



New Zealand's First Flag

When Mr. James Busby was appointed as the first British Resident of New Zealand one of his first notable actions was to give the young colony its own national flag. With the approval of the Governor of New South Wales he had three flag designs prepared. These were brought to the Bay of Islands by H.M.S. Alligator; and at a special ceremony on March 20th, 1834, the most important Maori chiefs of the North were given the honour of selecting New

Zealand's first flag. They chose a white ensign with a large red cross of St. George, and in one corner another smaller cross and four white stars on a blue ground. As the new flag was hoisted alongside the Union Jack, the guns of H.M.S. Alligator fired a royal salute.

(This original national flag of New Zealand was subsequently selected as the house flag of one of the Dominion's earliest shipping lines, the Shaw Savill and Albion Co. Ltd.)

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