (1975, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York)
- 6 Use of the naval ensign was restored with the formation of the Self Defence Forces in June 1954, though the land forces use a flag with eight red rays with gold triangles between the points of the rays.
- 7 In March 1999, the Japanese Cabinet decided to introduce a bill to officially recognize the *Hinomaru* flag, but its submission to the Diet was delayed by opposition parties. Toshihiro Ishikawa, a high school principal in Hiroshima Prefecture committed suicide in February 1999 to protest an Education Ministry directive to hoist the Rising Sun flag and play the Imperial Anthem, the *Kimigayo*, at his school's graduation ceremony. The flag and anthem are still associated with Japan's past militarism. (Associated Press, 4 April, 1999, reproduced at *Flag Wire* - www.flagwire.com). The *Hinomaru* was never specifically authorized for use by Japanese civilians, a situation analogous to the Union Jack's lack of official status as a national flag.
- 8 The correct title for the Nazi Party was the NSDAP - Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei.
- 9 The claim is made by Adolf Hitler in *Mein Kampf* and appears in several sources including page 938 of *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, ed. by Christian Zentner and Friedemann Bedürftig, English translation by Amy Hackett, New York, Macmillan, 1991.
- 10 The Swastika flag was authorized together with the restoration of the Black-White-Red national flag of 1867-1919.
- 11 United States authorities refused to prosecute protestors who vandalized the Swastika flag on the German ship Bremen as they claimed it was merely a party flag. See "Famous Flag Incidents - The Bremen Incident, 1935" in *Flagmaster*, No. 92 (Winter 1998, The Flag Institute)
- 12 Pages 272 and 445 of *The Encyclopedia of the Third Reich*, op. cit.
- 13 Facsimile edition of *Das Flaggenbuch des Oberkommandos der Deutschen Kriegsmarine* (Flag Book of the Supreme Command of the German Navy) published by Mauritius Buch-Verlag GmbH in 1992, originally published in 1939.
- 14 Smith, page 172, op. cit.
- 15 The National War Flag was introduced on 7 November 1935 and had proportions 3:5. A Führer Order dated 28 August 1944 instructed that unit Colours were to be handed over to the military museums for safe keeping and the Reichskriegsflagge was to be used in place of the unit Colours. Page 17 of *Flags of the Third Reich 1: Wehrmacht* by Brian L. Davis and Malcolm McGregor (1994, Osprey Publishing Ltd., London).
- 16 *Flags of all Nations* by Ministry of Defence, page xv (1999 rev. ed., The Stationery Office Ltd., London)
- 17 The only authorization for use of the Union Jack as a national flag is derived from the 14 July 1908 statement in the House of Lords by the Earl of Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies that "The Union Jack should be regarded as the national flag; every British citizen has the right to fly the Union Jack on land" and a similar statement made by the Home Secretary in 1933. See footnotes at page 73 of *British Flags* by W.G. Perin (1922, Cambridge University Press) and page 24 of *The New Zealand Ensign* by W. A. Gtue, (1922, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington) together with page 39 of *Flags of the World* by H. Gresham Carr (1953, Frederick Warne, London).
- 18 *Australia: Spirit of a Nation* by Michael Cannon, page 162 (1985, Currey O'Neil Ross Pty. Ltd., Melbourne)
- 19 The date of Royal Assent to the New Zealand Ensign Act 1901, which had been passed the New Zealand Parliament on 5 November 1901.
- 20 "Australian State Flags (1865-1904): A British Admiralty Legacy", Ralph Kelly in *Report of the 13th International Congress of Vexillology*, Melbourne 1989, published by Flag Society of Australia.
- 21 The full heraldic description, as originally worded, is reproduced at page 64, *Canada: Symbols of Sovereignty*, Conrad Swan (1977, University of Toronto Press, Toronto)
- 22 page 38, *Canada's Flag: A Search for a Country* by John Ross Matheson (1980, G.K. Hall and Co., Boston)
- 23 Page 40, Matheson, *ibid*. These statements mirror a similar wartime announcement by Australian Prime Minister Menzies of 15 March 1941 providing permission for the Australian public to fly the Commonwealth blue ensign on land.
- 24 See page 345 of *Illustrated History of South Africa: The Real Story* (1994, Reader's Digest, Cape Town)
- 25 Adopted by the Union Nationality and Flags Act 1927, the official hoisting was held in Cape Town on 31 May 1928. Until 1957, the National Flag of the Union was one of two co-equal national flags sharing the honour with the British Union Jack.
- 26 *The South African Flag Controversy 1925-1928* by Harry Saker (1980, Oxford University Press, Cape Town) and *National and Provincial Symbols and flora and fauna emblems of the Republic of South Africa* by F. J. Brownell (1993, Chris van Rensburg Publications, Johannesburg).
- 27 The Union Jack and Orange Free State flags are in heraldically superior positions but are reversed, compensating for the inferior positioning of the correctly facing Vierkleur.
- 28 Even the illustration of the South African flag in the frontispiece to Saker's book failed to reverse the Union Jack.
- 29 The original members of the League of Nations included the "British Empire" consisting of Australia, Canada, Great Britain, India, New Zealand and South Africa. This special status continued with India being an original member of the United Nations prior to its achieving independence in 1947. The full list of members and the Covenant of the League of Nations is included in the Appendix to the novel *Grand Days* by Frank Moorhouse (1993, Picador, Sydney).

