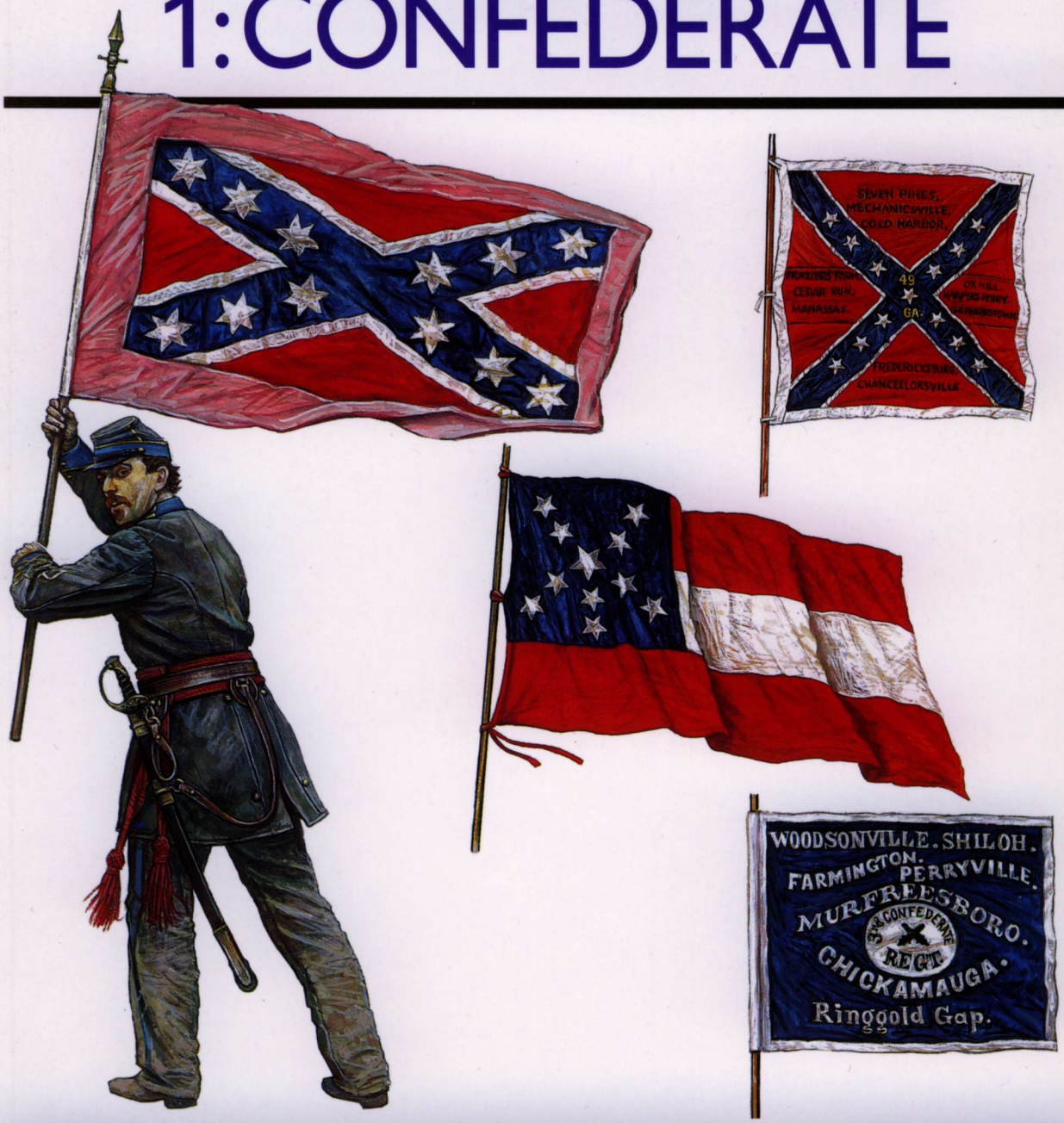
OSPREY MILITARY
MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES 252

FLAGS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1: CONFEDERATE

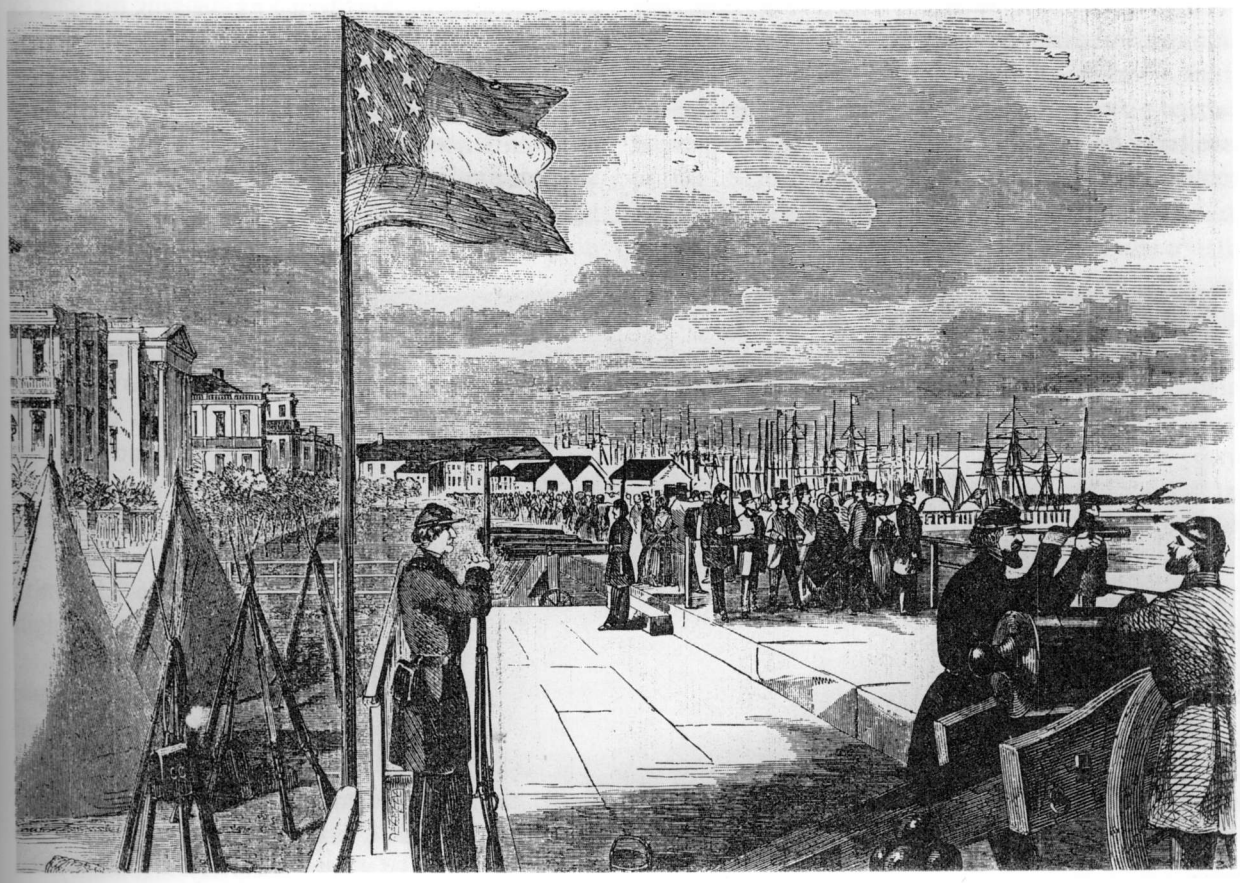


PHILIP KATCHER RICK SCOLLINS

INTRODUCTION

The very heart of the Confederate fighting unit was its flag, which came in a variety of designs and colours. The flag was the rallying point on the field of battle; it marked the unit headquarters in camp. In the South in 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, Private Sam Watkins of the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment recalled: 'Flags made by the ladies were presented to companies, and to hear the young orators tell of how they would protect the flag, and that they would come back with the flag or come not at all, and if they fell they would fall with their backs to the field and their feet to the foe, would fairly make our hair stand on end with intense patriotism, and we wanted to march right off and whip twenty Yankees.' And in 1865, at the war's end, it was the furling of the defeated Confederate banners that marked the final closing of that episode in history. 'For want of strength,' sang Confederate veterans in their song *Wearing of the Grey*, 'we yield them up the day, and lower the flag so proudly borne, while wearing of the grey.'

The generally accepted jargon for the elements of flags and their components is used throughout this book. The *canton* is the square or rectangle placed on the top of the flag next to the pole or staff. A *border* is



The regulation First National Flag flies over fortifications in Charleston, South Carolina, harbour in this 1861* Harper's Weekly *illustration. Note that the seven stars are arranged in the proper circle.

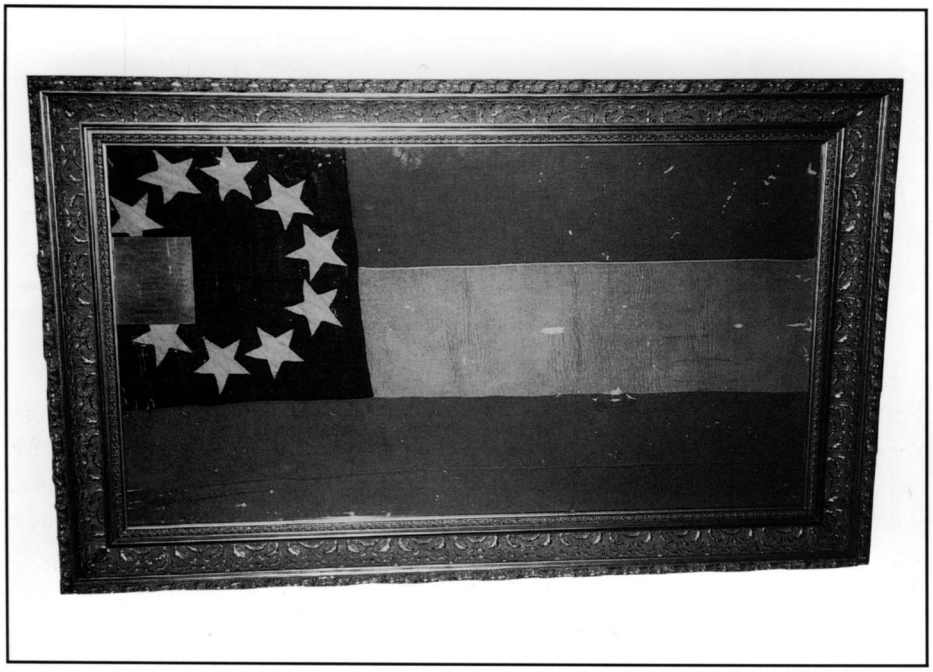
the flag's edging when rendered in a different colour than the *field*, the main part of the flag. *Fimbration* is the narrow edging used to separate different colours on a flag; it is often white. The *hoist* is the side of the flag next to the staff, while the *fly* is the opposite side. When, as is normal, the flag is shown with the hoist on the left and the fly on the right, this is the *obverse* or front of the flag; the side seen when the hoist is on the right and the fly on the left is the *reverse*, or rear. The staff itself is the *stave*; the metal top of the stave, usually a spearhead, an axehead or an eagle, is the *finial*; the metal cap at the bottom of the stave is the *ferrule*. Many flags have cords and tassels hanging from the finial, although this was rare among Confederate flags; collectively, these are simply referred to as *cords*. Finally, *ensigns* are national flags used on a ship, as well as the rank of a Confederate commissioned colour bearer after 17 February 1864; *jacks* are small flags flown at the bow of a ship in port; a *colour* is carried by an infantry or foot artillery regiment; a *standard* is carried by a mounted unit; a *camp colour* was a small flag used to indicate the location in camp of the unit (these seen to have seen little use among Confederates); and a *flag* is, strictly, that flown from a building or over a post and is not actually carried—although 'flag' is a generally accepted generic term for all flown cloth insignia that represent some nation or organization.

THE FIRST NATIONAL FLAG

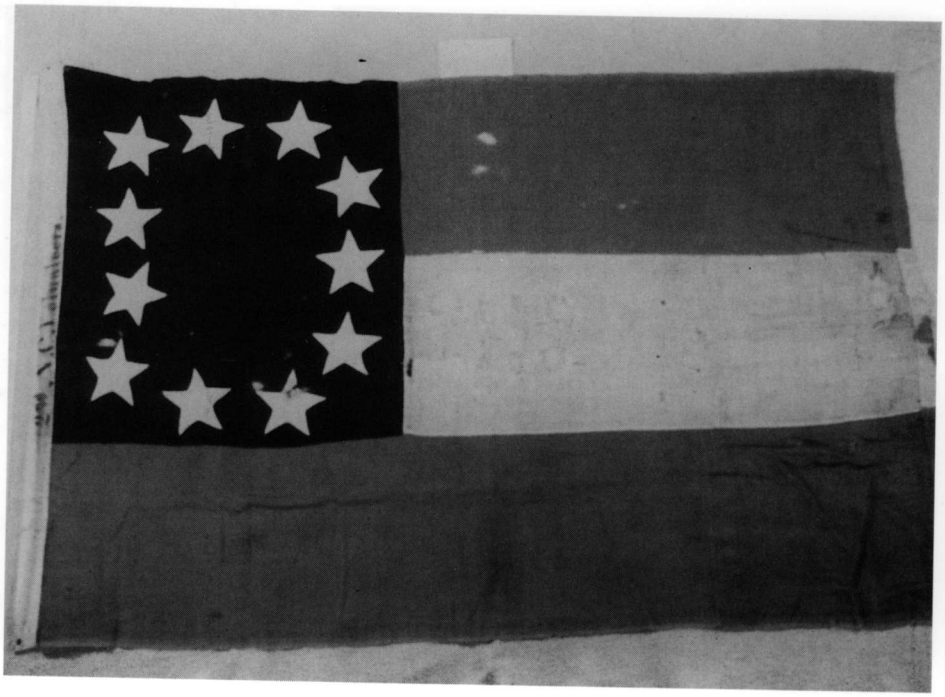
When Jefferson Davis was sworn into office as the President of the provisional government of the new Confederate States of America on 18 February 1861 in Montgomery, Alabama, the flag that floated over the scene was that of the state of Alabama. The states which had so recently left the almost hundred-year-old United States to form their own government had no flag to represent their new nation.

The first flag used to represent the seceding southern states as a whole had a blue field with a single white five-pointed star in its centre. This flag was first displayed during the Convention of the People in Mississippi, 9 January 1861, as the flag of the Republic of Mississippi, which had been in existence for only one month. The flag was described in a widely popular song, *The Bonnie Blue Flag*, which was written by Harry Macarthy and first sung in New Orleans a short time later. Texans en route to join the Army of Northern Virginia sang the song in that city in September 1861. Although this design was used by several southern states and became a southern symbol, it was never officially adopted by the Confederacy as a whole.

Some military units also carried this flag; one was



This regulation First National Flag, one star hidden by a written description of how it was captured, was taken from an unknown Confederate unit on the Peninsula in 1862. Made entirely of cotton, it measures 31 inches by 57 inches. (Courtesy Mike Miner)



The First National Flag carried by the 2nd Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. The regimental designation has been stencilled on the hoist border, which also has three eyelet holes for attachment to the staff. The entire flag is hand-sewn. (North Carolina Museum of History)

carried by the 8th Texas Cavalry with its unit designation 'Terry's Texas Rangers' in yellow above the star.

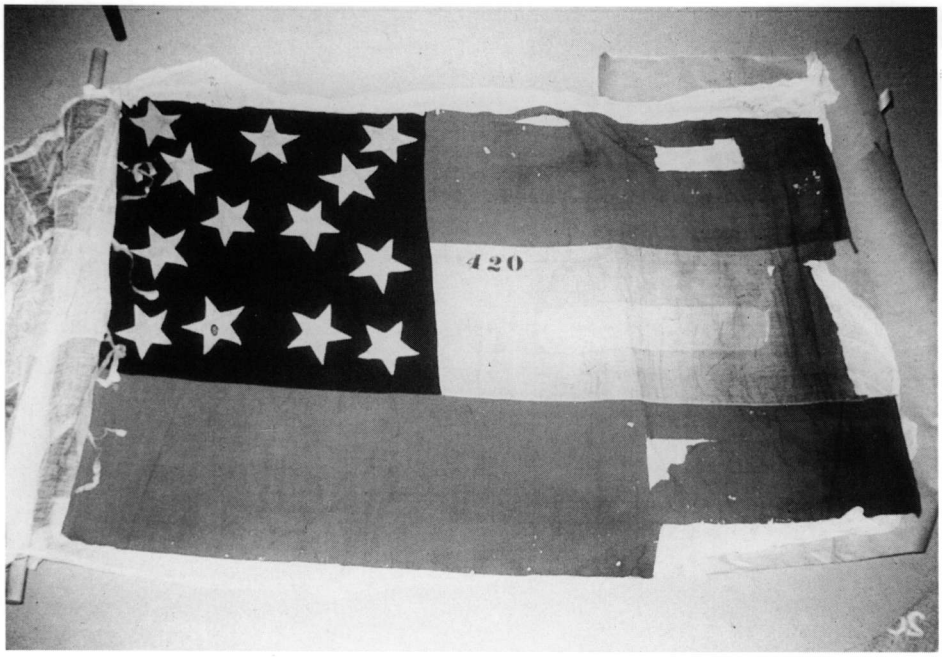
On 9 February the new country's Provisional Congress appointed six of their members to a committee to select a new flag from among the dozens of proposals which had been submitted to the Congress. In less than a month, in early March, the committee had four proposed sample flags hung on the walls of Congress.

According to the final report of the committee to Congress, the search was a difficult one. The committee, they wrote, had 'given this subject due consideration, and carefully inspected all the designs and models submitted to them. The number of these has been immense, but they all may be divided into two great classes.

'First. Those which copy and preserve the principal features of the United States flag, with slight and unimportant modifications.

'Second. Those which are very elaborate, complicated, or fantastical. The objection to the first class is, that none of them at any considerable distance could readily be distinguished from the one which they imitate. Whatever attachment may be felt, from association for the "Stars and Stripes" (an attachment which your committee may be permitted to say they do not all share), it is manifest that in inaugurating a new government we can not with any propriety, or without encountering very obvious practical difficulties, retain the flag of the Government from which we have withdrawn. There is no propriety in retaining the ensign of a government which, in the opinion of the States comprising this Confederacy, had become so oppressive and injurious to their interests as to require their separation from it. It is idle to talk of "keeping" the flag of the United States when we have voluntarily seceded from them. It is superfluous to dwell upon the practical difficulties which would flow from the fact of two distinct and probably hostile governments, both employing the same or very similar flags. It would be a political and military solecism. It would lead to perpetual disputes. As to "the glories of the old flag," we must bear in mind that the battles of the Revolution, about which our fondest and proudest memories cluster, were not fought beneath its folds. And although in more recent times—in the war of 1812 and in the war with Mexico—the South did win her fair share of glory, and shed her full measure of blood under its guidance and in its defense, we think the impartial page of history will preserve and commemorate the fact more imperishably than a mere piece of striped bunting. . . .

'The committee, in examining the representa-



This First National Flag, with its randomly placed stars, was carried by the 34th Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. The number '420' stamped in black on the white bar is the US Army's War Department capture number. (North Carolina Museum of History)

tions of the flags of all countries, found that Liberia and the Sandwich Islands had flags so similar to that of the United States that it seemed to them an additional, if not itself a conclusive, reason why we should not "keep," copy, or imitate it.... It must be admitted, however, that something was conceded by the committee to what seemed so strong and earnest a desire to retain at least a suggestion of the old "Stars and Stripes." So much for the mass of models and designs more or less copied from, or assimilated to, the United States flag.

'With reference to the second class of designs—those of an elaborate and complicated character (but many of them showing considerable artistic skill and taste)—the committee will merely remark, that however pretty they may be, when made by the cunning skill of a fair lady's fingers in silk, satin, and embroidery, they are not appropriate as flags. A flag should be simple, readily made, and above all, capable of being made of bunting. It should be different from the flag of any other country, place or people. It should be significant. It should be readily distinguishable at a distance. The colors should be well contrasted and durable, and, lastly and not the least important point, it should be effective and handsome.

'The committee humbly think that the flag which they submit combines these requisites. It is very easy to make. It is entirely different from any national flag. The three colors of which it is composed – red, white, and blue—are the true republican colors. In heraldry they are emblematic of the three great virtues—of valor, purity, and truth. Naval men assure us that it can be recognized and distinguished at a great distance. The colors contrast admirably and are lasting. In effect and appearance it must speak for itself.'

The first hung on the chamber's walls, although not the committee's final choice, eventually became the symbol of the Confederacy as the battle flag of the Army of Northern Virginia as well as other Confederate military organizations. It featured a blue St. Andrew's Cross, or 'saltire' (or 'saltive' – the former is the older spelling), edged or 'fimbrated' in white, on a red field, with a white star representing each state on the saltire. It had been designed by Congressman W. Porcher Miles of South Carolina, the committee chairman.

The second flag was a close copy of the US 'stars and stripes' national flag, save that the stripes were made of red and blue, whilst the canton or 'union' remained blue with a white star for each state.

The third rectangular flag was described as 'a red field with a blue ring or circle in the centre'.

The fourth flag was that which was finally chosen and is now known as the 'First National Flag' of the

Confederacy. On 4 March, after giving members a chance to examine the four leading candidates, the committee recommended in its final report 'that the flag of the Confederate States of America shall consist of a red field with a white space extending horizontally through the center and equal in width to one-third of the width of the flag, and red spaces above and below to the same width as the white, the union blue extending down through the white space and stopping at the lower red space, in the center of the union a circle of white stars corresponding in number with the States of the Confederacy'.

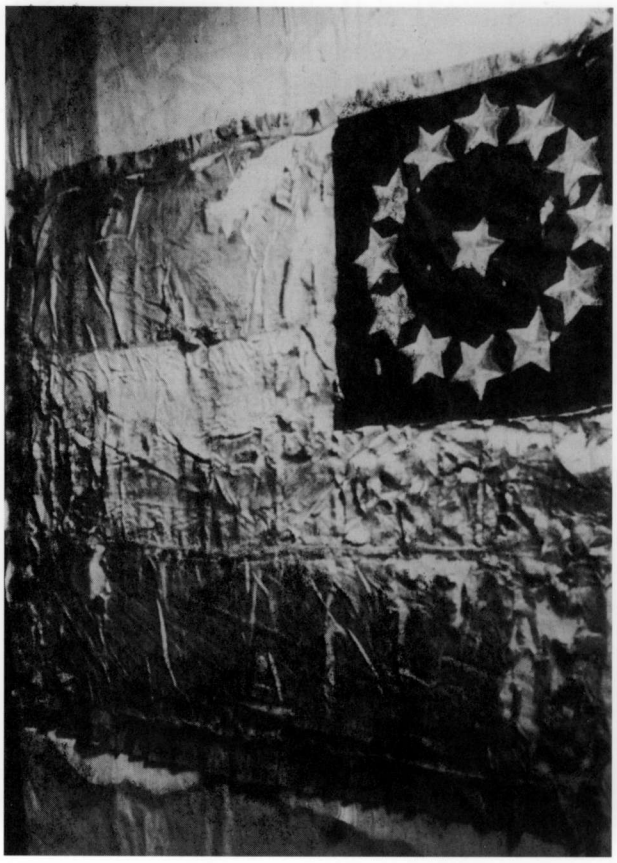
Two men claimed to have designed this flag. The first was Nicola Marschall, a Prussian artist living in Montgomery, Alabama, who also claimed credit for the Confederate Army uniform design. He said that he took the basic form from the Austrian flag which had three horizontal stripes, the top and bottom one of red and the middle one of white. The letter suggesting this design was dated 2 March 1861 and would seem to back his claim. Marschall offered several variations of the canton placement, having it in the centre of the white stripe or against the hoist on the white stripe as well as in the traditional union location.

