

FLAG OF THE 8th PENNA. REGT.

Headquarters (Camp) No. 9 Saturday Novr. 14th 1778

The Delaware messengers are come to Camp and inform the General their Warriors will join our Army at or perhaps this side Tusquerawas therefore no party are to go any distance ahead of the Army until further orders or without leave and every person are to be exceeding cautious to distinguish well whether any Indians they meet are friends or enemies before they fire upon them. A White flage with fifteen Red stripes is given the Former for distinction . . .

From the orderly book of Col. Stephenson's Regt. of Va. militia, kept by Robert McCready, as published in The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, vol. 43, nos. 1 & 2.

(Camp no. 9 was at the mouth of Armstrong Run, just below present-day Malvern, Ohio).

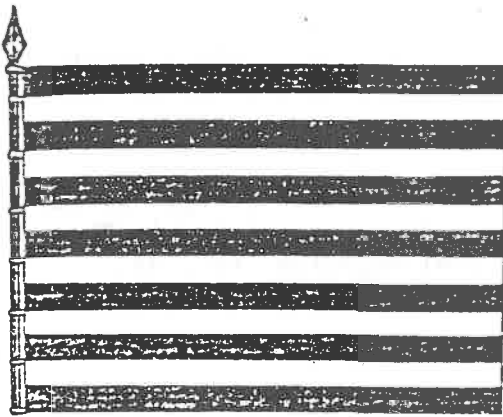
Headquarters No. 9, Novr. 13th 1778

The Delaware Messengers are come to camp to inform the General their Warriors will join our (Army) at or perhaps this side of the Tuscarawas. . . every oerson is to be exceedingly cautious to distinguish well whether any Indians they meet are friends or enemies before they fire upon them. A white flag with fourteen red stripes is given the former for distribution. . .

From the Orderly Book of the 8th Pennsylvania Regt. as printed in Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio 1778-1779, ed. by Louise Phelps Kellogg, Wisc. Historical Society, 1916

The flag described in the orderly books of the expedition to the Tuscarawas was clearly given to the Indians as a recognition sign. It was a practice of the time to provide friendly Indians with replicas of national flags. I have seen one of these, a miniature British Union, in the Field Museum in Chicago. After conversations with J. Martin West, Director, Ft. Ligonier, and Bruce Egli, it seems this flag may have been made to resemble a flag carried by Gen. McIntosh's army into the Ohio country. It is not possible with the available information to determine if this white flag with red stripes (notice that the two orderly books give different numbers of red stripes) was a regimental, personal or a national color. It is certain it appeared on the march to Ft. Laurens. Its constuction is entirely conjectural, as are the materials used. It is the only flag come to light thus far with any association to the 8th Penna. Regt.

The following extract demonstrates that this design of red and white stripes was common during the Revolution.



Union Flag "The Rebel Stripes"

THE STRIPES AND THE STARS AND STRIPES (Plates 2-9)

The Continental Congress on June 14, 1777 passed a resolution which was apparently proposed by the Marine Committee, as follows: "Resolved that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation." There was nothing stated as to the design or arrangement of the stars, or which stripe the union should rest on, or whether there was to be six or seven white or red stripes. These details were left for later Congressional representatives to resolve. This was just as well, because in the following years flag makers demonstrated their artistic independence and imagination by interpreting the 1777 "Resolve" into a wonderful variety of "stars and stripes" designs.

It should be noted in the above resolution that the stripes—the "rebellious stripes" as the British termed them—are defined first, and then the stars. This was also the case in the 1795 and 1818 Flag Resolutions and in

the National Anthem. As late as the Civil War, the stripes were addressed first and then the stars.

The basic design of the stars and stripes evolved from the British red ensign which was modified with six white stripes to form the Continental Union, the first (but unofficial) American national standard. Once independence had been declared the crosses of the British union had to be replaced. On American regimental and other military unit colors, the canton became thirteen stripes and, later, stars. However, since the field of the Continental flag was composed of red-and-white stripes, changing the canton to a union of stripes would have been redundant. Therefore, the canton was dropped altogether and a standard of thirteen red and white or red, white and blue stripes was flown by some ships. The "stripes" design persisted as one of the accepted versions into the 1790's. At the same time, a new



Reading the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia. Note Stripes