30 King George V's Mantle Star of the Order of the Star of India - page 121 of *Royal Insignia: British and Foreign Orders of Chivalry from the Royal collection* by Stephen Patterson, (1996, Merrell Holberton, London)

31 Page 111 of *Album des Pavillons* published by Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine (1990, S.H.O.M., Brest)

32 Page 111, "New Flags" in *The Flag Bulletin*, Vol. IX:4 (Issue number 35, Fall 1970). The basic form of the Greek flag dates to 1822 upon achieving independence from the Ottoman Empire. The designs of the land and naval flags were first established by a decree dated March 1822 - see page 10 of English translation of *Hellenic Flags: Insignia & Emblems* by Helen P. Kokkonis and Katerina Korre-Zografou (1990, published by G. Tsiveriotis, Athens).

33 Smith, page 283 op. cit. Specification of the 1923 pattern was given in a Decree of 18 April 1924 where it is described as "A red (or scarlet) rectangular flag, with a proportion of length to width of 2:1. A gold sickle and hammer with a radius of one-sixth the width of the flag in the upper left corner; above the sickle and hammer, a red-five pointed star edged in gold; the diameter of the star equal to one-tenth of the width of the flag." The Decree is reproduced at page 45 of "Soviet Statutes and Decisions" in *The Flag Bulletin*, Vol. XI:1 (Issue number 39, Fall-Winter 1971-72).

34 Smith, page 109, op. cit. This is also the source for the description, the "White Sun in Blue Sky over Red Land Flag".

35 The 48 star flag was adopted on 4 July 1912 following the admission of Arizona and New Mexico to the Union and it was the longest in use of any US flag variant. A 49-star flag was used for one year from 4 July 1959 to 4 July 1960 reflecting Alaska's statehood which preceded that of Hawaii by seven months.

36 The origins of 10:19 has been attributed by David Prothero (*Flags of the World* email, 31 January 1999) to the proportions of British Naval flags in the 1770's, which were 19 inches by 3 yards (1.8947) - close to the 10:19 specification (1.90).

37 "Flags of the World" by Byron McCandless and Gilbert Grosvenor in *National Geographic Magazine* No. 4, Vol. 32, 1917.

38 Page 168 of *Flags of the USA* by David Eggenberger (1964, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York).

Ralph Kelly

Ralph Kelly is an Australian from Sydney. Vexillology is a hobby interest to Ralph, who drew his first flag over thirty years ago. Over that period he has progressed from waiting to see the new national flags in the next edition of an encyclopaedia to undertaking extensive archival research on Australian flags. Ralph presented papers at the 13th and 17th International Congresses of Vexillology based on his research into the history of Australian flags and his involvement in the Australian Flag debate. He is a treasurer and a former President of the Flag Society of Australia. He is also a regular contributor of articles and illustrations to *Crux Australis*.

As a Director of Ausflag, Ralph provides a vexillological perspective on the entity's promotional and political lobbying for a new Australian national flag. His lecture printed here is an example of computer-aided vexillology.

Ralph Kelly, right, in sun-glasses, appears in the photo below at the foot of a totem in Victoria, B.C., alongside ICV 18 organizer James Webb.



Fig. 1

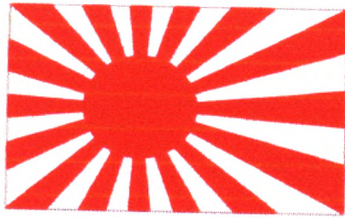


Fig. 2

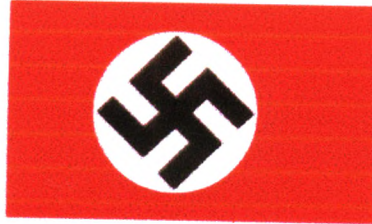


Fig. 3

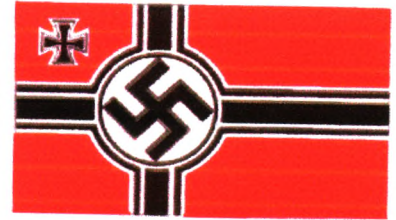
Ralph Kelly : Remembrance of War, Col. Plate I



Japan



Germany



Germany War Flag and Ensign



Italy



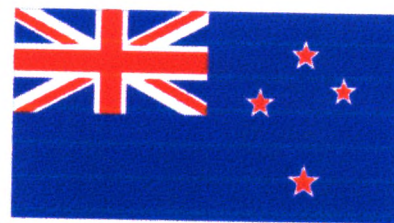
Poland



Great Britain



Australia



New Zealand



Canada



Union of South Africa

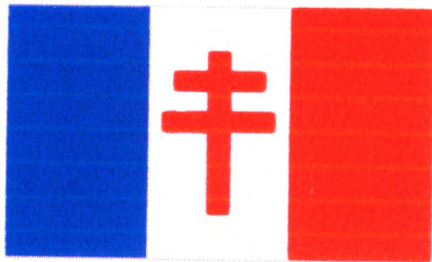
Ralph Kelly : Remembrance of War, Col. Plate II



India



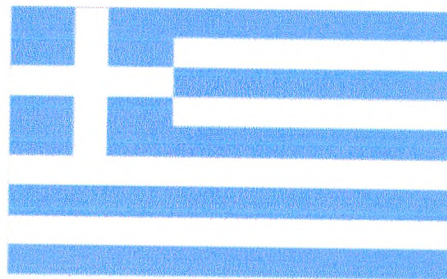
Star of India Badge



France



The Netherlands



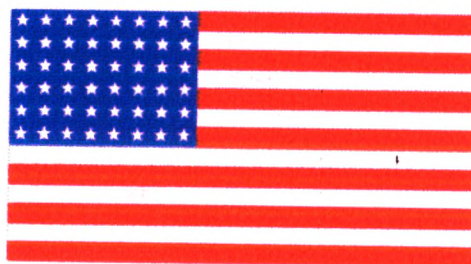
Greece



Soviet Union



Republic of China



United States of America