The other person who claimed to have designed the flag was Orren R. Smith, a North Carolinian. His design, he said, came from the Trinity, with the three bars standing for the state with its judiciary, legislative, and executive branches; the church; and the press. They were bound by the blue canton, with the stars in a circle signifying mutual defence.

In 1915 the United Confederate Veterans accepted Smith's claim, although in 1931 the Alabama Department of Archives and History produced a study done by the state legislature which accepted Marschall's claim. In fact, both men probably offered similar designs virtually simultaneously, since the fairly plain design was quite similar to that of the United States. Indeed, as seen, the committee noted in its final report that 'the mass of models and designs' for flags it received were 'more or less copied from or assimilated to, the United States flag'.

At any rate, in a hurry to get a flag approved in time for a scheduled flag raising on 4 March, the date United States President Abraham Lincoln was to be sworn into office, Congress approved the committee's findings, taking its report into the Congressional journal with language unchanged. The result was that the so-called First National Flag was never officially adopted as the flag of the Confederacy by a full Congressional vote in a formal 'flag act' or bill. Nevertheless, for fully two years this flag was the one flown over official buildings and by many military units in the field. Indeed, since generally each Confederate regiment or independent battalion or squadron carried only one colour, although it was usually referred to as 'colors', the First National Flag was the only colour carried by such organizations as e.g. Georgia's Cobb's Legion.

In one respect the committee's language was rather vague: it included no proportions of the height on the hoist, or staff, to the length of the fly. Each maker was free to produce a flag of this design that best matched his or her aesthetic tastes. A study of



This First National Flag shows an arrangement of stars in the canton for the final, maximum number of stars used in Confederate flags, 13. The stars are actually embroidered on the canton. (North Carolina Museum of History)

Confederate flags produced by H. Michael Madaus and Robert D. Needham shows that almost a third (30 per cent) of surviving First National Flags are proportioned 2:3 (hoist:fly). However, 21 per cent of these flags have proportions of 3:5, 13 per cent have proportions of 5:9, and some ten per cent each have proportions of 1:2 and 3:4. First National Flags produced west of the Mississippi River appear slightly more than the average proportioned 1:2, a proportion not at all common in English flags.

Equally, although officially the blue canton was to bear a circle of equally sized stars, in fact First National Flags came with a variety of designs, especially as additional states joined the Confederacy. By the third week of May Virginia and Arkansas added two more stars to the original seven. As of 2 July the canton had 11 stars, following the admission of North Carolina and Tennessee to the Confederacy. Missouri's addition on 28 November gave the flag 12 stars, while the final number of 13 was reached on 10 December with Kentucky's joining the Southern states.

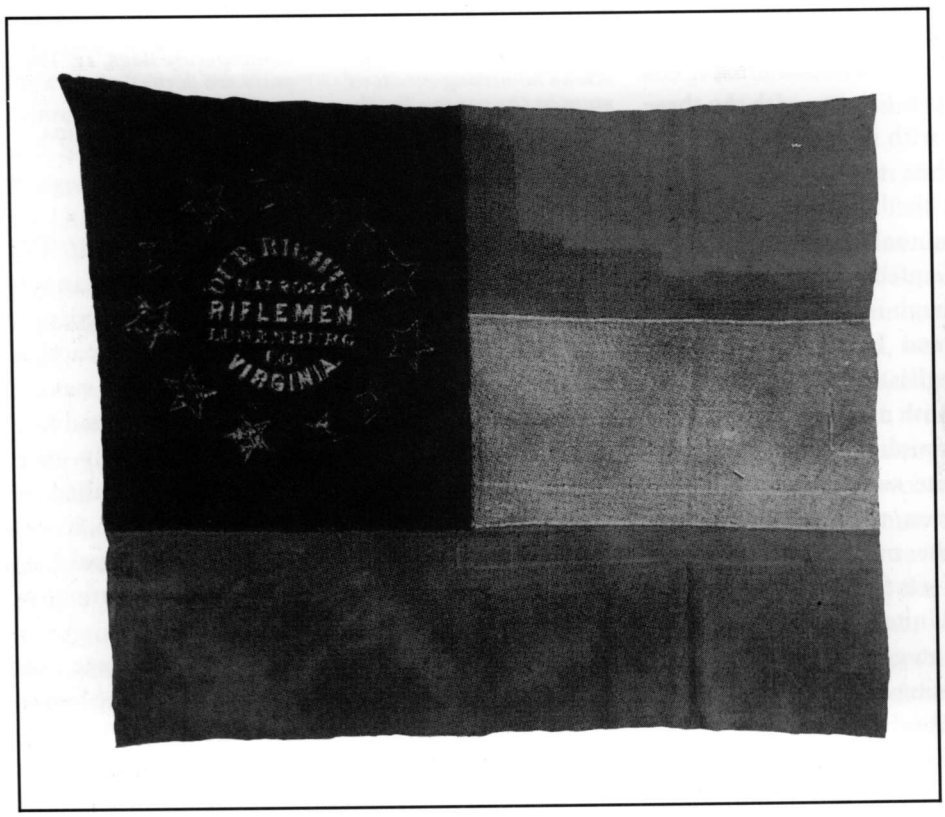
The style of star, i.e. the number of rays, was not spelled out by Congress; however, the five-pointed star as used in the United States flag was the most common style used.

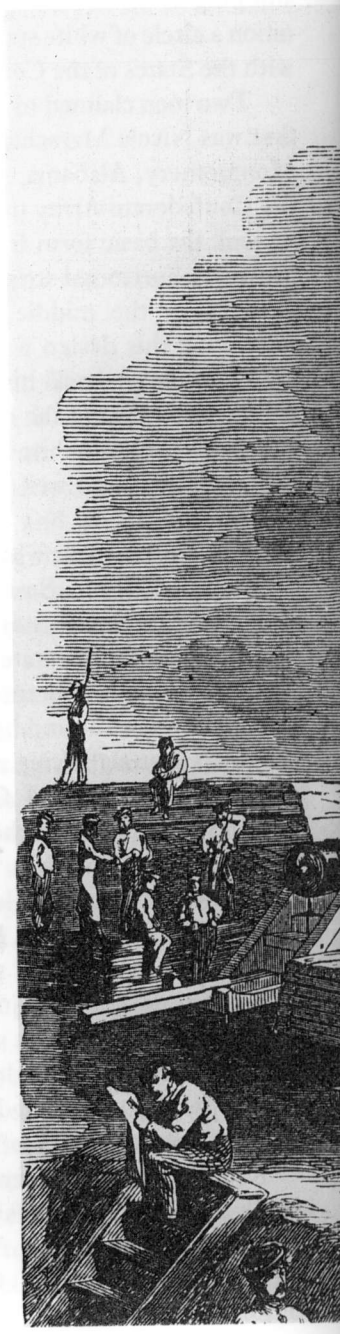
In many cases a single star, often larger than the others, was placed in the centre of the circle to represent the local state. This violated the original concept of having each star the same size to indicate the equality of the states in the Confederacy.

Many flags, especially those used by Texas units from the 'Lone Star State', had but one star in the

The Naval Battery near Manassas, Virginia, after the battle of First Manassas flew this First National Flag with the stars in the canton arranged in a St. George's Cross.

Company C. 20th Virginia Infantry, carried this variation of the First National Flag with its militia designation, 'Flat Rock Riflemen' and motto 'OUR RIGHTS' within the circle of badly faded stars. (Museum of the Confederacy)

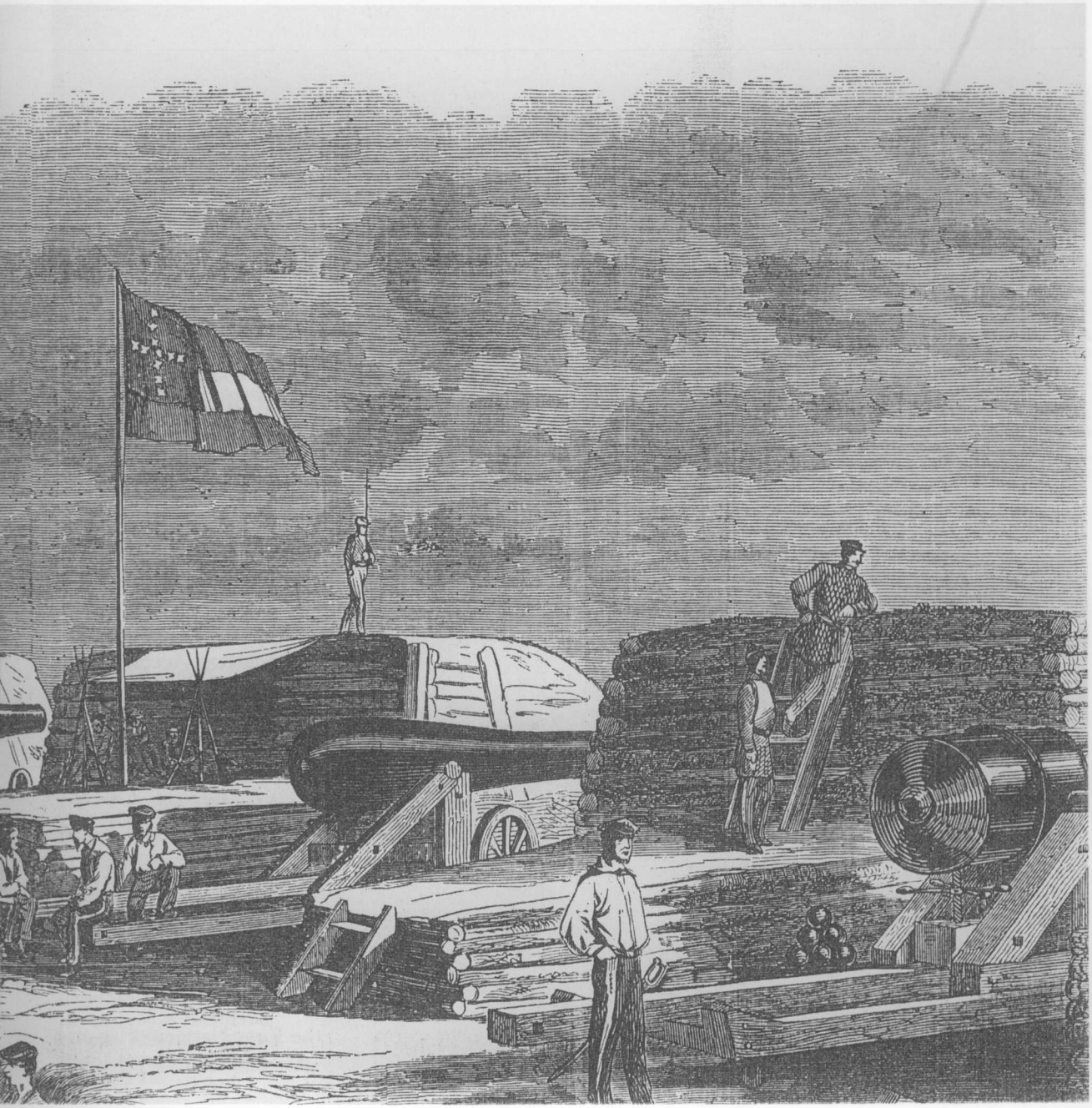


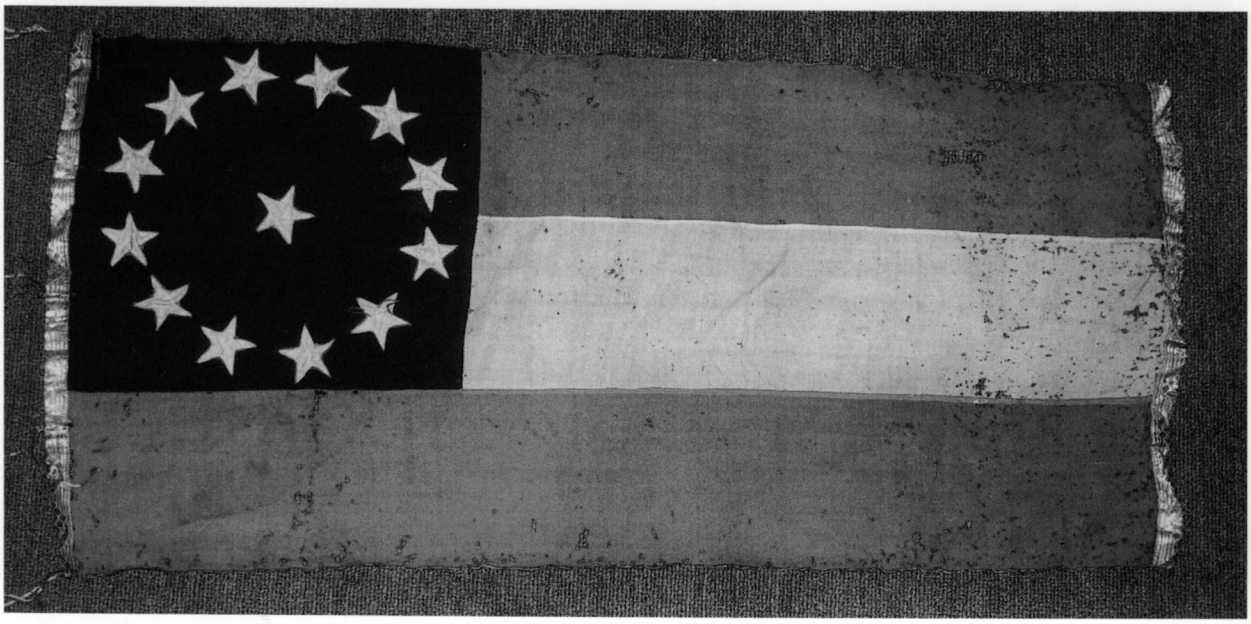


canton. Flags with one star in the canton were carried by e.g. the 25th Virginia Infantry (which also had the state name painted in gold Roman letters around the white star); and Co. E, 6th North Carolina Infantry Regiment State Troops, which had its gold star within a gold laurel wreath and the gold Roman words 'IN GOD WE TRUST/VICTORY OR DEATH' above and below the star and wreath.

Some stars were placed in an apparently random design; some in rows as in the United States flag; some stars were formed into either a Greek or a St. Andrew's Cross; and some stars were placed in an arch, the 'Arch of the Covenant' which was symbolic of the Bread of Life, the symbol of spiritual nourishment. The latter design was used on Robert E. Lee's personal headquarters flag.

State seals were often painted onto the canton instead of sewn stars. Co. E, 1st Georgia Infantry





Typically proportioned for Western-made First National Flags, this particular example was carried by Frazer's Company of the 21st Tennessee Infantry. Made of wool bunting with silk stars, it is 17½ inches by 36 inches in size, with a canton measuring 11½ inches by 12½ inches. The stars are 2 inches in diameter, edged with a silver metallic covered cord; the same cord edges the top and bottom borders and is used for five ties. The staff and fly edgings are bordered with a ¾-inch silver material. (Courtesy Mike Miner)

Regiment, for example, carried a First National Flag measuring 42 inches on the hoist and 66 inches on the fly with the Georgia state seal painted on the blue canton on the obverse side, and on the reverse seven white stars in a circle with a red scroll above and another below with the gold block words 'WE YIELD NOT TO/OUR COUNTRY'S FOES' on the scrolls. Co. E, 1st Maryland Cavalry Regiment had the Maryland state seal painted on the canton of their First National Flag, which is 27½ inches on the hoist and 46½ inches on the fly.

Materials also varied according to maker. Silk was the preferred material, and many First National Flags made by hometown ladies were of this fabric. The standard carried by Co. K, 3rd Texas Cavalry at Oak Hills, Missouri, and Pea Ridge, Arkansas, was made entirely of silk by the ladies of the company's home town. However, when the women of Tyler, Texas, made a First National Flag for Co. D, 15th Texas Infantry, they used cotton on the white bar and stars as well as the canton, but a wool/cotton mixture for the red bars. A First National Flag captured at Pea Ridge from an Arkansas brigade was entirely made of wool flannel, with the words 'JEFF. DAVIS' worked in black velvet Roman uncial letters on its obverse.

One of the strangest First National Flags still in existence is that used from time to time by the 43rd Battalion of Virginia Cavalry, Mosby's Rangers. The unit carried out guerrilla warfare behind Union lines in Northern Virginia, and therefore rarely carried its standard into action. However, the flag, which measures 51 inches on the hoist by 114 inches on the fly, was used at Mosby's headquarters. According to a veteran some years after the war: 'Bunting was a scarcity in those days, and the blue field of this flag had been cut from the blouse [fatigue coat] of a Union soldier; the red stripes are of a fair quality bunting, while the white stripe is of unbleached cotton.'

There was also no regulation finial, cords, or stave size or colour. In practice, most units used brass or gilt spear point or halberd finials; eagles left over from before the war and captured with US Army colours were also used. Staves were left their natural wood colour. Cords rarely appeared with Confederate colours.

Military versions of the First National Flag also often had the unit designation painted or sewn on the white middle stripe.

THE SECOND NATIONAL FLAG

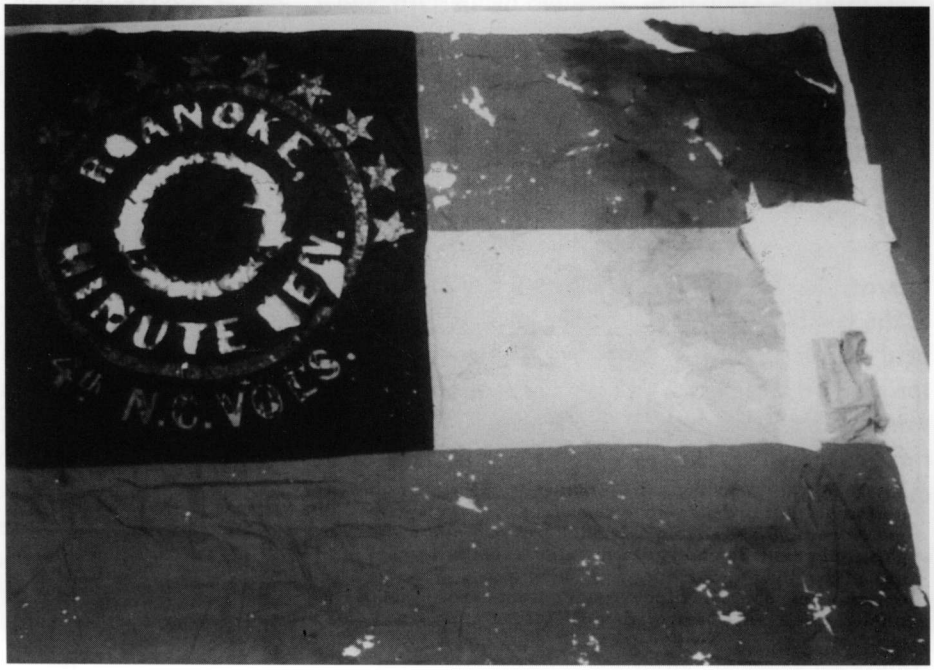
Hardly had the seamstresses turned out their first set of First National Flags when complaints about the emblems' appearance began to be voiced.

From the military viewpoint, the similarity between the two sides' flags led to confusion, especially at the first big battle of the war, First Manassas. 'The mistake of supposing Kirby Smith's and Elzy's approaching troops to be Union reinforcements for McDowell's right was caused by the resemblance, at a distance, of the original Confederate flag to the colors of Federal regiments,' recalled Confederate Lt. Gen. James Longstreet. 'This mishap caused the Confederates to cast about for a new ensign, brought out our battle-flag, led to its adoption by General Beauregard, and afterwards by higher authority as the union shield of the Confederate national flag.'

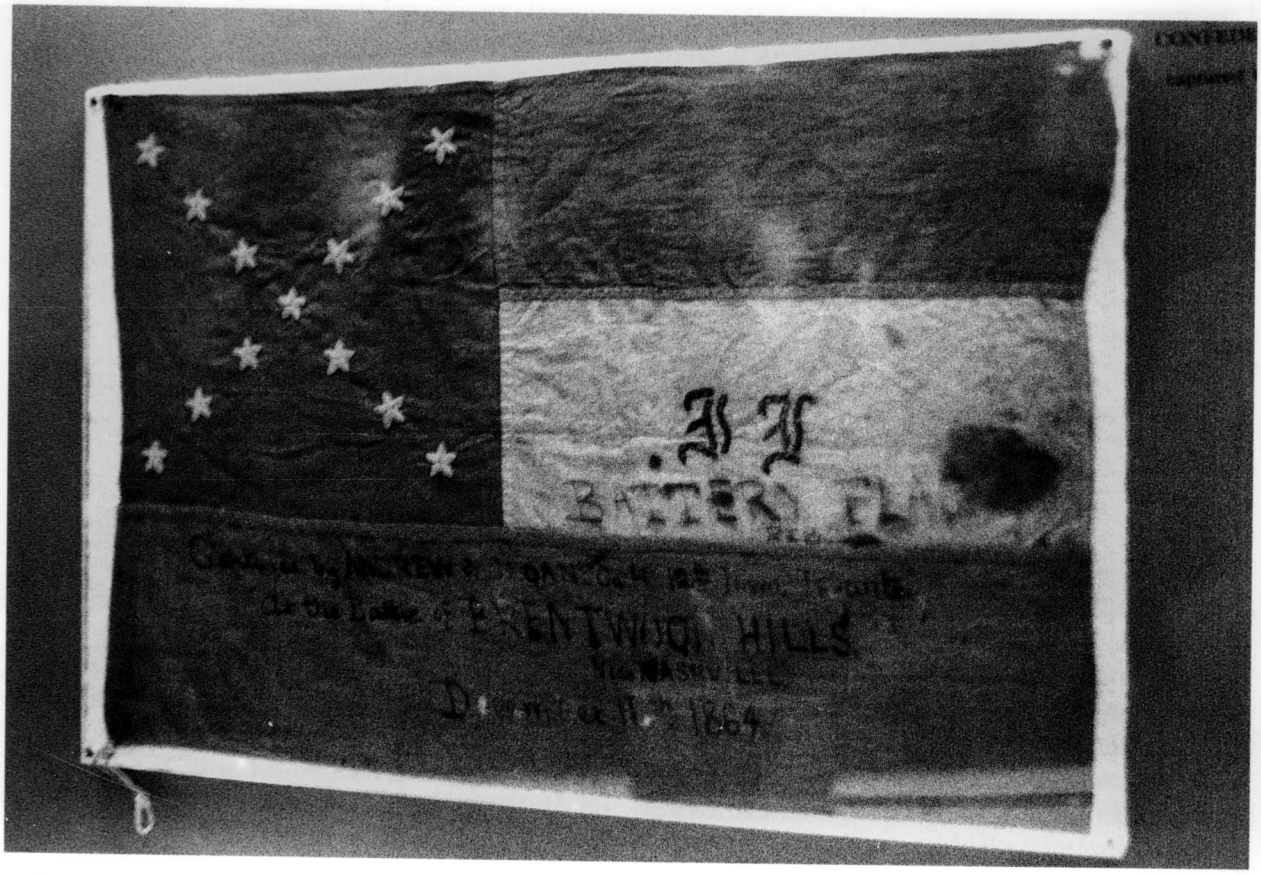
Civilians were also generally unhappy with the similarity between the northern and southern flags. 'There is little room for doubt that the resemblance of the Confederate flag to that of the United States renders it displeasing in the eyes of more than three-fourths of our population,' editorialized the *Daily Richmond Examiner* on 13 December 1861. 'The desire for a change in the present banner has been so generally manifested that is nearly certain that it will be made.' The newspaper's editor further suggested that the new flag should not have stars or the colours of red, white, and blue, preferring instead a gold or scarlet national emblem in the canton or centre of the field.

A Joint Committee on Flag and Seal was appointed by both houses of the first Confederate congress, and on 19 April 1862 it submitted its recommendation as a joint resolution: '*Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America*, That the flag of the Confederate States shall be as follows: A red field, charged with a white saltier, having in the centre the device of a sun, in its glory, on an azure ground, the rays of the sun corresponding with the number of States composing the Confederacy.' After a great deal of debate the House of Representatives voted 39 to 21 to postpone further consideration of the resolution, which the Senate never formally discussed. Therefore, it died in Congress; and apparently few if any of these flags were made, as no physical examples exist today.

Nevertheless, unhappiness with the First National Flag continued. In the Confederate field armies the problem of a flag that looked like that of the enemy—an important objection when the colours regiments carried on the field were a major means of identification—was solved by local commanders (see



The painted letters spelling out 'ROANOKE MINUTE MEN' and the wreath have rotted away from this First National Flag carried by Co. A, 4th North Carolina Volunteers' when they were first mustered in. Note that the gold stars are painted only over the top of the gold-painted circle within the canton. This silk flag is all hand-sewn. (North Carolina Museum of History)



This small First National Flag measures 13 inches by 20 inches. It was captured near Nashville, Tennessee, on 11 December 1864 from an unknown Confederate artillery battery. (Smithsonian Institution)

the section on battle flags, below). Indeed, the battle flags of the Army of Northern Virginia were those most seen in the capital city of Richmond, and most influenced Confederate legislators.

Consequently, on 22 April 1863 Senate Bill No. 132 was introduced, which read: '*The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That the flag of the Confederate States shall be as follows: a white field with the [Army of Northern Virginia] battle flag for a union, which shall be square and occupy two thirds of the width of the flag, and a blue bar, one third of the flag, in its width, dividing the field otherwise.'

Passed by the Senate, the bill was introduced on the floor of the House on 1 May to a great deal of debate. One proposed motion removed the blue bar from the field and instead edged the field with red. Another suggested simply adopting the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag, in a rectangular shape, as the national flag. In the end, however, the bill that passed the House and was agreed to by the senate described the flag as follows: 'The field to be white, the length double the width of the flag, with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be a square of two-thirds the width of the flag, having the ground red; thereon a broad saltier of blue, bordered with white, and emblazoned with white mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States.'

The Second National Flag was approved by both houses and became official on 1 May 1863. It was first used to cover the coffin of the beloved Lt. Gen. Thomas Jonathan ('Stonewall') Jackson, who had been badly wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville on 2 May and died of pneumonia on 10 May. His coffin, draped with the new Second National Colour, lay in state in the chamber of the House of Representatives on 12 May. As a result of this connection, as well as due to the fact that both this flag and Jackson's picture appeared on the 100 dollar bill of the 2

February 1864 issue, the Second National Colour was often called the 'Jackson flag'. The pure white field also led to the Second National Flag being nicknamed the 'stainless banner'.

On 26 May 1863 the Second National Flag was designated by the Secretary of the Navy as the official naval jack, or ensign. The orders establishing the jack also spelled out the specific proportions of 2:3. A flag 54 inches in the fly would be 108 inches long with a square canton 36 inches on each side. The arms of the saltier were to be 1/4.8 the width of the canton, so on a flag 54 inches in fly they would be 7.5 inches wide. The white border on the saltier was to be $\frac{1}{22}$ the width of the canton, or in this case $1\frac{3}{5}$ inches wide. Each star was to have a diameter of 1/6.4 the canton width; they would be 5.5 inches in diameter in this example.

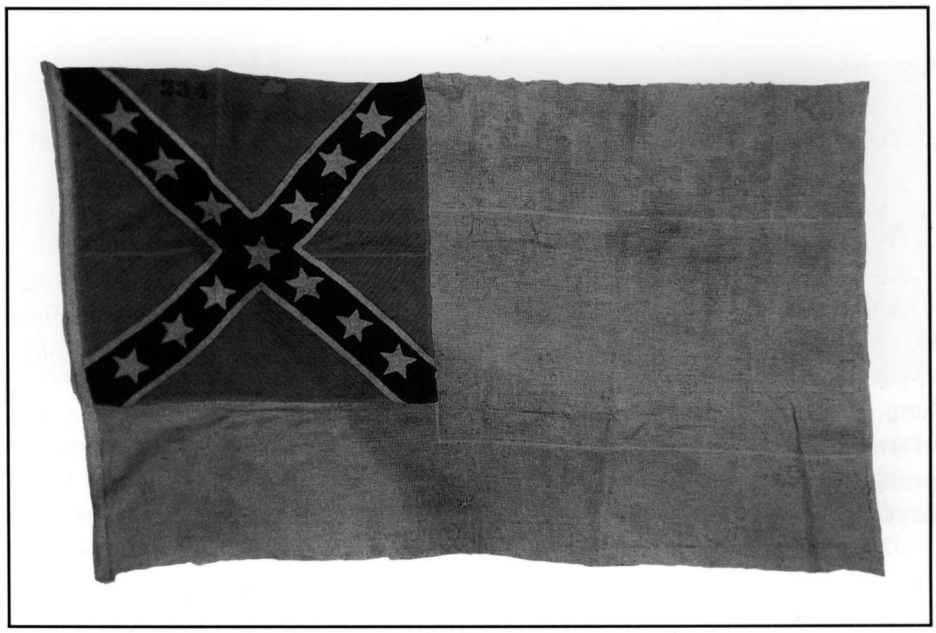
As it turned out, surviving examples differ widely from both the regulation flag and each other. The Second National Flag used as the standard of the 8th Virginia Cavalry measures 53 inches by 98 inches; that used by Lt. Gen. Jubal Early in his headquarters flag was 47 inches by $72\frac{1}{2}$ inches; and the headquarters flag of Maj. Gen. J. E. B. (Jeb) Stuart was 46 inches by 74 inches.

Moreover, Second National Flags were used mostly by the government on its buildings and forts and the navy on its ships; army units in the field did not as a whole take to the new flag. Indeed, First National Flags were still being used as late as the Battle of Gettysburg by some units in the Army of Northern Virginia, despite the new flag's introduction.

Some Second National Flags were apparently issued by the Richmond Clothing Depot, which made unit colours and standards as well as clothing, to units in the Virginia and North Carolina theatres, although plain First National Flags continued to be carried—e.g., by the 44th and 60th Georgia Infantry Regiments—in that theatre even after the new flag's introduction. The Second National Flags from the Richmond Depot were made of cotton and bunting in the correct 2:3 proportion. The dark blue St. Andrew's cross bore 13 white five-pointed stars. The white fimbration overlapped the ends of the cross.

In large part, however, Army of Northern Virginia units that received the new flags cut off the white field and flew only the small battle flag when on active service. As mentioned above, a number of Second National Flags were used as headquarters colours by various Army of Northern Virginia general officers, among them Stuart and Early.

Soldiers in the Western theatre, however, apparently took to the new flag more than those in the East. There a small number of infantry regiments received these flags and carried them as their regimental colours. These flags generally lacked the white overlap at the ends of the cross. The 11th



This Second National Flag bears the US War Department capture number '234' stamped in the canton. (Museum of the Confederacy)

Table A: First National Flags

First National Flags came in a variety of different sizes according to the type of unit which carried them: below are some representative sizes, in inches.

Unit	*Unit type*	*Flag size*
Border's Texas Cavalry	Cavalry battalion	$35 \times 65\frac{1}{2}$
Bully Rocks	Cavalry company	$36 \times 81\frac{1}{2}$
Co. C, 2nd Kentucky	Infantry company	57×64
Co. F, 17th Texas	Infantry company	46×67
Corinth Rifles	Infantry company	42×66
11th Texas	Cavalry regiment	$23\frac{1}{4} \times 24\frac{1}{2}$
18th Virgina	Infantry regiment	42×55
Floyd Guards	Infantry company	$47\frac{1}{2} \times 76$
Jefferson Davis Guards	Infantry company	49×76
Rutherford Volunteers	Infantry company	39×81
St. Mary's Cannoniers	Artillery battery	48×65
6th Texas	Infantry regiment	34×69
10th Texas	Cavalry regiment	$36\frac{3}{4} \times 77\frac{1}{2}$
20th Texas	Infantry regiment	53×92
21st Tennessee	Infantry company	$17\frac{1}{2} \times 36$
22nd/35th Arkansas	Infantry regiment	$19\frac{3}{4} \times 32\frac{1}{2}$
25th Virginia	Infantry regiment	49×103
Washington Rifles	Infantry company	42×66
Winder Cavalry	Cavalry company	$27\frac{1}{2} \times 46\frac{1}{2}$

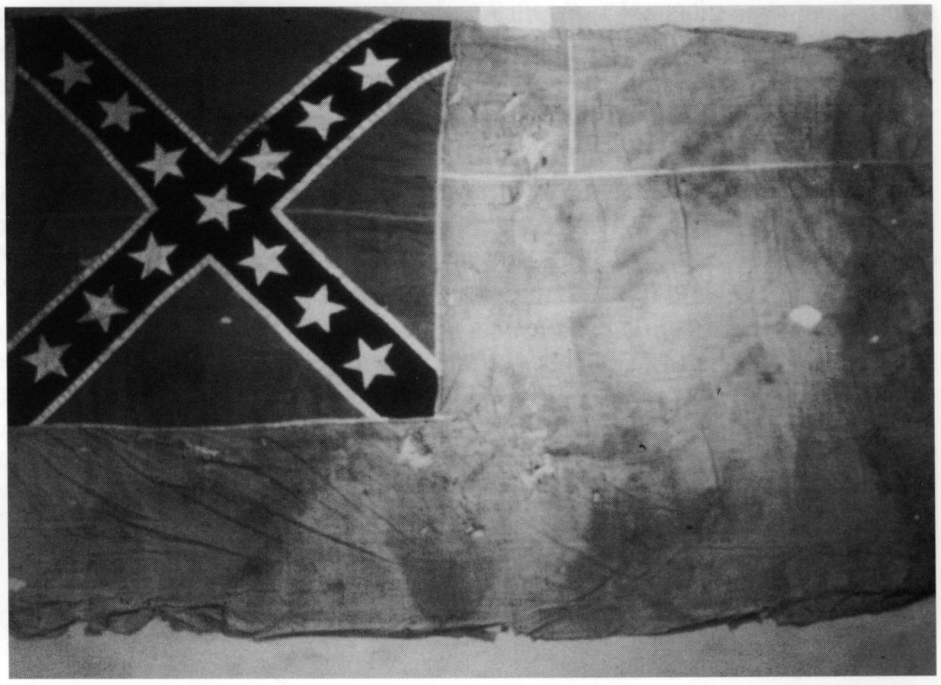
Tennessee Infantry Regiment even painted its unit designation in dark blue on the field over battle honours for Rockcastle, Cumberland Gap, Tazewell, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge. Its colour measured $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 67 inches, and did have overlaps on the ends of the St. Andrew's cross. The 8th Virginia Cavalry Regiment embroidered its unit designation in white on the field, along with a battle honour for White Sulphur Springs in the same material.

THE THIRD NATIONAL FLAG

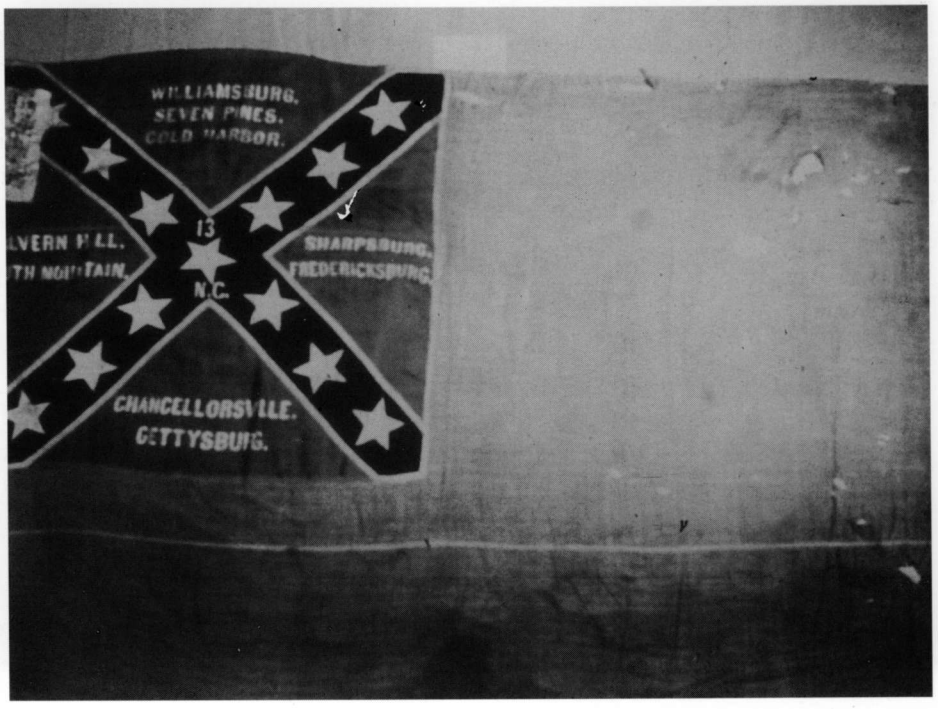
From the first day the Second National Flag was run up the flag pole, complaints were made about its appearance. The most serious one was that when limp, in a windless day, it looked like an all-white flag of truce. Many flag makers attempted to resolve this problem by making the canton disproportionately large (see Plate B1).

This did not solve the problem, however. The *Daily Richmond Examiner* suggested that since the horse symbolized the 'equestrian South', it should be used in black on a white flag as a new national flag. Indeed, the Confederacy's 'Great Seal' featured Virginian George Washington mounted on his war-horse. Although this suggested flag met some acceptance, there was also opposition, especially to giving up the battle flag, which had flown over so many hard-fought fields, as an element of the new flag.

Therefore, on 13 December 1864 Senate Bill No. 137 was introduced, specifying a new flag designed by an artilleryman, Major Arthur L. Rogers. It legislated 'That the flag of the Confederate States of America shall be as follows: The width two-thirds of its length, with the union (now used as the battle flag) to be in width three-fifths of the width of the flag, and so proportioned as to leave the length of the field on the side of the union twice the width of the field below it; to have the ground red and a broad blue saltier thereon, bordered with white and emblazoned with mullets or five-pointed stars, corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States; the field to be white, except the outer half from the union to be a red bar extending the width of the flag.' According to Rogers, the white symbolized purity and innocence, and the red fortitude and courage. The cross of St. Andrew indicated descent from British stock, while the red bar was taken from the French flag, as



This Second National Flag was used as the headquarters flag of Maj. Gen. Robert F. Hoke, who commanded troops defending Petersburg, Virginia, until ordered in December 1864, to North Carolina, where he served until surrendering with Joseph Johnston's army after Bentonville. (North Carolina Museum of History)



This machine-sewn Second National Flag is the product of the Richmond Clothing Depot and bears the unit designation around the centre star in the canton along with battle honours, the latest of which is Gettysburg (1–3 July 1863). (North Carolina Museum of History)

many other Southerners were descended from French stock.

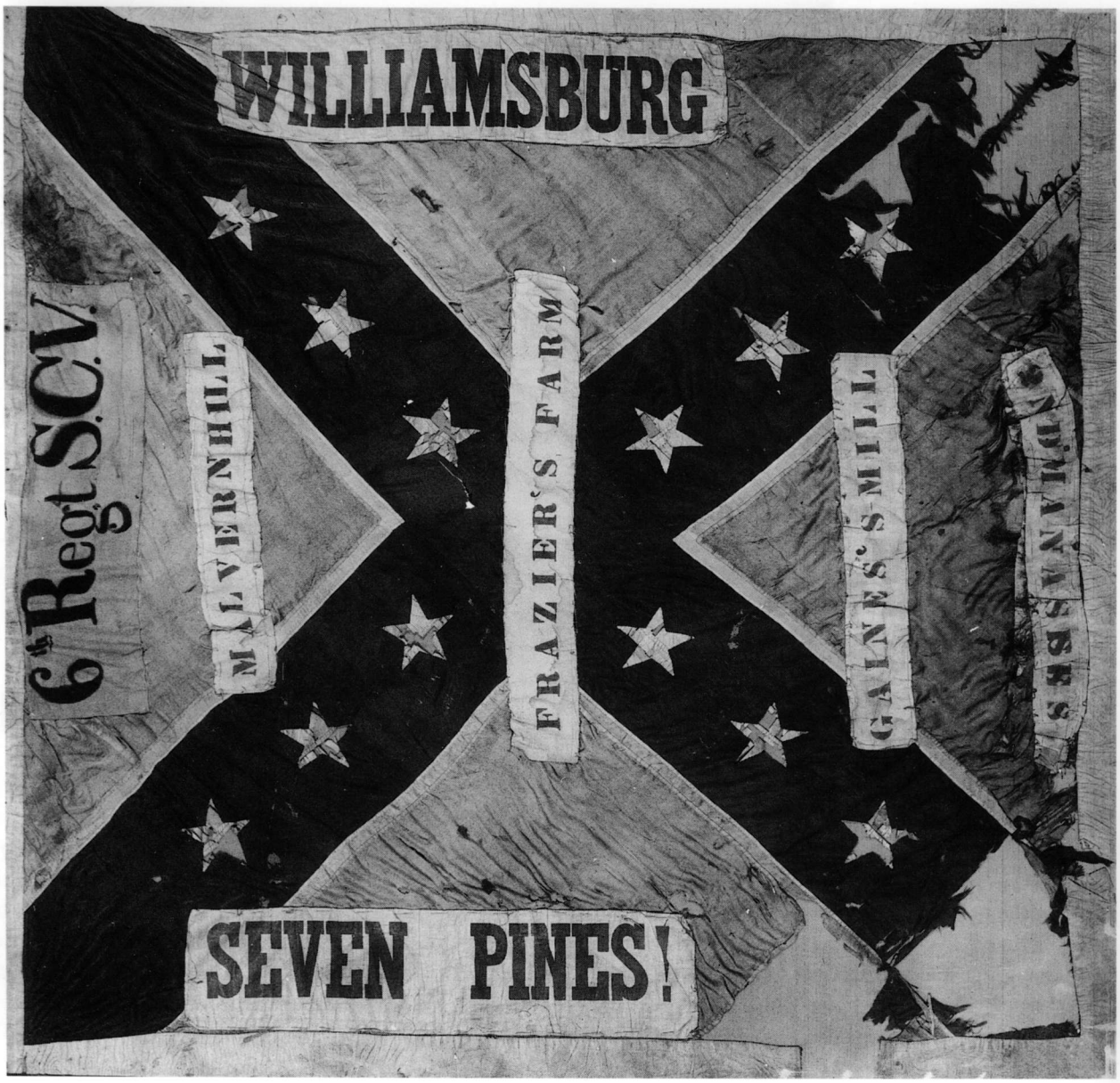
After a great deal of consideration the bill was passed by the Senate without change on 6 February 1865 and by the House of Representatives on 27 February. It was signed into law on 4 March 1865—at which time the Confederacy measured its continued political existence in weeks. Indeed, because the Confederacy was so short-lived, few Third National Flags were made and most of those that were, were made by simply shortening the fly of Second National Flags and adding the red bar.

BATTLE FLAGS

The Army of Northern Virginia

As indicated above, the first major battle of the war, Bull Run or First Manassas, brought to light problems in using the First National Flag on the field of combat. For example, then-brigade commander Jubal Early was advised at one point during the battle that his regiments were firing on friends. Although he thought it was not so, he halted his men and rode out to where he could see a regiment drawn in battle line several hundred yards away. 'The dress of the volunteers on both sides at that time was very similar,' he later wrote, 'and the flag of the regiment I saw was drooping around the staff, so that I could not see whether it was the United States or Confederate flag.' It was not until the regiment in question fell back that he 'saw the United States flag unfurled and discovered the mistake'. In the meantime, precious time had been lost.

After this problem became evident the commander of the army in northern Virginia, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, ordered that his regiments carry their state



flags. Only Virginia regiments were able to obtain enough state flags for this purpose. Moreover, some state flags were too similar to colours carried by Union forces. The dark blue field of the Virginia state flag, for example, when lying limp, would look exactly like that of the US Army infantry regimental colour, which also featured a dark blue field.

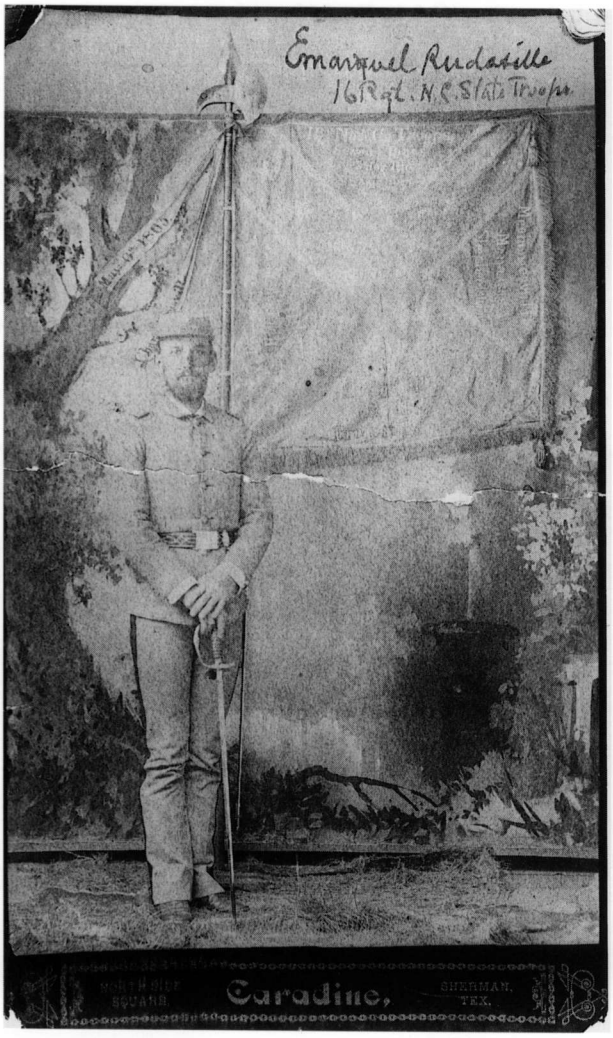
To solve this problem, Congressman William Porcher Miles suggested to Gen. Beauregard that the army adopt as a battle flag the pattern which he had designed for the First National Flag—a pattern which Congress had rejected twice. On 27 August 1861 Miles sent Beauregard a drawing of his suggested flag, adding that his design called for, '... the ground Red, the Cross Blue (edged with white), Stars, White. This was my favorite. The three colours of Red, White, and Blue were preserved in it. It avoided the religous objection about the cross ... it being the "Saltire" of Heraldry and significant of strength and progress ... The Stars ought always to be White or Argent because they are then blazoned "Proper" (or natural colour). Stars too show better on an Azure field than any other. Blue Stars on a White field would not be handsome or appropriate. The "White edge" (as I term it) to the Blue is partly a necessity to prevent what is called "false blazonry"... It would not do to put a blue cross therefore on a red field ... The introduction of the white between the Blue and Red adds also much to the brilliancy of the colours and brings them out in strong relief.'

Beauregard liked the design, writing to Miles on 4 September 1861: 'I regret to hear of the failure about the change of flag; but what can now be done is, to authorize commanding generals in the field to furnish their troops with a "field, or battle flag," which shall be according to your design, leaving out,



This first pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag was carried by the 6th South Carolina Infantry. The large block battle honours were the first style produced and were issued to Longstreet's troops. (South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum)

The Army of Northern Virginia battle flag carried by the 16th Regiment, North Carolina State Troops. (North Carolina Department of Archives and History)



Emanuel Rudisill, Co. M, 16th North Carolina, was the regimental ensign. He wears the regulation state uniform in this post-war photograph which also shows the regimental battle flag reproduced in the accompanying photograph. Note the axehead finial on the staff. (North Carolina Department of Archives and History)

however, the white border, or rim separating the blue from the red. I would have it simply a red ground with two blue bars crossing each other diagonally, on which shall be the white stars; a white or golden fringe might go all around the sides of the flag.'

Beauregard took the idea to Johnston, who also liked the basic design but changed its shape to square on the recommendation of the army's future quartermaster, who said that a square flag would save cloth. He also restored the white fimbration. Examples of the new battle flag were made in September 1861 by three Richmond belles, Hettie, Jennie, and Constance Cary. According to Constance, 'They were jaunty squares of scarlet crossed with dark blue edged with white, the cross bearing stars to indicate the number of the seceded States. We set our best stitches upon them, edged them with golden fringes, and, when they were finished, dispatched one to Johnston, another to Beauregard, and the third to Earl Van Dorn, then commanding infantry at Manassas. The banners were received with all possible enthusiasm; were toasted, feted, and cheered abundantly.'

The original flag sent to Van Dorn survives in the collection of the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. It has a red field with a blue St. Andrew's cross with white fimbration and hoist edge, with three white ties to hold it to the staff. Three gold stars are set on each arm of the cross, clustered close to the centre; there is no star where the arms of the cross meet. It has 3-inch-long yellow fringing, and is actually 31 inches by 30 inches in size rather than perfectly square. The name 'Constance' has been embroidered on the lower arm of the cross near the hoist.

Three sizes were established for the battle flags made to this design and finally issued throughout the Army of Northern Virginia. Infantry versions were to be 48 inches on each side; artillery versions, 36 inches square; and cavalry versions, 30 inches square.

The first pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flags were made as the samples were, sewn of dress silk by Richmond ladies under contract. Their blue crosses were eight inches wide, edged with $\frac{3}{4}$-inch-wide white silk. The 12 white stars were $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, set 8 inches apart from the centre of the cross. All the edges but the hoist were bound in yellow silk; the hoist had a blue silk sleeve. Finally, the fields tended to be pinkish rather than scarlet.

Not all of these flags were made by official contractors from the start. The 4th Texas Infantry, for example, received in November 1861 a variant of this flag which was made by Miss Lula Wigfall, daughter of one of Texas' senators. This 47-inch-square silk flag was very similar to the first pattern except that it featured a single star at the point where the arms of the cross met which was larger than the other stars—symbolic of the Lone Star of Texas. The other stars were placed rather towards the outer part

of the arms of the cross, rather than being clustered towards the centre as on the first silk pattern flags. It was edged in yellow, with the edge on the hoist side folded around to make a sleeve for the staff. This battle-worn flag was retired to Texas for storage on 7 October 1862.

By that time, most of these colours had been worn out by much use in the field. However, in early 1862 the Richmond Clothing Depot had acquired sufficient stocks of bunting, both by purchase from England and by the capture of the US Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia. The Depot began manufacturing and issuing its own machine-sewn First Bunting Pattern, Army of Northern Virginia battle flags. These were very similar to the First Silk Pattern flags but made of bunting, with true scarlet fields. Instead of yellow silk edging they were made with orange flannel $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide; the orange rapidly became a somewhat dirty tan in colour after some time in the field. The thirteenth star was added at the centre of the cross, and the cotton stars were smaller, only 3 inches in diameter. They were set 6 inches apart from the centre of the cross. The fimbration was made of $\frac{1}{2}$- inch wide cotton. The staff side was made with a 2-inch-wide white canvas or linen heading with three whipped eyelets for ties.

These flags, often lacking any sort of designation such as battle honours or unit designation, quickly became the standard Army of Northern Virginia battle flag first issued to Longstreet's Right Wing in May 1862. One of these unmarked flags, for example, was carried by the 3rd Georgia Infantry throughout the war.

In the spring of 1862 the Depot slightly changed the colours it had been issuing. The blue cross was now made only $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The stars were also reduced in size, to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The so-called Third Bunting Pattern flag appeared in late 1862, when the orange borders were replaced with white 2-inch-wide bunting.



The 16th North Carolina also carried this bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag with the unit designation marked in yellow around the centre star. The flag carries US War Department capture number '57' on the lower hoist side. (North Carolina Museum of History)

BATTLE HONOURS

Generally it was First to Third Bunting Pattern battle flags which were seen by Col. Arthur Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, on a visit to the Army of Northern Virginia in late June 1863. 'The colours of the regiments differ from the blue battle flags I saw with Bragg's Army (The Army of Tennessee),' he wrote. 'They are generally red, with a blue St. Andrew's cross showing the stars.... Most of the colours in this division (Pender's) bear the names Manassas, Fredericksburg, Seven Pines, Harpers Ferry, Chancellorsville, &c.'

These battle honours apparently first appeared in Longstreet's Corps in June 1862, with honours for Williamsburg and Seven Pines which had been printed on white strips and sewn to First Bunting Pattern battle flags (see Plate C2). Indeed, War Department General Orders No. 52, 23 July 1862, authorized placing on the battle flag the name of every battle in which the 'regiments, battalions, and separate squadrons have been actually engaged'.

There was no regulation method of applying battle honours; the first ones were usually sewn to the top and bottom, but also to the sides and the centre. Other units painted or embroidered battle honours on their colours; indeed, Richmond Clothing Depot flags supplied with the unit designations in yellow around the centre star bore battle honours painted by Depot workers.

Wisconsin Col. Frank Haskell, who saw the 'red flags wave' at Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, afterwards found captured Confederate battle flags 'inscribed with "First Manassas," the numerous battles of the Peninsula, "Second Manassas," "South Mountain," "Sharpsburg," (our Antietam) "Fredericksburg," "Chancellorsville," and many more names.'

It should be noted, however, that most Army of Northern Virginia battle flags were apparently not marked with any sort of either unit designation or battle honours, even though in some commands marking the battle flags was regulation so that there could be no 'misunderstanding' over lost flags.

A new pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag was introduced in the spring of 1864 by the Depot. It was almost 51 inches square, with 7-inch-



The 22nd North Carolina carried this battle flag, which is virtually identical to that carried by the 16th North Carolina. (North Carolina Museum of History)

wide blue crosses and $\frac{5}{8}$-inch wide fimbration. The stars were $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, placed 8 inches apart from the centre stares in a staggered orientation.

Apparently to conserve fabric, the Depot reverted to the original sized colours in November 1864. The cross was made 5 inches wide, but the stars were now $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 9 inches from each other. In the winter the Depot began placing the stars only 8 inches apart; and in March 1865 it changed the pattern to leave 7-inch intervals between them. All told, between 1862 and 1865 there were eight variations of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag manufactured officially and issued to its regiments. Moreover, since its initial proponents, Beauregard and Johnston, went on to serve in many other theatres, its design formed the basis for most other armies' and departments' issue colours.

Yet these were not the only flags carried in the Army of Northern Virginia. Various national and state flags were used by some units. Some headquarters also used other types of flags, especially, as noted, various national flags. The army's engineering headquarters was marked by a large all-red bunting flag bearing the letters 'Chief Engineer.' on the top line and 'A.N.V.' on the bottom line, all in crude 11-inch white letters; the flag itself measures 3 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 5 feet 9 inches.

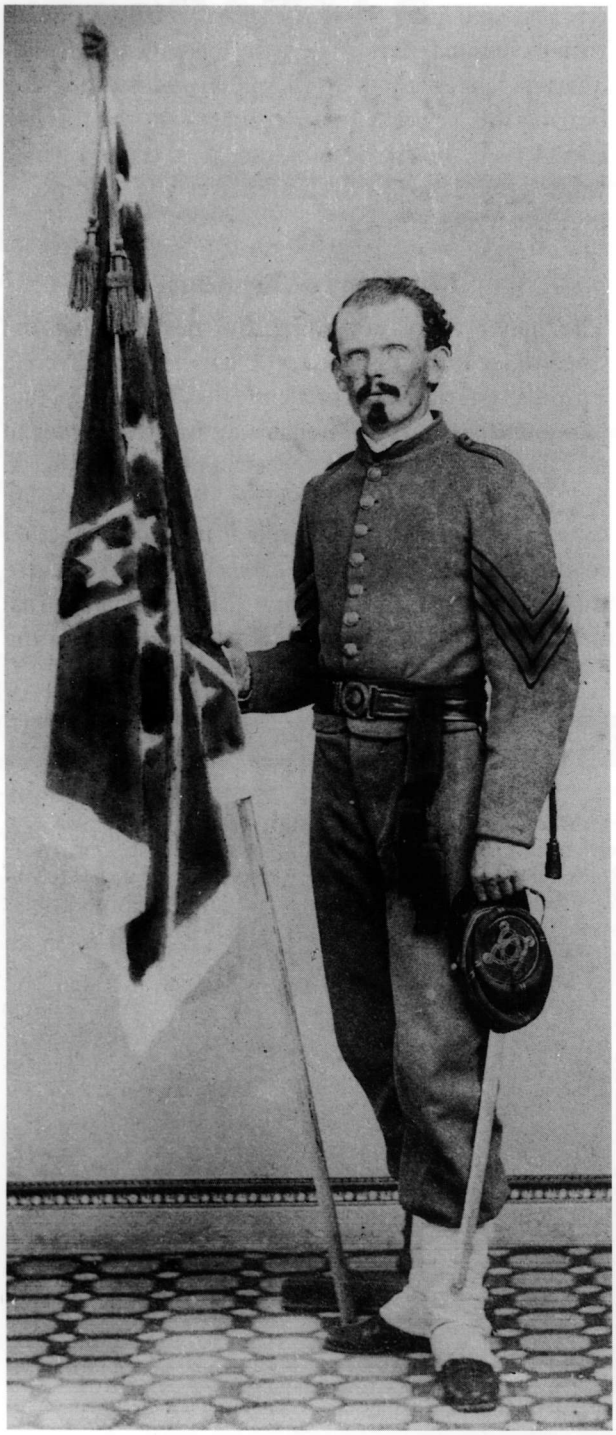
The Army of Tennessee

The major army defending the heartland of the Confederacy, the line from the Mississippi River to Virginia, was the Army of Tennessee. Its leaders, too, found that the First National Flag was too similar to that flown by US troops and switched to new battle flag patterns. Instead, however, of one army-wide colour being regulation, each army corps carried colours of its commander's choosing. By 1863 these colours were fairly uniform within each corps, although this uniformity did not extend to the materials from which they were made until 1864.

Table B: Marked Army of Northern Virginia Battle Flags:

The units listed below, all but one of which are infantry regiments (the 1st Maryland was officially a battalion rather than a regiment) which served in the Army of Northern Virginia, are known to have carried second bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flags with the unit designation painted in yellow Roman uncial letters around the centre star, the number of the unit above the star and the two letter state designation below it (see Plates C4 and D4 for examples). Battle honours were painted in black Roman uncial letters on the field before the flags were issued. These flags were generally issued in September 1863.

Unit	ANV Brigades in which served
14th Georgia	Hampton's, J. R. Anderson's, E. C. Thomas'
35th Georgia	Hampton's, J. R. Anderson's, E. C. Thomas'
45 Georgia	J. R. Anderson's, E. C. Thomas'
49th Georgia	J. R. Anderson's, E. C. Thomas'
10th Louisiana	McLaw's, Semmes', Starkes', Nicholl's, Iverson's, Strafford's, York's
1st Maryland Battalion	Elzy's
1st North Carolina	Ripley's, Colston's, Steuart's, Cox's
2nd North Carolina	G. B. Anderson's, Ramseur's, Cox's
4th North Carolina	Featherston's, G. B. Anderson's, Remseur's, Cox's
7th North Carolina	Branch's, Law's, Lane's
13th North Carolina	Colston's, Garland's, Pender's, Scales'
16th North Carolina	W. Hampton's, Pender's, Scales'
18th North Carolina	Branch's, Lane's
23rd North Carolina	Early's, Garland's, Iverson's, R. D. Johnston's
26th North Carolina	R. Ranson's, Pettrigrew's, Kirkland's, MacRae's
28th North Carolina	Branch's, Lane's
30th North Carolina	G. B. Anderson's, Ramseur's, Cox's
33rd North Carolina	Branch's, Lane's
34th North Carolina	Pender's, Scales'
38th North Carolina	Pender's, Scales'
47th North Carolina	Pettigrew's, Kirkland's, MacRae's
Charlotte Artillery	Reserve artillery
55th Virginia	Field's, H. H. Walker's, Barton's



The colour sergeant of the 12th Virginia Infantry Regiment, believed to be William C. Smith, holds the regiment's Army of Northern Virginia battle flag. This shows the size of the flag in comparison to a man. The flag also has cords and tassels, which have been coloured gold on the original print—cords were unusual among Confederate flags. (Lee A. Wallace, Jr., Collection)

Most of these early colours were made by H. Cassidy in New Orleans. In 1864 the job of supplying colours was taken on by the Atlanta and Selma, Georgia, Clothing Depots. James Cameron, of Mobile, Alabama, also made the colours under Quartermaster Department contract. Cameron also provided colours to the Army of Mississippi, which later became Polk's Corps of the Army of Tennessee.

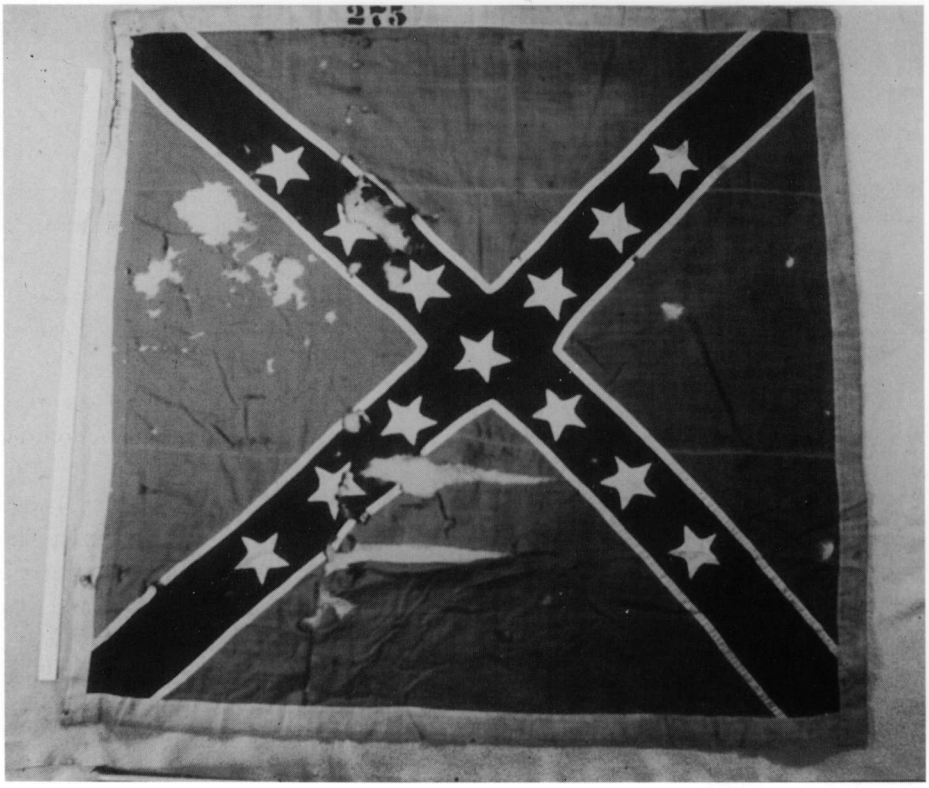
The earliest Western battle flag appears to be that flown in Hardee's Corps of the Army of Tennessee. This was supposedly designed by Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner for Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's army in about September 1861. According to Buckner in later years, Johnston 'wanted a battle flag so distinctive in character that it could not be mistaken ... a blue field and a white centre.... My wife made such a flag for each regiment at Bowling Green.... The first time the battle flag was used was at Donelson. The troops that I commanded mostly fell to Hardee's command afterwards, they continued to use the flag, and it came to be known as Hardee's Battle Flag.'

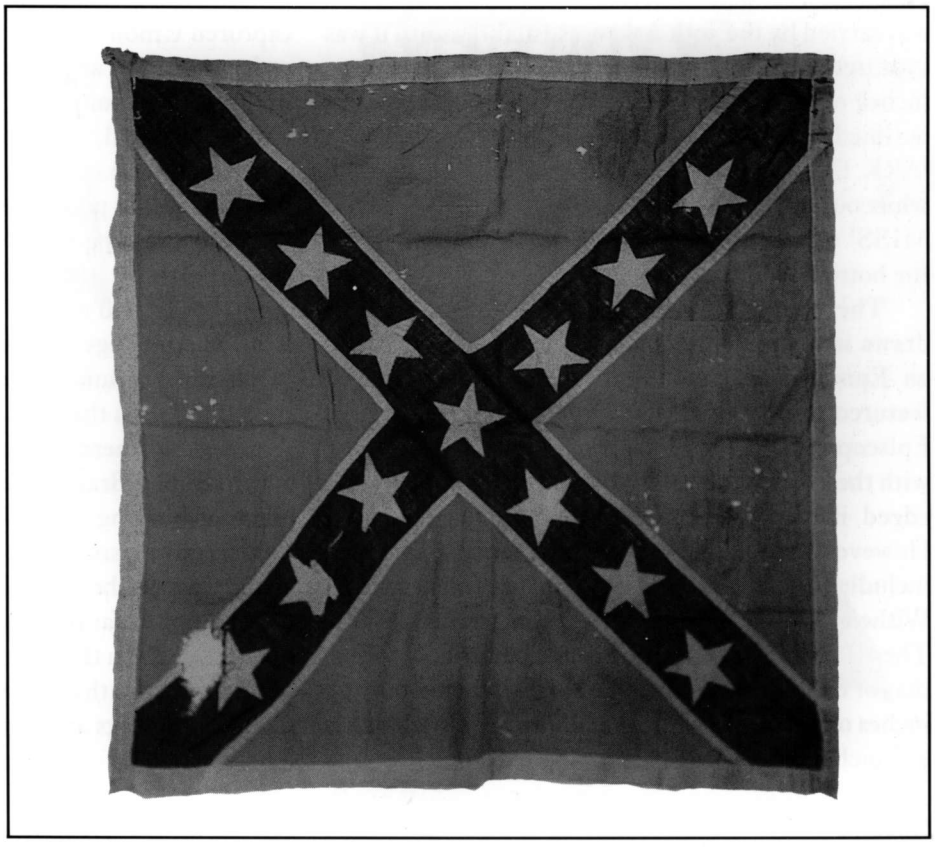
'Each regiment carried a "battle flag,"' wrote Col. Fremantle after visiting Liddell's Brigade of Hardee's Corps, 'blue with a white border, on which were inscribed the names "Belmont," "Shiloh," "Perryville," "Richmond, Kentucky," and "Murfreesboro."' Hardee's Corps' battle flag was dark blue with a white border and a white oval or circle in its centre. The unit designation was often painted on the white disc, often called a 'silver moon', while battle honours were most often painted in dark blue on the border and sometimes in white on the field. At least one example exists, carried by an unknown unit, with the battle honour 'SHILOH' in dark blue on the white oval in the centre of the field.

Hardee's Corps battle flags were smaller than Army of Northern Virginia battle flags ranging from 31 to 34 inches on the hoist. They were often dyed with a poor quality blue dye and faded to a shade of pea-green after much use.

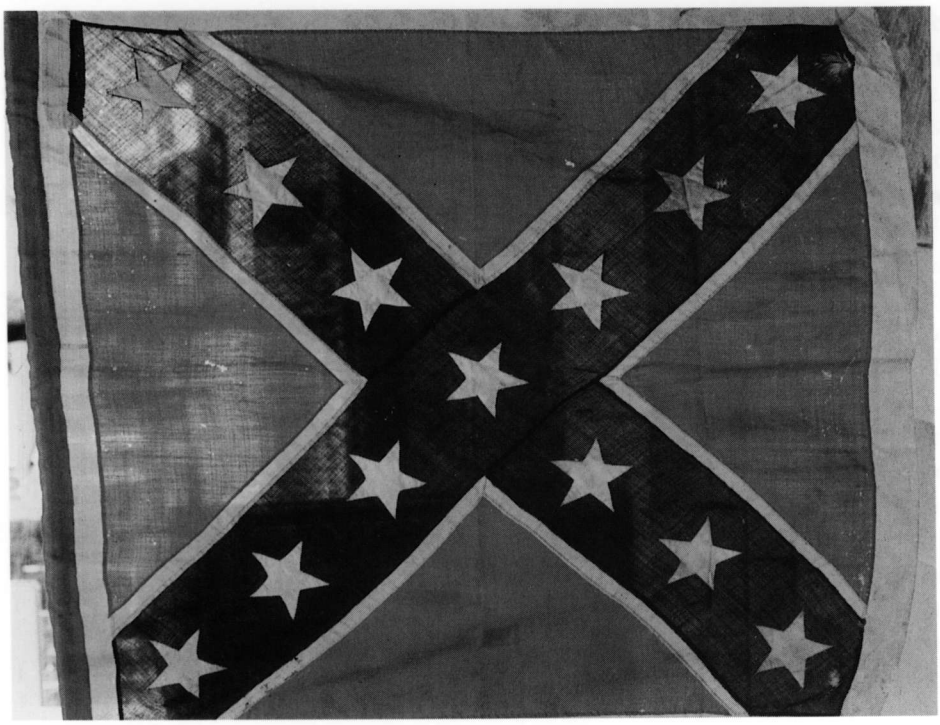
Regiments in the short-lived Army of Kentucky in the Department of East Tennessee, which were merged into the Army of Tennessee, apparently used a variation of the Hardee's Corps battle flag. It, too, had a blue field and white border but, instead of a disc, it had a white St. Andrew's Cross. Such a flag was described by Beauregard after the war, with the

The Army of Northern Virginia battle flag carried by the 24th Regiment, North Carolina State Troops, is all hand-sewn and has the unit designation stencilled on the upper border. Note US War Department capture number '275' marked on the upper border. (North Carolina Museum of History)





This unidentified Army of Northern Virginia battle flag, one of the last bunting types produced, was captured at the Battle of Saylor's Creek, Virginia, on 6 April 1865. (Museum of the Confederacy)



The 5th South Carolina Cavalry's battle flag has the evenly spaced stars associated with the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, although it was captured at Trevilian Station. (South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Museum)

addition of 'blue or gold stars', as having been in Polk's command. A surviving example, without stars, was carried by the 30th Arkansas Infantry until it was captured on 31 December 1862. It measures 40 inches on the hoist by 46 inches, with white letters outlined in black on the top border '30th REG' and 'ARK INF' on the bottom border. The flag also had white outlined battle honours for 'FARMINGTON/ MISS' on the top field and 'RICHMOND/KY' on the bottom field.

The colour adopted in Polk's Corps possibly draws its inspiration from Polk's pre-war service as an Episcopal bishop. Adopted in March 1862, it featured the cross of St. George, the emblem of the Episcopal Church, on a dark blue field. Typically, with these battle flags the cross of St. George was red, edged in white, with 11 five-pointed white stars. However, battle flags from Alabama regiments, including the 22nd and 24th Alabama Infantry from Withers' Division, lacked the red cross and stars. These battle flags, too, came in a wide variety of sizes, that of e.g. the 1st Tennessee Infantry being only 28 inches on the hoist, while that of the 22nd Alabama is $41\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the hoist.

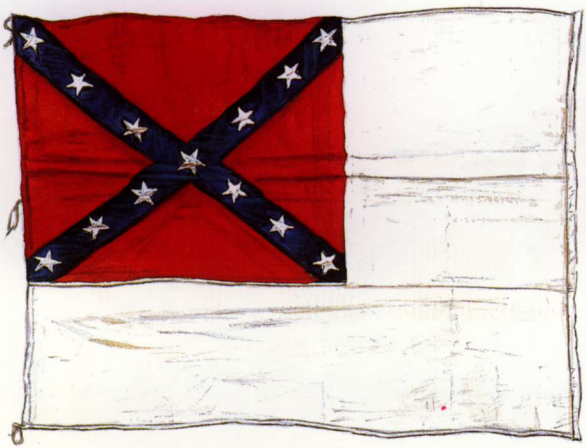
On 23 November 1862 Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham authorized the placing of a pair of crossed cannon on the battle flag of any regiment in his division of Polk's Corps that had overrun and captured Union artillery in action. A month later this order was made army-wide. These cannon appear in both dark blue on a white field and white on a dark blue or red field; the muzzles usually point down—indeed, they are often noted as being 'inverted'—but they sometimes point up.

Bragg's Corps was added to the Army of Tennessee in February 1862. At that time regiments in the corps, which had no uniform type of battle flag, were issued battle flags very similar to the first Army of Northern Virginia pattern. Since Beauregard designed the flags the similarity between these and the Army of Northern Virginia battle flags comes as no surprise. The Bragg's Corps models were, however, made of bunting instead of silk, with a broad pink border and 12 six-pointed, rather than five-pointed, stars. One of these battle flags, carried by the 7th Mississippi Infantry, measures $48\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the hoist and $42\frac{1}{2}$ on the fly.

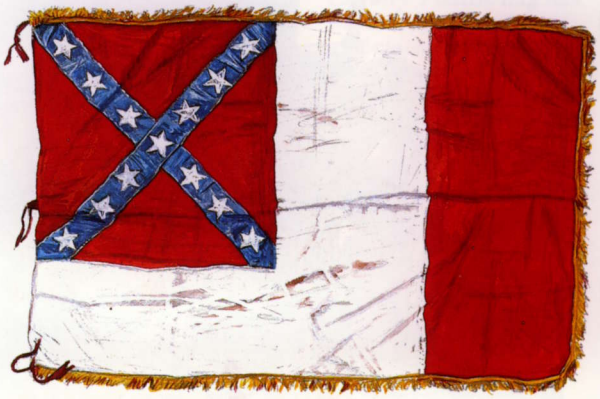
Several months after the first shipment of Bragg's Corps battle flags appeared a second issue was made. These flags differed from the first issue in being rectangular instead of virtually square. An original carried by the 57th Georgia Infantry measures $42\frac{1}{2}$



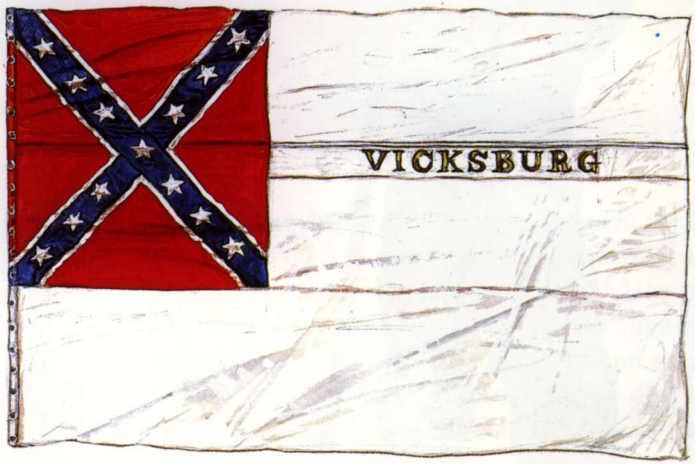
1: First National Flag
2: Co. E, 1st Kentucky Infantry Regiment
3: Co. D, 21st Mississippi Infantry Regiment



1

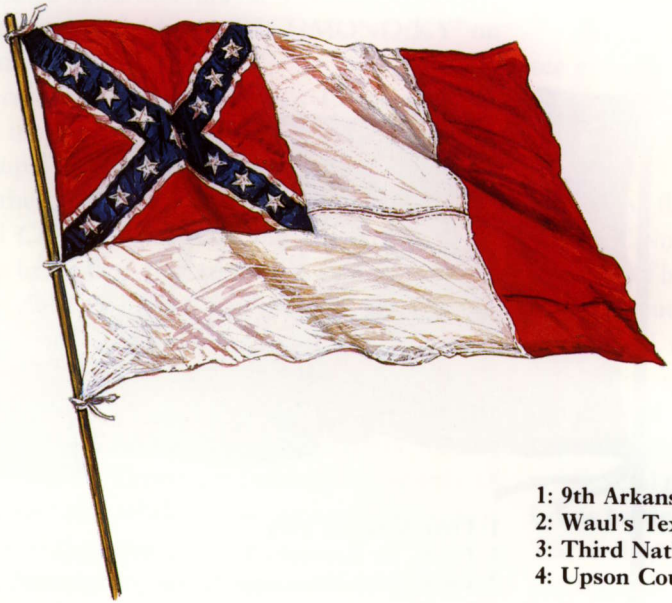


3

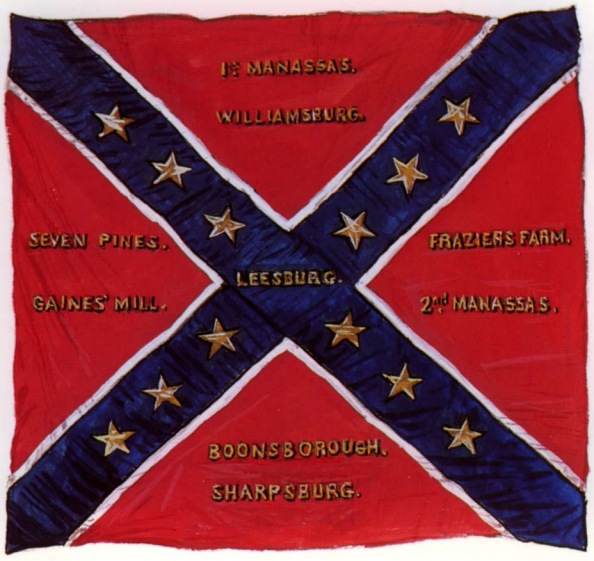


2

4



1: 9th Arkansas Infantry Regiment
2: Waul's Texas Legion
3: Third National Flag
4: Upson County Guards



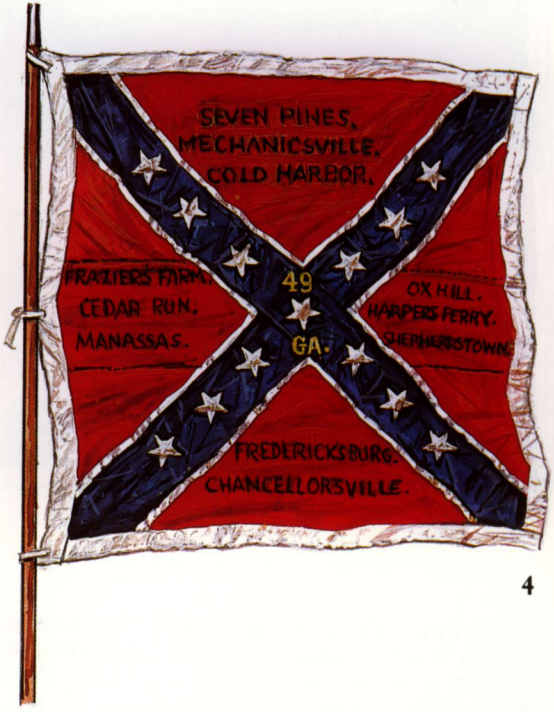
1



3

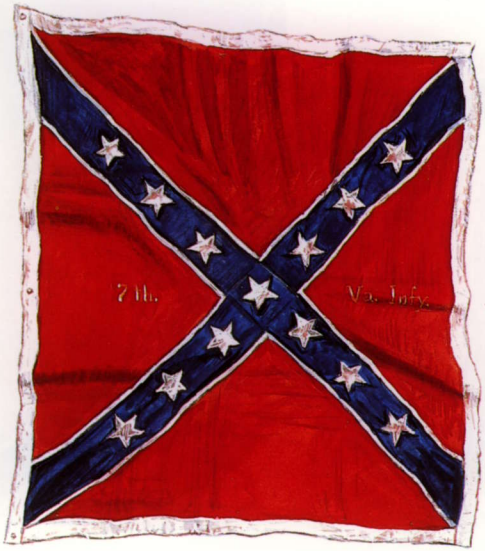


2



4

1: 8th Virginia Infantry Regiment
2: 4th North Carolina Infantry Regiment
3: 5th Florida Infantry Regiment
4: 49th Georgia Infantry Regiment



1

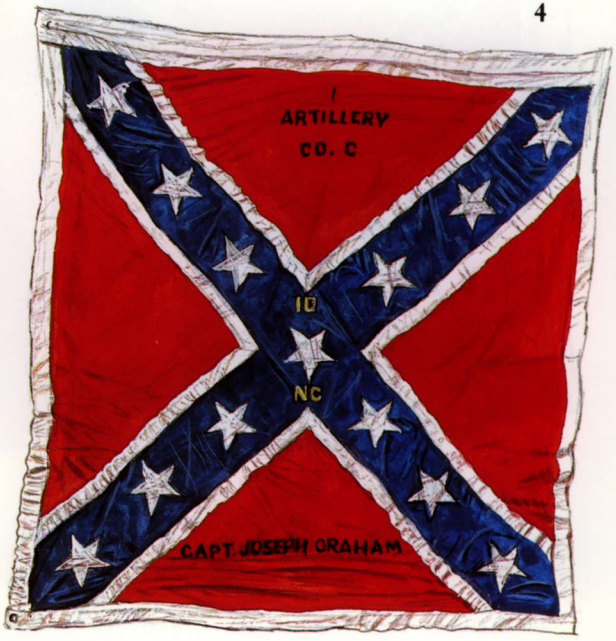


3



2

4



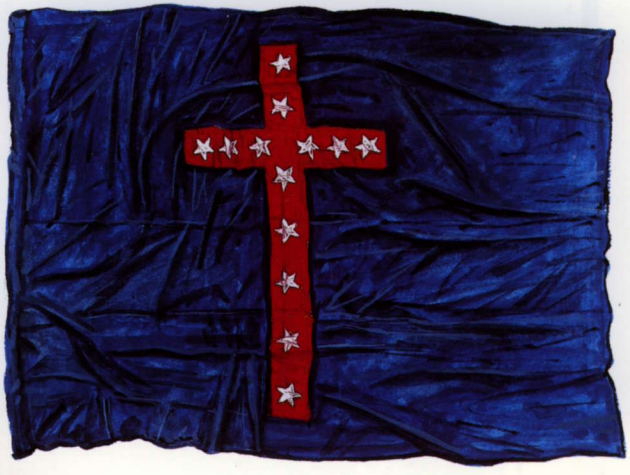
1: 7th Virginia Infantry Regiment
2: 28th North Carolina Infantry Regiment
3: 9th Virginia Infantry Regiment
4: Co. C, 10th North Carolina Regiment Volunteers – 1st Artillery



1



3



4

2



1: 4th Missouri Infantry Regiment
2: 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment
3: 1st Missouri Cavalry Regiment
4: 3rd Kentucky Mounted Infantry Regiment



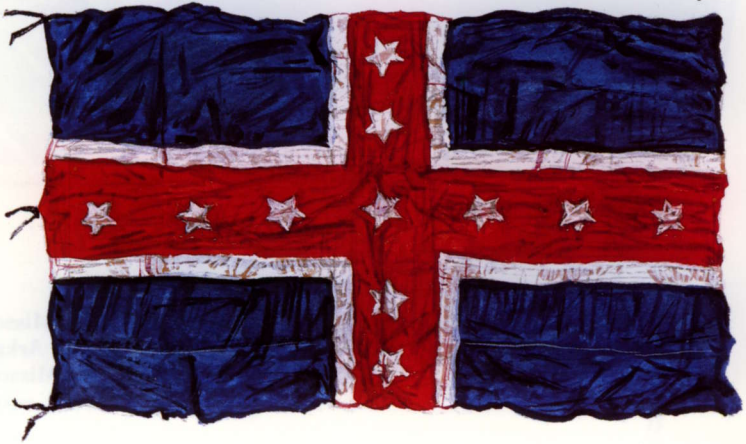
1



3



2



4

1: 18th Alabama Infantry
2: 3rd Confederate Infantry Regiment
3: 22nd Alabama Infantry Regiment
4: 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment



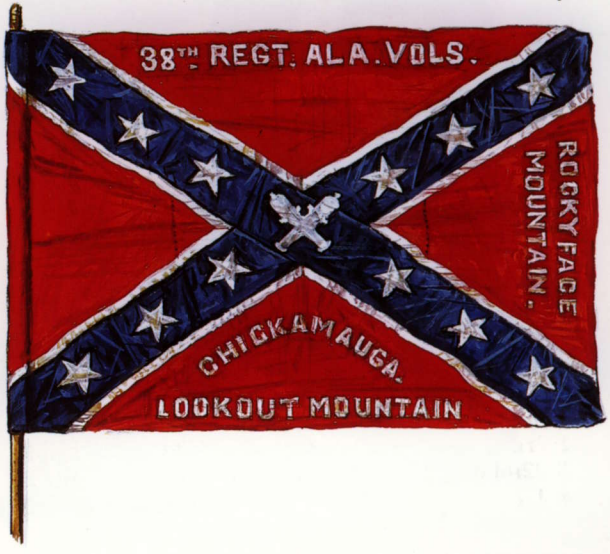
1



3



2



4

1: 4th Mississippi Infantry Regiment
2: 6th Kentucky Infantry Regiment
3: 7th Mississippi Infantry Regiment
4: 38th Alabama Infantry Regiment

1: 57th Georgia Infantry Regiment
2: 26th South Carolina Infantry
3: Shea's Vernon's Texas Battery



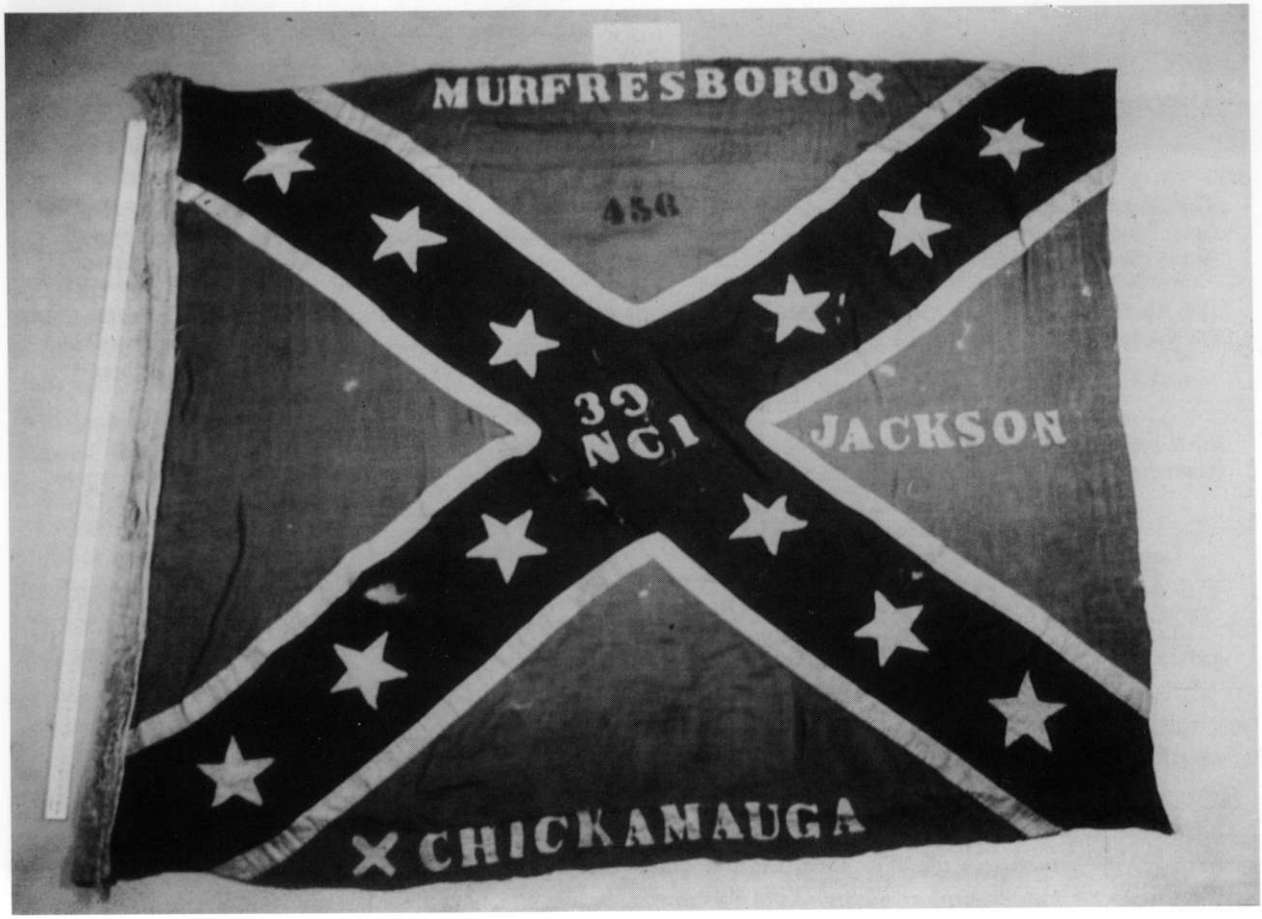
inches on the hoist by 73½ inches on the fly. Moreover, the rectangular battle flags were edged with a pink border on all four sides, with a narrow white bunting border on the hoist through which nine holes were provided for flies to attach the flag to the staff.

Regiments of the Army of Tennessee's Reserve Corps, commanded by Gen. John C. Breckinridge, carried the First National Flag.

In December 1863 Gen. Joseph Johnston assumed command of the Army of Tennessee and issued orders to replace the hodge-podge of battle flags with a single army-wide model. The selected pattern was that of the Army of Northern Virginia, but the new regulation colours were to be rectangular, lacking a border, some three feet on the hoist by four and a quarter feet on the fly for infantry and cavalry, and two and a half on the hoist by three and a third on the fly for artillery batteries. These new battle flags were issued throughout March and April. They became known as the 'Army of Tennessee battle flag' or the 'Johnston battle flag'. Most 'Confederate flags' flown today are of this pattern.

The officers and men of Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne's Division of Hardee's Corps strongly objected to losing their prized battle flags. Their feelings were heeded; and Cleburne's Division, to the end, continued to carry their unique battle flags while most of the rest carried the Army of Tennessee pattern. After the war Hardee wrote: 'This was the only division in the Confederate service to carry in action other than the national colors: and friends and foes soon learned to watch the course of the blue flag that marked where Cleburne was in battle.'

A hero of the Army of Northern Virginia, Lt. Gen. John Hood, was given command of one of the



This Army of Tennessee or 'Johnston' battle flag was carried by the 39th North Carolina State Troops. The unit designation and battle honours have been applied with white cotton letters and numbers. The black capture number '456' is stamped in the upper field. (North Carolina Museum of History)

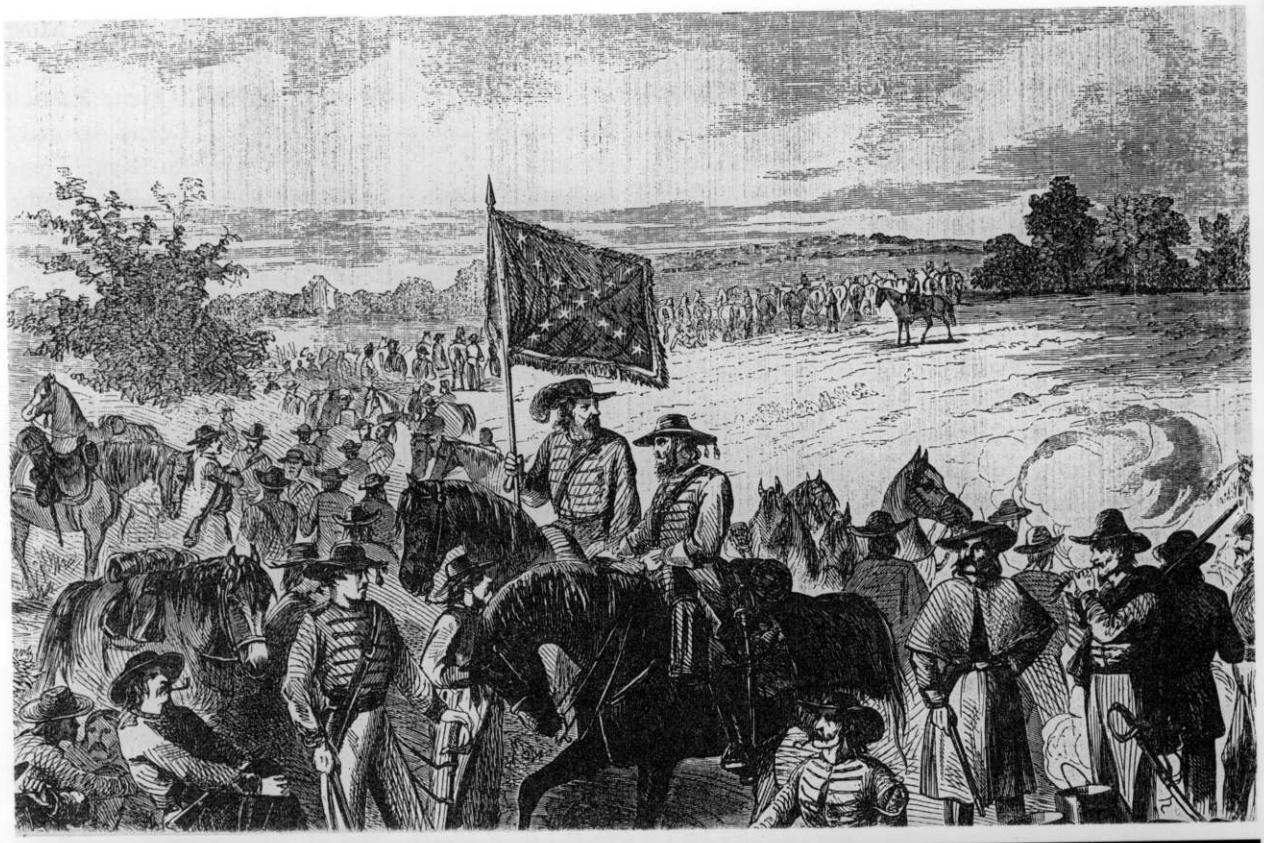


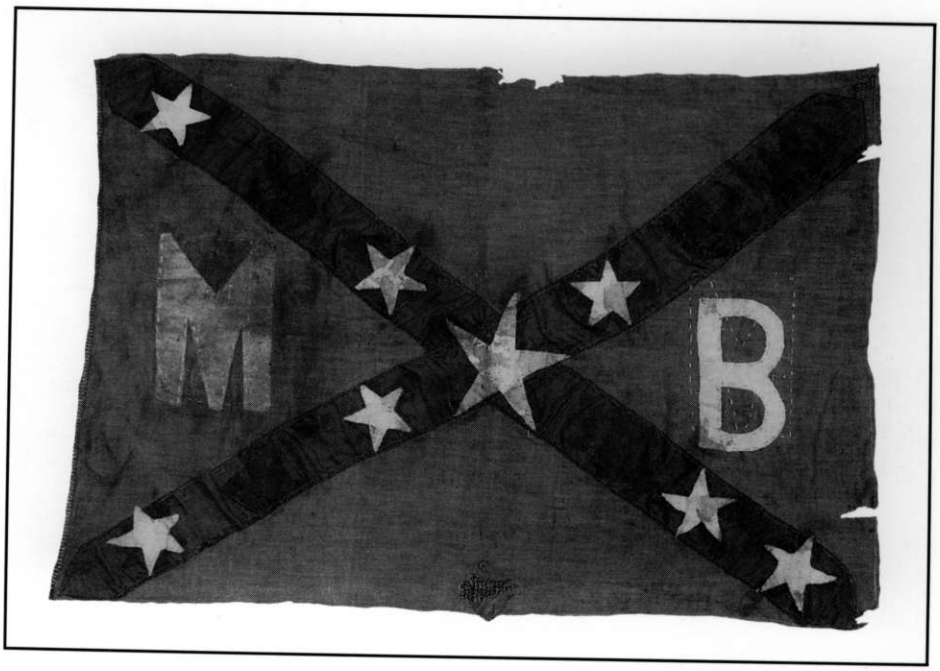
Table C: Army of Tennessee, Hardee's Corps Flags

The following representative variations of Hardee's Corps flags are known. The differences in the ways the unit designation and battle honours have been applied give some idea of the latitude granted unit commanders to alter even regulation corps flags within the Army of Tennessee. If the honours were on the border, they were in dark blue; if on the field, they were white.

18th Ala Inf	18th ALA. in disc, otherwise plain
8th Ark Inf	8th ARKS in disc; PERRYVILLE on top border; SHILOH on hoist border; MURFREESBORO on fly border
8th & 19th Ark Inf (combined)	8th & 19th Ark. Regts. over crossed cannon in disc; ARK. in white letters on left of disc in white, battle honours SHILOH, ELK HORN, Perryville, MURFREESBORO, Post Liberty, Chickamauga, TUNNEL HILL TENN., Ringgold Gap on Field
3rd CS Inf	3rd CONFEDERATE REG'T around crossed cannon in disc; battle honours WOODSONVILLE. SHILOH. FARMINGTON. PERRYVILLE. MURFREESBORO. CHICKAMAUGA. Ringgold Gap. on field
4th Ky Inf	4th Ky in disc; SHILOH . VICKSBURG 1862 on top border; BATON ROUGE on fly border; MURFREESBORO . CHICKAMAUGA on bottom border
17th Tenn Inf	17th Tenn REG'T around crossed cannon in disc; PERRYVILLE on top border; MURFREESBORO on bottom border
Swett's Btry	Battery name and crossed cannon in disc, battle honours SHILOH, MURFREESBORO, CHICKAMAUGA, TUNNEL HILL on blue field,
Unknown	Plain with battle honour SHILOH in disc
Unknown	Plain (captured 24 Noveber 1863)

The 1st Virginia Cavalry were sketched in late August 1862 in Maryland just before the Battle of Sharpsburg carrying a small Army of Northern Virginia battle flag as a pennon.

The flag carried by Morton's Battery, which served with Forrest's command in the West, is a variation of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag made without fimbration. Measuring 18 inches by 24 inches, it is made of cotton save for the St. Andrew's cross which is made of satin from the dress worn by the battery commander's wife on the day that the two met. Several stars are missing. (Courtesy Mike Miner)



army's corps on 1 February 1864. On 20 April he issued his corps' General Orders No. 54: 'I. The regiments of this corps will have their battle-flags plainly marked with their numbers and the State to which they belong. This is done that in the event of the loss of colors no misunderstanding may arise as to who lost them.

'II. But one stand of colors will be used by any regiment in time of battle.'

On 21 April 1864 a circular directed that units which had served honourably in battle or captured enemy artillery could inscribe the battle name on their battle flags. On that same day a circular was issued in Hardee's Corps which read: 'The battle-flags of this corps, known as the "Virginia battle-flag," will have inscribed on them the number of the regiment and the State to which it belongs; the number in the upper angle formed by the cross and the name of the State in the lower angle.'

Actually, there was some variety among flags even after the Army of Tennessee pattern battle flag was adopted; e.g. the 5th Company of Louisiana's Washington Light Artillery received a Second National Flag in early 1864 which had a red crossed cannon insignia on the white field over the name '5TH CO. W.A.' and six battle honours. Similar flags were carried by the 32nd Alabama Infantry and Austins Battalion.

In an attempt to further regularize flags within the Army of Tennessee, on 19 February 1864 General Orders No. 25 authorized a system of command flags. They were as follows:

Army Headquarters: 'battle flag of the Virginia army.'

Hardee's Corps:

Corps commander: flag with three horizontal bars, blue-white-blue.

Division commanders: flag with two horizontal bars, white above blue.

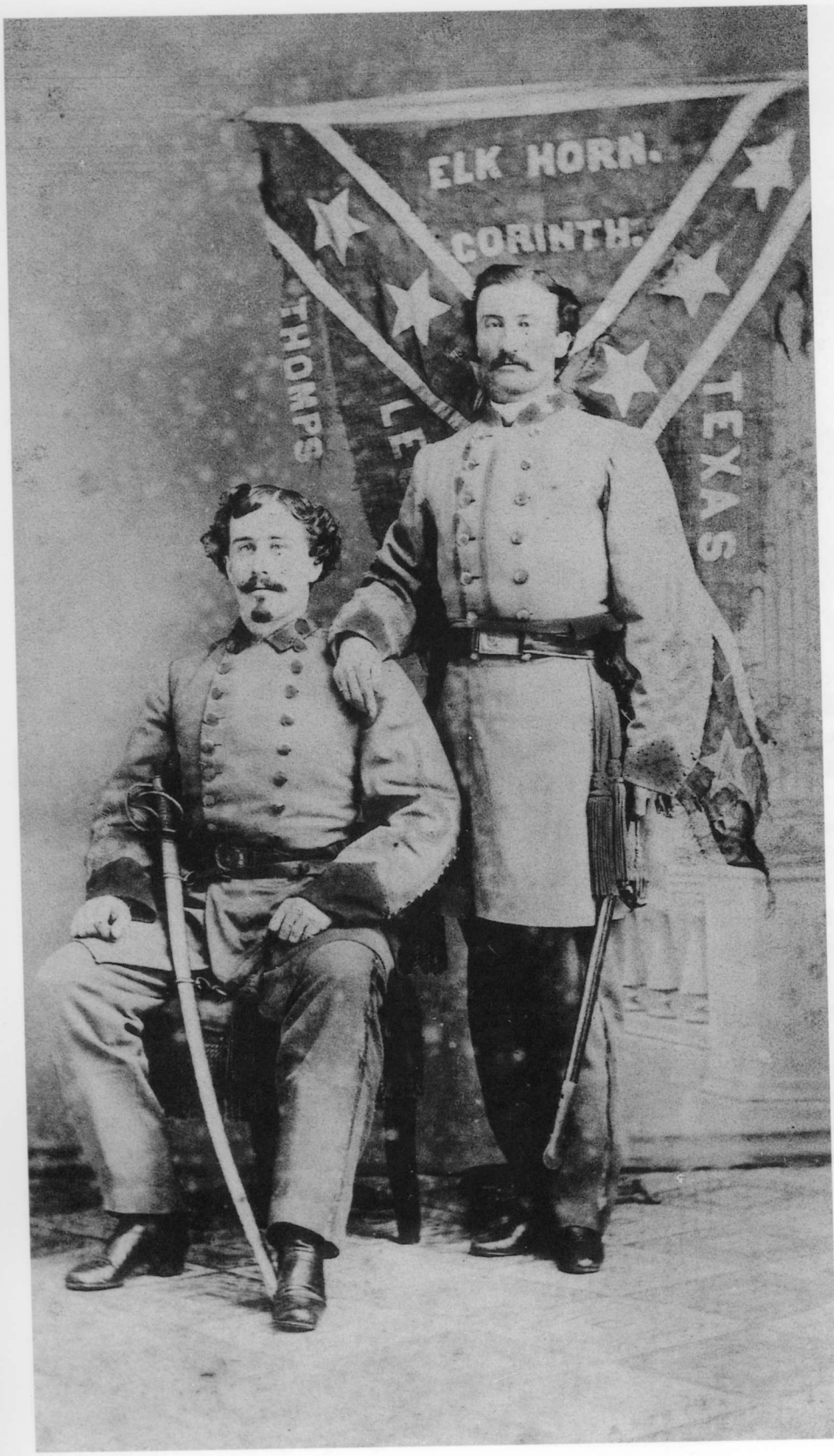
Brigadiers: all blue flag.

Hindman's Corps: same, with red instead of blue.

OTHER COMMANDS

South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

On 29 August 1862 Beauregard was named to command the Department of South Carolina and Georgia, which was expanded with the addition of the state of Florida on 7 October. At its strongest, in January 1864, some 38,277 officers and men were on department rolls. Until Beauregard arrived there units within the department, which was charged with



Field grade officers pose in front of an Army of Tennessee or 'Johnston' version of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag carried by the 27th Texas Cavalry Regiment. The flag is very much the same as that carried by the 3rd Texas Cavalry, also a unit of Ross's Brigade which served in the Army of Tennessee until the 1864 Tennessee campaign. (Houston Public Library)

coastal defence, had flown a mixture of First National and state flags.

Shortly after assuming command, in September, Beauregard issued orders for a common design for standards and colours; however, it took some time for all the units within the department to receive the new flags. For example, it was not until late April 1863 that Beauregard presented units on James Island, South Carolina, with their new battle flags—flags which were received, according to one eyewitness, with 'three cheers and a Tiger'.

The new flag was basically the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag (see Plate H2), with some basic differences. The department flag was made in only two sizes: infantry, foot artillery, and cavalry had colours four feet square, while light artillery batteries flew three-foot-square standards. These flags also had bunting sleeves which were blue for infantry and red for both artillery and cavalry. Finally, the stars in the St. Andrew's cross were spaced evenly, rather than bunched towards the centre star as they were on Army of Northern Virginia battle flags.

The department's flags were made by both Quartermaster Clothing Depots within its domain; and by a private contractor, Hayden & Whilden, which was located in Charleston, South Carolina, where department headquarters was located until October 1864 when its new commander, Hardee, moved it to Savannah, Georgia, in preparation for the siege of that city.

Department General Orders No. 35 dated 5 April 1865 ordered that ambulance depots be marked with a plain red flag so that they would be easily visible by wounded and stretcher bearers.

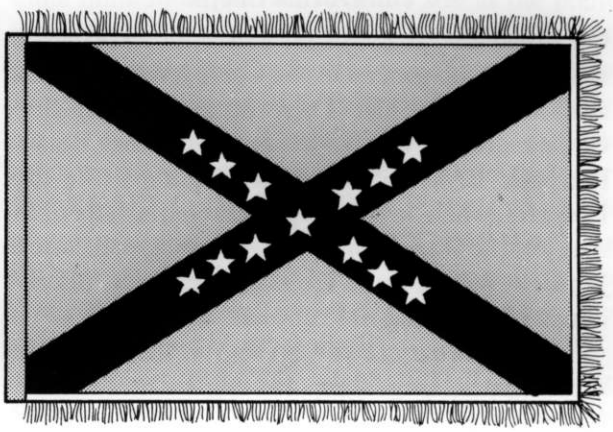
Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana

This department was created 9 May 1864 under the command of Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Lee. He was replaced in late July by Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, who was in turn replaced by Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor, who held the command until the war's end. The department's headquarters was at Meridian, Mississippi, and had some 35,676 officers and men on paper; only 12,000 were surrendered in May 1865.

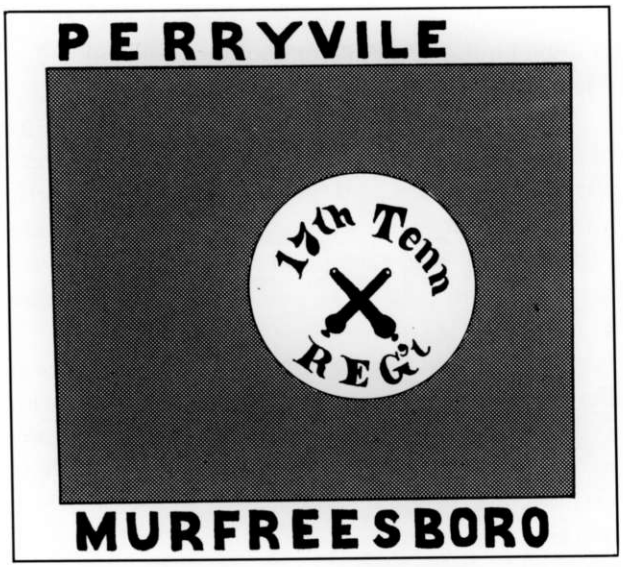
Units within the department had flown a mixture of national flags, flags patterned on Army of Northern Virginia battle flags, and state flags. However, shortly after the department was created a standard pattern for its battle flag was adopted and examples were made at Mobile, Alabama, and issued to units within it.

The wool bunting flags were rectangular copies of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag made with a dozen white stars, three on each arm of the St. Andrew's cross and none in its centre (see Plate G1). Second National Flags made at Mobile also lack this centre star within their cantons. The flags were made without borders and with a leading edge sewn around to make a pole sleeve. Most examples measure around 45 inches on the hoist by 52 inches. A cavalry standard some 37 inches on the hoist by 46 inches was issued to regiments within Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry corps.





The 28th Alabama Infantry, which served in the Army of Tennessee, carried this novel battle flag. The obverse was a variation of the Army of Northern Virginia battle flag with a dark blue St. Andrew's cross and gold stars, while the reverse was of white silk bearing the design and lettering in gold. The fringe was also gold.



This 'Hardee's pattern' battle flag was carried by the 17th Tennessee, which was merged with the 23rd Tennessee after the battles of Murfreesboro and Chickamauga.

Trans-Mississippi Department

Initially there was little in the way of unified design or effort to provide standardized flags within the Confederate state west of the Mississippi River. On 18 November 1861 the Chief Quartermaster, Department of Texas, bought '3 large Flags,' made from 68 yards of bunting, from Samuel Maas, but this seems to have been the only centralized purchase or manufacture of flags within the area. State flags were quite common, especially in the war's early years.

On 19 April 1864 the department's headquarters issued its General Orders No. 18 which authorized battle honours on flags within the command area.

Van Dorn's Corps

On 19 September 1861 Earl Van Dorn was commissioned a major-general in the Confederate Army and assigned to Virginia. There he was one of three commanders to receive a sample of what became the basic Army of Northern Virginia battle flag. However, when he was assigned as commander of the Army of the West in the Trans-Mississippi theatre in January 1862 he came up with an entirely different design of battle flag which he had his men fly.

On 7 February 1862 Van Dorn wrote to one of his subordinates, Brig. Gen. Sterling Price: 'So many mistakes have occurred during this war by the similarity of flags that I have had a battle-flag made, one of which I send you for your army. Please have one made for each regiment of your army, to be carried in battle.'

His flag was of a plain red field with 13 white five-pointed stars placed in various arrangements of five or three rows (see Plates E1 and E2). A white crescent, which supposedly represents Missouri, was placed in the upper left corner. A yellow fringe was sometimes sewn directly to the red field and sometimes around a white border. When first used they were plain, but battle honours and unit designations were apparently added later. The original Van Dorn flag of the 15th Arkansas Infantry measures 46 inches by 65 inches, and is made of bunting.

In April 1862 Van Dorn's men were assigned to the Army of the Mississippi as Van Dorn's Corps. On 17 July 1862 all the regiments of the Army of the Mississippi were authorized to have a battle honour for Shiloh inscribed on their battle flags; on 11 June orders issued in Maury's Division read, 'For conspicuous gallantry in the battle of Shiloh, the Second Texas Regiment will have Shiloh enscribed on its battle flag.' A similar battle honour was authorized for Murfreesboro. There were no regulation methods of applying these honours; some were sewn on from separate letters, some painted, and some embroidered.

These colours continued to be used thereafter, being carried at the Battle of Corinth in October 1862. Examples were being made and issued new as late as the fall of 1862, and these lasted until the surrender of Vicksburg, 4 July 1863. Thereafter this particular flag design seems to have passed into disuse.

District of Western Louisiana

In early 1864 troops of Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor's command, which had cleared out Western Louisiana, appear to have carried uniform flags. These were similar to the last pattern flag carried in the Army of Tennessee save that the colours were reversed, with dark blue fields and red St. Andrew's crosses. Stars and fimbration were white.

An original flag of this type was carried by the 3rd Texas Infantry. It has a yellow fringe, and a white unit designation embroidered on the field: THIRD is embroidered in the top triangle of the field, REGT in

the hoist triangle, TEXAS in the fly triangle, and INFANTRY in the bottom triangle. It measures 45 by 48½ inches.

The flag of the 2nd Louisiana Cavalry was similar, differing in that it lacked the white fimbration and was edged in gold braid border. The unit designation was also embroidered, but in buff script, with '2nd La.' in the upper triangle and 'Cavalry.' in the lower one.

The 1st Arkansas Cavalry carried a variation of this flag, with a St. George's cross instead of a St. Andrew's cross.

Other Trans-Mississippi flags

Although there was a wide variety of flags flown in the command, and a real lack of hard information about them, there do seem to have been several distinctive battle flags within the command by 1863.

On 31 May 1862 the 6th Texas Infantry Regiment, which had been organized in mid-1861, received a regimental colour. According to the *Galveston Advocate* of that date, 'We have had the gratification of seeing the flag prepared for Col. [Robert S.] Garland's regiment, by Mrs. R. Owens and her daughters of this place. It is a beautiful thing indeed. The material is of the richest kind, the work on its exquisite and the designs in good taste – the ground red, the border white, a shield of blue in the center. It contains twelve stars in a circle made of white silk or satin, with one large Texas star in the center. But a few regiments march under a more beautiful flag, and but few flags wave over a more valiant regiment. May the Guardian Power protect the regiment and the flag.'

Mrs. Owens herself later wrote: 'The flag was made of red merino, somewhat larger than the ordinary regimental flag, with a border of white silk fringe. There was a blue shield, 28 by 36 inches, which contained 13 stars. Of these stars 12 were arranged along the margin of the shield, six on either side, while the center star was larger than the others and intended to indicate the Lone Star State. Neatly stitched in white silk were the words "Sixth Texas Infantry Regiment."'

A somewhat similar flag was supposedly carried by the 17th Texas Infantry. It had a red cotton field with a narrow white silk border on top, bottom, and fly, with the staff edge folded over to make a sleeve for the staff. A somewhat elliptical blue cotton circle was placed half way between the top and bottom of the field, close to the staff. This 9¼ inch by 10 inch diameter disc had a dozen white cotton flannel stars in a circle around its edge with a single larger star in its centre. The motto TRUST IN GOD was embroidered in white Roman uncial letters along the bottom of the flag. The similarity of the 6th and 17th Texas Infantry regimental flags suggests that this was a somewhat standard pattern in the area.



This 'Hardee's pattern' battle flag, carried by an unidentified unit, has been dated to the spring of 1863. The original is in a private collection.

Two other very similar flags from the Trans-Mississippi Department also exist. Both have red fields with dark blue St. Andrew's crosses without white fimbration, but with a white star at the point where the cross arms meet, and three stars near that point but in the field rather than on the arms of the cross. One was captured by the 15th Maine Infantry while it was in Texas. The other is marked with block letters on the arm of the cross from upper left to lower right ROBERTSON CAVLILERS! (sic) and on the other arm of the cross GOD FOR THE RIGHT! It was apparently captured by an Illinois unit in the West. While the first flag had a plain border, the second had a yellow silk fringe.

A similar battle flag which lacked either unit designation or stars was captured from either the 18th



This unique battle flag was presented to the 1st Alabama after the unit had been reorganized in late 1863. Serving with the Army of Tennessee, the unit apparently lost this flag at the battle of Franklin, although it went on to surrender some 100 men in April 1865. The flag is in a private collection.

Louisiana Infantry, the 24th Louisiana Infantry, or Battery H, 1st Mississippi Light Infantry on 27 October 1862 in Eastern Louisiana. It has been suggested that the flag probably belonged to the artillery battery, since the two infantry regiments had recently been transferred from Bragg's Corps of the Army of the Mississippi which had recently received Army of Northern Virginia pattern battle flags. This also suggests that the flag's style was one used in the District of Eastern Louisiana.

Confederate Missouri regiments often carried a flag that was apparently unique to units from that state, although it was not an official state flag. It had a dark blue field, bordered in red on top, bottom, and fly, with a white Roman cross placed near the hoist. The hoist end of the flag was simply folded over to make a sleeve for the staff. An example of these was carried by the 1st Missouri Cavalry (see Plate E3).

Indian Commands

The Confederacy recruited widely in the Indian Territories, now Oklahoma, for all-Indian units. These included eight mounted units—cavalry or mounted rifle regiments or battalions—and three infantry regiments. These units were organized along tribal lines.

The Cherokee Nation received its own flag from Confederate Indian Commissioner Albert Pike on 7 October 1861. It was a First National Flag with the Roman uncial letters 'CHEROKEE BRAVES' painted in red on the white stripe. The cotton flag measures 49 inches by 79 inches. The canton contains the standard 11 white five-pointed stars, each representing a Confederate state, in a circle; but within the circle is a smaller circle of four red five-pointed stars around a single, slightly larger red five-pointed star. These stars stood for the Five Civilized Tribes of the Cherokee, Seminole, Chickasaw, Creek, and Choctaw. This flag was carried by the 1st Cherokee Mounted Rifles and was captured on 3 July 1862. Another version was virtually identical, but eliminated the star that represented the Seminoles.

The Choctaw Brigade, made up of some 2,000 Choctaw Indians, flew quite a different flag. It was 40 inches by 62 inches with a dark blue field. In its centre was a white circle surrounding a red disc, all of cotton. Embroidered on the red disc were a pair of crossed arrows, the points away from the hoist, with a tomahawk perpendicular to the ground and an unstrung bow facing the staff, all in white. The fact that the bow was unstrung was supposed to signify that the Choctaw were peace-loving, although ready to defend themselves.

OTHER FLAGS

There were no official pennons or guidons carried by Confederate troops. Officially, in the Army of Northern Virginia at least, regulation battle flags were simply made in small sizes for mounted units which carried such flags in the US Army.

However, a number of units did carry these small flags. For example, a forked guidon survived with its top half red and its bottom half white, marked in white on the top '1st Co. 1st Batl' and in red on the bottom 'N.C. ARTILLERY'. Many small forked guidons still exist, some 11 by 16 or 17 inches, made like the First National Flag. These were apparently made for use on lances.

Another pennon is supposed to have been taken from a 'lance staff' carried in the 5th Virginia Cavalry.

It measures 9¼ by 24 inches and has three horizontal stripes, the top and bottom red and the middle one white.

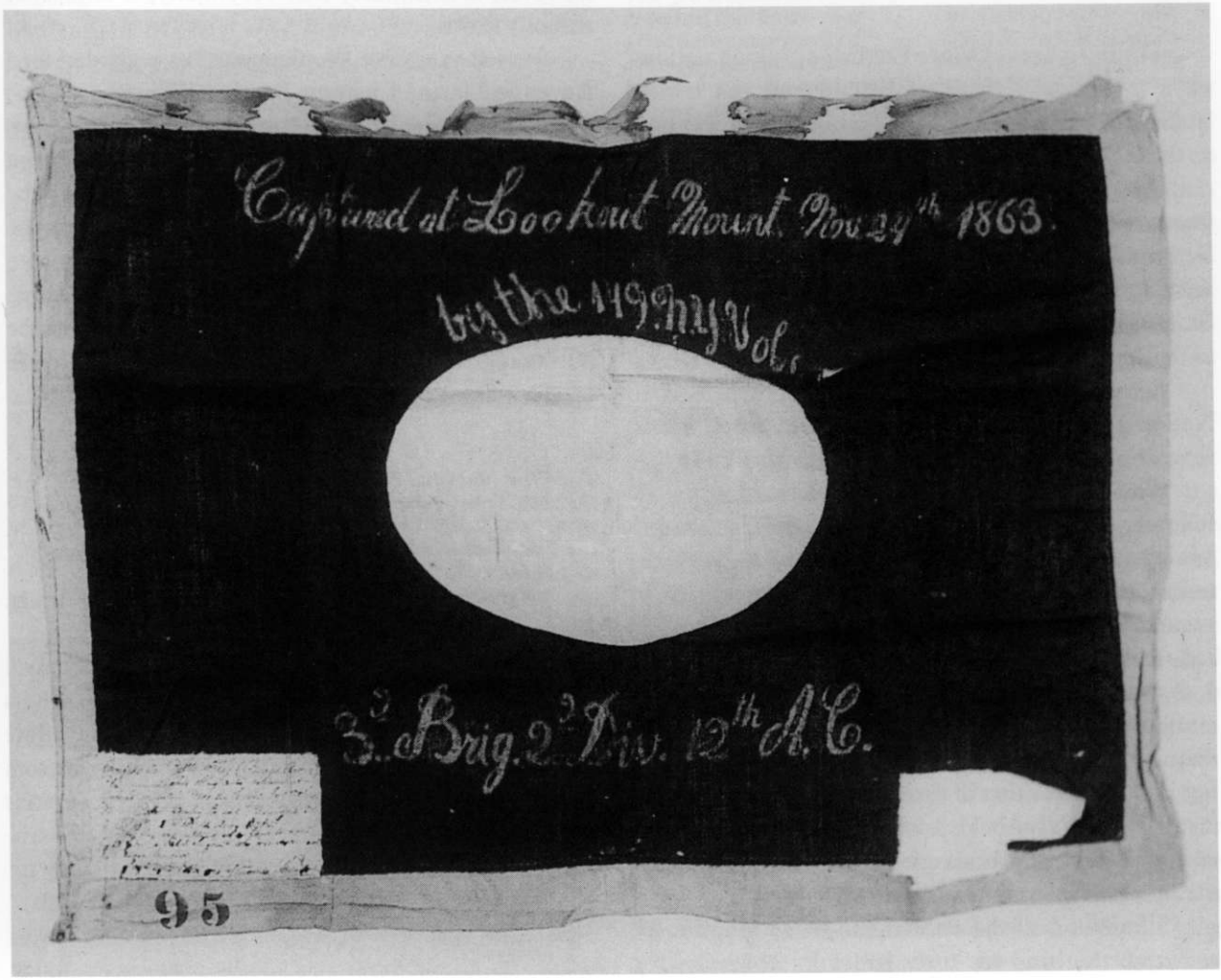
Apparently one Confederate battery carried a guidon made in the First National pattern, save that the stars in the canton are arranged in the pattern of a St. Andrew's cross. The rectangular pennon is 13 inches by 20 inches. A handwritten inscription on it indicates that it was captured in 1864.

Naval flags

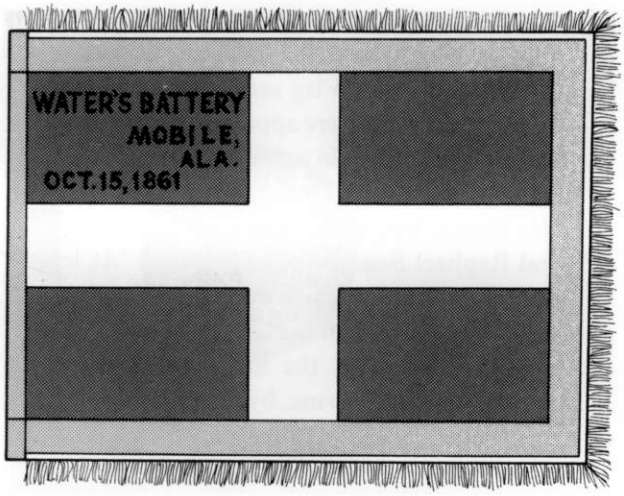
Naval vessels fly three basic flags: the ensign, the jack, and the commission pennant. The ensign is the national flag and is flown at the ship's stern in most cases. The jack is flown only on a ship of war when in port, from the jack staff at the ship's bow; it designates the ship's nationality. The commission pennant shows that the ship is in its country's service, and is flown from the mainmast.

The First National Flag served as the first naval ensign. Some versions were apparently made with the stars in rows rather than in a circle, although the latter was the most commonly seen canton.

The ensign was the ship's main symbol. Rear Admiral Raphael Semmes later recalled: 'At length on the 3rd of June [1861], I was enabled to put the *Sumter*, formally, in commission. On that day her colors were hoisted, for the first time—the ensign having been presented to me, by some patriotic ladies of New Orleans . . .'



A Hardee's Division battle flag captured from an unknown Confederate regiment on Lookout Mountain on 24 November 1863, and bearing the US War Department capture number '95'. (Museum of the Confederacy)



Apparently a variation of the East Tennessee battle flag, this example carried by Walter's Alabama Battery has a dark blue field with a white cross, red border and white fringe. The unit designation was embroidered in red.

As was typical of other English-speaking nations' navies, especially those of Britain and the United States, the canton of the First National Flag was used as the jack.

The design of the commission pennant is not known through orders, but an illustration in Semmes' memoirs indicates that it had a blue head with a white star representing each Confederate State, with three stripes, red, white, and red, the same as on the First National Flag.

To conform to the adoption of the Second National Flag the Secretary of the Navy issued regulations calling for new flags on 26 May 1863:

'The new Ensign will be made according to the following directions. The field to be white, the length one and a half times the width of the flag, with the union (now used as the Battle Flag) to be square, of two-thirds of the width of the flag, having the ground red, thereon a broad saltier of blue, to the union as 1:4$\frac{4}{5}$, bordered with white, to the union as 1:22, and emblazoned with white mullets, or five-pointed stars, diameter of the stars to the union as 1:6$\frac{2}{5}$ corresponding in number to that of the Confederate States.

'THE PENNANT. A white ground, its size to be as 1:72, or its length seventy-two times its width at the head, and tapering to a point.

'The union of the Pennant to be as follows: All red from the head for three times its width, with a white border equal to half its width, then all blue in length equal to twelve times its width, to be emblazoned with stars, in number equal to those in the Ensign, with a white border equal to half the width, and then red three times the width, with the fly all white.

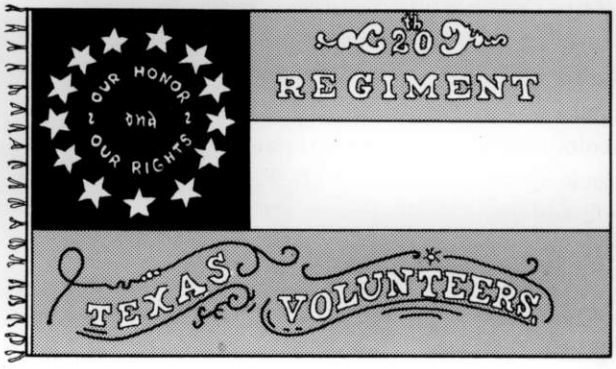
'THE JACK. To be the same as the union for the Ensign, except that its length shall be one and a half times its width.'

A variation of the commission pennant is known to have had a St. Andrew's cross of blue, with white fimbration, on a red field, with the rest of the pennant in white. The arms of the cross lacked the regulation stars.

When the Third National Flag was adopted, as many ensigns as possible conforming to the new design would presumably have been issued. Given the few months left to the Confederate Navy, however, it is unlikely that very many, if any, were actually flown.

As well as a Navy, Confederate law provided for a Revenue Marine Customs Service. This was a small naval force provided with cutters in each major port, whose purpose was to make sure customs laws were enforced. Its command fell to the Secretary of the Treasury, rather than the Navy, although in wartime its cutters and officers and men could be taken into the Navy as needed. Although some US Revenue Marine Customs Service cutters were captured at the outbreak of the war and taken into Confederate service, few actually saw customs service. The

The First National Flag of the 20th Texas Infantry, which was stationed along the Texas coastline throughout the war, bears the unit motto and designation in gold-painted letters and numbers, edged on the upper right in red and the lower left in black.



blockade, which put an effective end to smuggling, also largely ended the need for customs enforcement.

Nonetheless, the service did have its own ensign. It looked rather like the French flag, with stripes of (from the staff of the fly) blue, white, and red. The blue stripe was one and a half times wider than the other stripes and had a circle of white five-pointed stars, one for each state, where the canton would be.

Select Bibliography

Cannon, Devereaux D., Jr., *The Flags of the Confederacy, An Illustrated History;* Memphis, Tennessee, 1988

Crute, Joseph H., Jr., *Emblems of Southern Valor*; Louisville, Kentucky, 1990

Madaus, H. Michael and Robert D. Needham, 'Unit Colors of the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy', *Military Collector & Historian*; Washington, DC, 1989

Madaus, H. Michael, *The Battle Flags of the Confederate Army of Tennessee;* Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1976

Madaus, Howard M., 'The Conservation of Civil War Flags: The Military Historian's Perspective', *Papers presented at the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee Flag Symposium, 1987*; Harrisburg, 1987

Todd, Frederick P., *American Military Equippage, Vol. II*; Providence, Rhode Island, 1977

United Confederate Veterans, *The Flags of the Confederate States of America*; Baltimore, Maryland, 1907

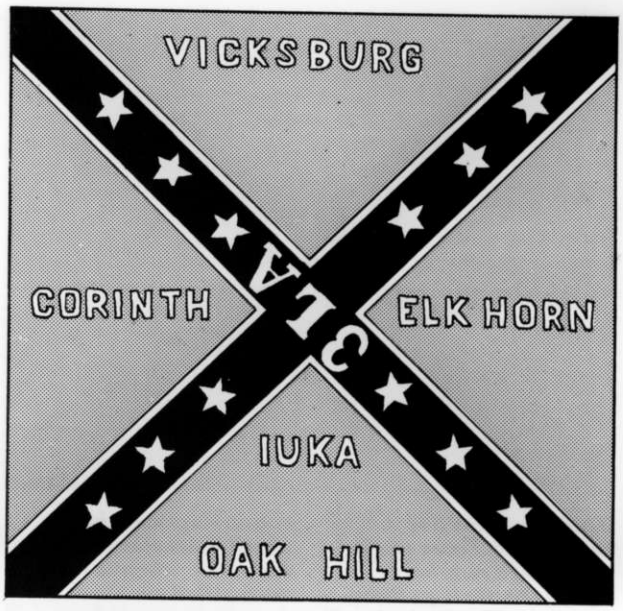
THE PLATES

A1: First National Flag

This variation of the First National Flag was captured from an unknown unit at Gettysburg. It is fairly typical of the First National Flag save that the stars are somewhat larger than usual. The infantry colour sergeant wears a first pattern Richmond Depot jacket, with the three stripes and a star officially designated for an ordnance sergeant but widely worn by colour sergeants.

A2: Co. E, 1st Kentucky Infantry Regiment

Companies were often presented with a colour on leaving for war. The unit designation was often placed on the white stripe in the field. This example of the First National Flag has an unusually sized canton, although six-pointed stars were not uncommon. The 1st Kentucky was formed in mid-1861 and served for one year in northern Virginia before disbandment.



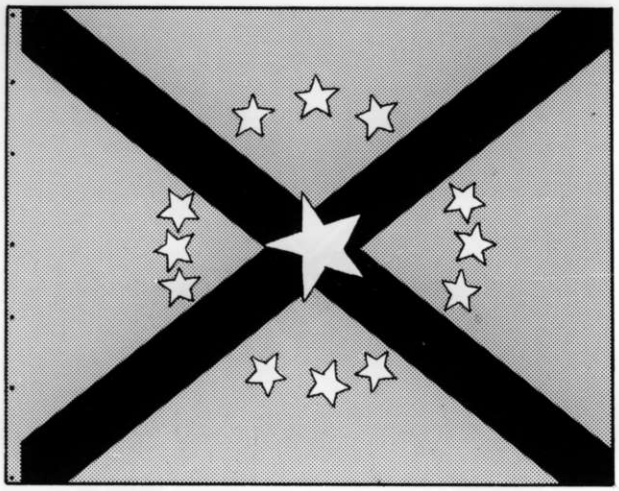
The 3rd Louisiana Infantry received this battle flag after being reorganized after its surrender at Vicksburg in the summer of 1863. It served thereafter in the Trans-Mississippi Department under this flag. The battle honours and unit designation are applied with white cotton letters sewn onto the flag.

A3: Co. D, 21st Mississippi Infantry Regiment

This First National Flag variation was made by the Woodville, Mississippi, Ladies' Auxiliary for the local Jefferson Davis Guards, which became Co. D, 21st Mississippi Infantry Regiment. The regiment served in the Army of Northern Virginia from the Seven Days' to Appomattox. The flag is made of wool with cotton stars; it is 49 inches on the hoist and 76 inches on the fly.

B1: 9th Arkansas Infantry Regiment

The canton of this Second National Flag is larger than regulation, and lacks the standard white fimbration. The 9th Arkansas surrendered at Port Hudson on 9 July 1863 and was paroled. After being exchanged it finished the war in the Army of



This red cotton flag was captured in Texas and is typical of a number of similar battle flags from that area. The St. Andrew's cross is dark blue and the cotton stars are white. Small holes along the hoist edge show where it was once nailed to a staff.

Tennessee, surrendering on 26 April 1865 in North Carolina.

B2: Waul's Texas Legion

This virtually regulation Second National Flag was made for Col. Bernard Timmons, who commanded the 12 infantry companies of Waul's Texas Legion. The colour was made when the unit was reformed after it was captured at Vicksburg in 1863. The unit served in the Trans-Mississippi Department until disbanded in May 1865.

B3: Third National Flag

This particular Third National Flag probably flew over some government installation. It lacks the regulation white fimbration, but is otherwise made according to the flag law of 4 March 1865.

B4: Upson County Guards

This Third National Flag was made in England in 1864 as a Second National Flag and had the red stripe at its end added later. It was captured from the Upson County, Georgia, Guards on 20 April 1865. Made of bunting and cotton, $42\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the hoist and $88\frac{1}{2}$ in the fly, it has a silk cross and stars.

C1: 8th Virginia Infantry Regiment

This first issue Army of Northern Virginia battle flag was supposedly made by the wife of Gen. Pierre G. T. Beauregard with silk from her own dresses, and presented to the 8th by the general in recognition of valour in the Battle of Balls Bluff. The 8th served in the Army of Northern Virginia until after Gettysburg, when it was transferred to the Department of Richmond which Beauregard commanded in 1864.

C2: 4th North Carolina Infantry Regiment

This first bunting issue Army of Northern Virginia battle flag bears battle honours printed on white cotton strips and sewn onto the colour. Identical honours were sewn on the battle flags of the 6th South Carolina and 2nd Florida Infantry Regiments (in the latter case they were sewn in the middle of the colour), among other regiments with the same style of battle honours. The regiments served in different divisions of Longstreet's Corps at the Seven Pines but were thereafter separated, so it is assumed that these honours were placed on the flags of units in that Corps shortly after the battle.

C3: 5th Florida Infantry Regiment

This first bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag measures 47 inches square and was issued in early summer 1862. The 5th served in the Army of Northern Virginia from Second Manassas until it surrendered with only six officers and 47 enlisted men at Appomattox.

C4: 49th Georgia Infantry Regiment

Many of the third bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flags of regiments of the Army of Northern Virginia were made with the yellow painted unit designation as shown (see Table B). As seen by its battle honours, the regiment was an active one, until it surrendered with only eight officers and 103 enlisted men at Appomattox.

D1: 7th Virginia Infantry Regiment

The unit designation style on this third bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag appears to have been common in Pickett's Division. While the 7th served in Kemper's and later W. R. Terry's brigades in that division, two other regiments with similar colours—the 18th and 28th Virginia Infantry Regiments—served in Garnett's and later Hunton's brigades in the same division. The flag of

the 18th has '18th Va.' embroidered in white on the hoist side of the field and 'Regt. Inf'y.' on the fly side of the hoist, as do those of the 7th and 28th Regiments.

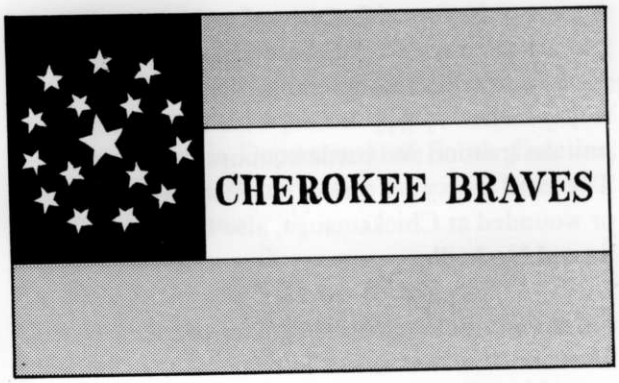
D2: 28th North Carolina Infantry Regiment
This style of battle honours appears to have been unique to Lane's Brigade of A. P. Hill's Division of the Army of Northern Virginia, which included the 7th, 18th, 28th, 33rd, and 37th North Carolina Regiments. The surviving colour of the 37th North Carolina is identical to this one save that the honour at the top of the colour reads NEW BERNE, while that on the hoist is MALVERN HILL and that on the fly is MANNASSAS (sic).

D3: 9th Virginia Infantry Regiment
This rather crude unit designation on a third bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flag appears to have been executed within the unit. The 9th lost over half its officers and men at Gettysburg, surrendering with just two officers and 37 enlisted men at Appomattox.

D4: Co. C, 10th North Carolina Regiment Volunteers—1st Artillery
The 10th had five heavy and five light artillery companies, of which Co. C.—also known as the 'Charlotte Artillery'—was a light battery which served in the Army of Northern Virginia from July 1862. The type of unit designation shown here usually appears on third bunting pattern Army of Northern Virginia battle flags, as mentioned above.

E1: 4th Missouri Infantry Regiment
This is the Van Dorn pattern colour of the 4th Missouri, which was organized in April 1862 and was captured at Vicksburg in July 1863.

E2: 15th Arkansas Infantry Regiment
The 'NW' on this Van Dorn pattern colour represents the 15th's nickname, the 'Northwest Regiment'. The colour, 46 inches by 65 inches, was apparently presented to the unit in October or November 1862. One of three Arkansas units so numbered, this 15th was surrendered at Vicksburg and not reorganized thereafter.



The First National Flag carried by the Cherokee Nation. The outer circle of stars are white and the inner circle red.

E3: 1st Missouri Cavalry Regiment
The 11th Wisconsin Infantry captured this Missouri pattern battle flag on 17 May 1863; it is 36 inches by 51 inches in size. The unit served from Elkhorn Tavern until it surrendered at Vicksburg. It was later exchanged, fighting at Atlanta and thereafter in Tennessee, finishing the war in the Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana.

E4: 3rd Kentucky Mounted Infantry Regiment
The 3rd was a part of Kentucky's 'Orphan Brigade' until late 1862 when it was reassigned. Nevertheless, it continued to fly this typical 'Orphan Brigade battle flag', a similar example of which indicated brigade headquarters. The unit was mounted in early 1864 and served in Mississippi, Georgia, and Alabama.

F1: 18th Alabama Infantry
The 18th, which served in the Army of Tennessee between March 1862 and January 1865, carried a typical Hardee's Corps battle flag which measured, in this case, 34 inches by 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

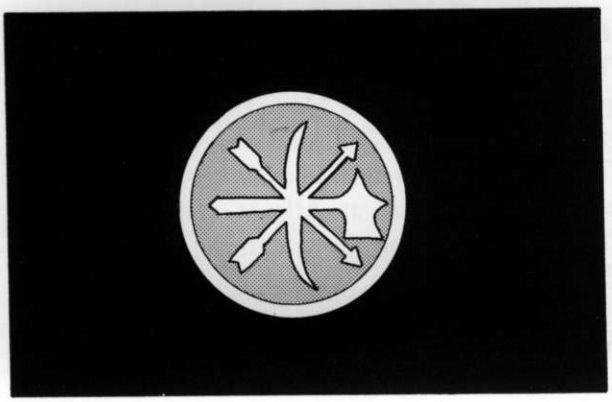
F2: 3rd Confederate Infantry Regiment
The 3rd was formed in January 1862 with troops from Arkansas and Mississippi. It was merged with the 5th Confederate Infantry from February 1863 until Aptil 1864, surrendering on 26 April 1865. Their Hardee's Corps battle flag measures 30 inches by 35$\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

F3: 22nd Alabama Infantry Regiment

The 22nd's variation of the Polk's Corps battle flag was captured on 20 September 1863. The cotton flag is 41½ inches by 54½ inches, with a silk fringe. The unit designation and battle honours are embroidered. The 22nd lost 53 per cent of its officers and men killed or wounded at Chickamauga, also fighting at Franklin and Nashville.

F4: 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment

The 1st carried a standard silk Polk's Corps battle flag measuring 28 inches by 46 inches. Later it had a black unit designation, '1st REGT TENN', painted on a white cotton strip sewn to the top centre of the flag. The 1st was consolidated with the 27th Tennessee in December 1862.



The flag of the Choctaw Brigade has a blue field with a red disk fimbrated in white; the traditional Indian weapons are white.

G1: 4th Mississippi Infantry Regiment

The 4th lost this Department of Alabama, Mississippi, and East Louisiana battle flag on 16 December 1864 at Nashville. It measures 46 inches by 52 inches.

G2: 6th Kentucky Infantry Regiment

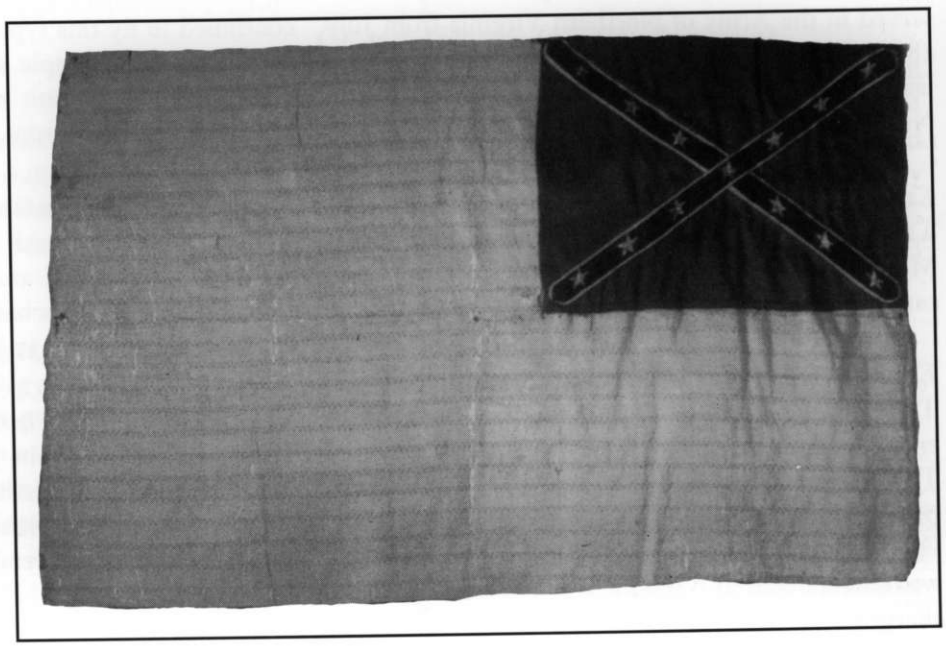
The 6th, part of the 'Orphan Brigade', carried this Army of Tennessee pattern battle flag until it was captured on 1 September 1864. The battle honours and crossed cannon are painted on the bunting and cotton flag. This is 36½ inches by 51 inches in size; the stars are 4 inches across at the points, while the unit designation letters are a maximum of 3 inches high. The crossed cannon are in honour of the capture of a Union battery at Chickamauga on the evening of 20 September 1863.

G3: 7th Mississippi Infantry Regiment

The 7th carried throughout the war a battle flag of the type used by the Army of Tennessee, in which it served after a brief tour of duty on the Mississippi coast. It surrendered with 74 officers and men on 26 April 1865.

G4: 38th Alabama Infantry Regiment

Typically inverted crossed cannon appear in the centre of this Army of Tennessee battle flag which was captured at Resaca, Georgia, on 15 May 1864. The 38th took 490 officers and men into battle at



This Second National Flag is the naval jack flown on the CSS Shenandoah, *the last Confederate flag to be struck, which was finally lowered in November 1865 for the last time. The gold stars have been painted on the St. Andrew's cross. (North Carolina Museum of History)*

Chickamauga, and surrendered with only 80 on 4 May 1865.

H1: 57th Georgia Infantry Regiment

An ensign, bearing the insignia of a first lieutenant, was authorized in each regiment to carry the unit colour on 17 February 1864. This regiment's Army of Mississippi, Bragg's Corps battle flag, made of cotton with silk stars and border, measures $42\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $73\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The 57th was captured at Vicksburg, after which it was exchanged and served from Resaca to Bentonville.

H2: 26th South Carolina Infantry

The 26th served in Charleston, South Carolina, from late 1862 until early 1863, when it was sent to Mississippi; and then from mid-1863 until the spring of 1864 back in Charleston, before finally joining the Army of Northern Virginia at Petersburg. It must have received this Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida battle flag during its latter tour of duty in Charleston.

H3: Shea's-Vernon's Texas Battery

This 36 inch by 46 inch silk flag, lacking the white fimbration and with a centre larger than the others, is typical of those carried by Texans who served in their own state and Louisiana. An almost identical standard was carried by Parson's Texas Cavalry Brigade.

Notes sur les planches en couleur

A1 Ce drapeau national de Fleet, avec les étoiles plus grands que d'habitude, est tenu par un porte-drapeau de l'infantrie habillé d'une veste à motif de Richmond Depot. Le drapeau à trois rayures et une étoile est officiellement désigné pour le sergent mais est souvent tenu par le porte-drapeau. **A2** Le premier drapeau national a un canton d'une grandeur peu commune, quoique les étoiles à six branches n'étaient pas inhabituelles. **A3** Le premier drapeau national est tissé en laine et figure des étoiles en coton, il mesure 59 pouces du palan et 76 pouces déployé.

B1 Le canton de ce deuxième drapeau national est plus grand qu'il ne l'est réglementé et il lui manque la bordure blanche habituelle. **B2** Ce deuxième drapeau national quasi réglementaire était fabriqué pour le Col Bernard Timmons de la Légion Waul's Texas. **B3** Ce troisième drapeau national qui a perdu la bordure blanche réglementaire, est fabriqué selon la loi des pavillons du 4 mars 1865. **B4** Figurant une croix en soie et des étoiles, ce troisième drapeau national est fabriqué en étamine et en coton, mesure $42\frac{1}{2}$ pouces au palan et $88\frac{1}{2}$ pouces déployé. A l'origine, ce pavillon est fabriqué comme deuxième drapeau national, sa rayure rouge est ajoutée plus tard.

C1 Cette première émission du drapeau de guerre de l'armée de Northern Virginia est présentée à la 8ème en roconnaissance de leur vaillance au cours de la bataille de Balls Bluff. **C2** Cette première émission en étamine du drapeau de guerre de l'armée de Northern Virginia porte les honneurs imprimés sur des bandes blanches en coton, puis cousues sur les couleurs. **C3** L'émission de ce premier drapeau de guerre de l'armée de Northern Virginia, qui mesure 47 pouces carrés, a eu lieu au début de l'été 1862. **C4** Chaque troisième drapeau à motif en étamine de l'armée de Northern Virginia et des régiments de l'armée de Northern Virginia est illustré avec la désignation de l'unité jaune – voir table B.

D1 Le style de la désignation de l'unité sur ce 3ème drapeau à motif en étamine de l'armée de Northern Virginia semble avoir été courant dans la Pickett's Division. **D2** Ce style d'honneurs de guerre devait être unique à la brigade de Lane, la Division d'A P Hill, à l'Armée de Northern Virginia. **D3** La désignation de l'unité assez rudimentaire sur un troisième motif de l'Armée de Northern Virginia semble avoir été éxécutée à l'intérieur-même de l'unité. **D4** Ce genre de désignation parait d'habitude sur les 3ème drapeaux de guerre à motif de l'Armée de Northern Virginia.

E1 Voici le pavillon à motif Van Dorn de la 4e de Missouri. **E2** Le 'NW' sur ce pavillon à motif représente le diminutif de la 15ème, le Northwest Regiment, les dimensions de ce drapeau sont de 46 pouces par 45. **E3** Le drapeau de guerre à motif de Missouri mesure 36 pouces par 51. **E4** Un exemple typique due drapeau de guerre de la brigade de l'Orphans.

F1 Ce drapeau de guerre typique des Hardees Corps mesure 34 pouces par $37\frac{1}{2}$. **F2** Ce drapeau de guerre de Hardees Corps de la 3ème mesure 30 pouces par $35\frac{1}{2}$. **F3** La variation appartenant à la 22ème du drapeau de guerre de la Polk Corps est un drapeau en coton avec une lisière en soie qui mesure $41\frac{1}{2}$ pouces par $54\frac{1}{2}$. **F4** La 1ère porte un drapeau de guerre normal en soie qui mesure 28 pouces par 46.

G1 Ce drapeau du Département d'Alabama, de Mississippi et de East Louisiana mesure 46 pouces par 52. **G2** Ce drapeau de guerre à motif de l'Armée de Tennessee mesure $36\frac{1}{2}$ pouces par 51, les étoiles mesurent 4 pouces de largeur aux branches, et les lettres qui désignent l'unité mesurent un maximum de 3 pouces de hauteur. Les honneurs de battaille et le canon croisé sont appliqués avec de la peinture sur le drapeau en étamine et coton. **G3** Pendant toute la guerre, la 3ème portait un drapeau de guerre du type utilisé par l'Armée de Tennessee. **G4** Les canons croisés typiques apparaissent au centre de ce drapeau de guerre de l'Armée de Tennessee.

Farbtafeln

A1 Diese erste Marine-Nationalflagge – mit größeren Sternen als gewöhnlich – wird von einem Colour Sergeant (Oberfeldwebel) getragen, bekleidet mit einer Richmond Depot-Jacke. Ursprünglich für Ordnance Sergeants (Waffenunteroffiziere) entworfen, wurden die drei Streifen und ein Stern weithin von Colour Sergeants getragen. **A2** Diese erste Nationalflagge hat ein Feld von ungewöhnlicher Größe, wenn auch sechsspitzige Sterne nicht ungewöhnlich waren. **A3** Diese erste Nationalflagge ist aus Wolle mit Baumwollsternen hergestellt; die Tiefe beträgt 1,49m, die Länge 1,93m.

B1 Das Feld dieser zweiten Nationalflagge ist größer als vorgeschrieben und besitzt nicht die übliche weiße Befransung. **B2** Diese praktisch vorschriftsmäßige zweite Nationalflagge wurde für Oberst Benard Timmons von Waul's Texas Legion hergestellt. **B3** Diese dritte Nationalflagge entspricht dem Fahnengesetz vom 4. März 1865, abgesehen von der fehlenden weißen Befransung. **B4** Diese dritte Nationalflagge besteht aus Flaggentuch und Baumwolle, 1,08m tief und 2,24m lang. Sie hat ein seidenes Kreuz und seidene Sterne. Sie war ursprünglich als zweite Nationalflagge angefertigt worden, und der rote Streifen am Ende wurde erst später hinzugefügt.

C1 Diese erste Ausgabe der Kriegsfahne der Armee von Northern Virginia wurde dem 8. Infanterieregiment in Anerkennung seiner Tapferkeit im Gefecht von Balls Bluff überreicht. **C2** Diese erste Ausgabe der Kriegsfahne von Northern Virginia aus Fahnentuch zeigt Schlachtenauszeichnungen, gedruckt auf weißen Baumwollstreifen, und auf die Fahne aufgenäht. **C3** Diese erste Kriegsfahne von Northern Virginia aus Fahnentuch, 1,87m im Quadrat, kam im Frühsommer 1862 heraus. **C4** Alle dritten Kriegsfahnen für die Regimenter der Armee von Northern Virginia, bestehend aus Fahnentuch, trugen die gelben Einheitsabzeichen – siehe Tabelle B.

D1 Der Stil der Einheitsabzeichen auf dieser dritten Kriegsfahne der Armee von Northern Virginia scheint in Pickett's Division allgemein üblich gewesen zu sein. **D2** Dieser Stil der Schlachtauszeichnungen scheint nur bei Lane's Brigade der Division von A. P. Hill in der Armee von Northern Virginia verwendet worden zu sein. **D3** Diese ziemlich rohe Gestaltung der Einheitsbezeichnung auf der Kriegsfahne der Armee von Northern Virginia dürfte in der Einheit selbst entworfen worden sein. **D4** Diese Art der Enheitsbezeichnung erscheint meist auf der dritten Ausgabe der Kriegsfahne der Armee von Northern Virginia.

E1 Das ist das Van Dorn-Muster der Fahne des 4. Missouri-Regiments. **E2** Die Buchstaben 'NW' auf dieser Van Dorn-Fahne weisen auf den Spitznamen des Regiments hin: 'Northwest Regiment'. Die Fahne mißt 1,16 × 1,65m. **E3** Diese Missouri-Kriegsfahne mißt 91,4 × 129,5cm. **E4** Eine typische Kriegsfahne der 'Orphans Brigade'.

F1 Diese typische Hardee's Corps-Kriegsfahne mißt 86,3 × 95,2cm **F2** Diese Hardee's Corps-Fahne des 3. Regiaments mißt 76,2 × 90,1cm. **F3** Diese Kriegsfahne des 22. Regiments von Polk's Corps besteht aus Baumwolle mit seidenen Fransen und mißt 105,4 × 138,4cm. Das 1. Regiment trug die übliche seidene Fahne von Polk's Corp mit der Abmessung 71,1 × 116,8cm.

G1 Diese Kriegsfahne des Departments von Alabama, Mississippi und East Louisiana mißt 116,8 × 132cm. **G2** Diese Kriegsfahne der Armee von Tennessee mißt 92,7 × 129,5cm, die Sterne messen von Spitze zu Spitze 10,1cm und die Buchstaben der Einheitsbezeichnung sind maximal 7,62cm hoch. Die Schlachtenauszeichnungen und die gekreuzten Kanonen wurden auf den Fahnentuch-Baumwollstoff aufgemalt. **G3** Das 7. Regiment trug während des ganzen Krieges die gleiche Kriegsfahne, wie sie in der Armee von Tennessee üblich war.

H1 La 57ème Infantrie de Georgie du Régiment de l'Armée de Mississippi, le drapeau de guerre de Bragg's Corps, fabriqué en coton décoré d'étoiles et une bordure en soie, mesure 42½ pouces par 73½. H2 Ce drapeau de guerre des Départements de South Carolina, Georgia et Florida était fabriqué pour la 26ème pendant un dernier tour de service à Charleston. H3 Ce drapeau en soie qui mesure 36 pouces par 46 ne contient pas la bordure blanche et le centre est plus grand que sur les autres drapeaux.

H1 Das 57. Georgia-Infanterieregimen von Bragg's Corps in der Armee von Mississippi trug eine Kriegsfahne aus Baumwolle mit Sternen und Umrandung aus Seide. Große: 107,9 × 186,5cm. H2 Diese Kriegsfahne des Departments von South Carolina, Georgia und Florida wurde vom 26. Regiment während seines Einsatzes in Charleston wieder aufgenommen. H3 Diese Seidenfahne – 91,4 × 116,8cm – hat keine weiße Befransung, und ihr Zentrum ist größer als das anderer Fahnen.

MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES

An unrivalled source of information on the uniforms, insignia and appearance of the world's fighting men of past and present. The *Men-at-Arms* titles cover subjects as diverse as the Imperial Roman army, the Napoleonic wars and German airborne troops in a popular 48-page format including some 40 photographs and diagrams, and eight full-colour plates.

COMPANION SERIES FROM OSPREY

ELITE

Detailed information on the uniforms and insignia of the world's most famous military forces. Each 64-page book contains some 50 photographs and diagrams, and 12 pages of full-colour artwork.

WARRIOR

Definitive analysis of the armour, weapons, tactics and motivation of the fighting men of history. Each 64-page book contains cutaways and exploded artwork of the warrior's weapons and armour.

NEW VANGUARD

Comprehensive histories of the design, development and operational use of the world's armoured vehiclesand artillery. Each 48-page book contains eight pages of full-colour artwork including a detailed cutaway of the vehicle's interior.

CAMPAIGN

Concise, authoritative accounts of decisive encounters in military history. Each 96-page book contains more than 90 illustrations including maps, orders of battle and colour plates, plus a series of three-dimensional battle maps that mark the critical stages of the campaign.

THE ANCIENT WORLD
218 Ancient Chinese Armies
109 Ancient Middle East
137 The Scythians 700-300 B.C.
69 Greek & Persian Wars 500-323 B.C.
148 Army of Alexander the Great
121 Carthaginian Wars
46 Roman Army: (1): Caesar-Trajan
93 (2): Hadrian-Constantine
129 Rome's Enemies: (1): Germanics & Dacians
158 (2): Gallic & British Celts
175 (3): Parthians & Sassanids
180 (4): Spain 218 B.C.-19 B.C.
243 (5): The Desert Frontier

THE MEDIEVAL WORLD
247 Romano-Byzantine Armies 4th-9th C.
154 Arthur & Anglo-Saxon Wars
255 Armies of the Muslim Conquest
125 Armies of Islam, 7th-11th C.
150 The Age of Charlemagne
89 Byzantine Armies 886-1118
85 Saxon, Viking & Norman
231 French Medieval Armies 1000-1300
75 Armies of the Crusades
171 Saladin & the Saracens
155 Knights of Christ
200 El Cid & Reconquista 1050-1492
105 The Mongols
222 The Age of Tamerlane
251 Medieval Chinese Armies
50 Medieval European Armies
151 Scots & Welsh Wars
94 The Swiss 1300-1500
136 Italian Armies 1300-1500
166 German Armies 1300-1500
195 Hungary & E. Europe 1000-1568
259 The Mamluks 1250-1517
140 Ottoman Turks 1300-1774
210 Venetian Empire 1200-1670
111 Armies of Crécy and Poitiers
144 Medieval Burgundy 1364-1477
113 Armies of Agincourt
145 Wars of the Roses
99 Medieval Heraldry

16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES
256 The Irish Wars 1485-1603
191 Henry VIII's Army
38 The Landsknechts
101 The Conquistadores
263 Mughul India 1504-1761
235 Gustavus Adolphus (1): Infantry
262 Gustavus Adolphus (2): Cavalry
14 English Civil War Armies
110 New Model Army 1645-60
203 Louis XIV's Army
267 The British Army 1660-1704
97 Marlborough's Army
86 Samurai Armies 1550-1615
184 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (1)
188 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (2)
279 The Border Reivers

18TH CENTURY
261 18th Century Highlanders
260 Peter the Great's Army (1): Infantry
264 Peter the Great's Army (2): Cavalry
118 Jacobite Rebellions
236 Frederick the Great (1)
240 Frederick the Great (2)
248 Frederick the Great (3)
271 Austrian Army 1740-80 (1)
276 Austrian Army 1740-80 (2)
280 Austrian Army 1740-80 (3)
48 Wolfe's Army
228 American Woodland Indians
39 British Army in N. America
244 French in Amer. War Ind.
273 General Washington's Army (1): 1775-1778

NAPOLEONIC PERIOD
257 Napoleon's Campaigns in Italy
79 Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign
87 Napoleon's Marshals
64 Nap's Cuirassiers & Carabiniers
55 Nap's Dragoons & Lancers
68 Nap's Line Chasseurs
76 Nap's Hussars
83 Nap's Guard Cavalry
141 Nap's Line Infantry
146 Nap's Light Infantry
153 Nap's Guard Infantry (1)

Title list continued on inside back cover

Please note that for space reasons abbreviated titles are given above; when ordering, please quote the title number, e.g 'W3 Viking Hersir', etc.

Avec annotations en francais sur les planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln

ISBN 1-85532-270-6