


The three main Royal Naval Hospitals at Home adopt the following practices:-

- (a) R.N.Hospital, Haslar has no flagmast at present. In the past, however, a single White Ensign was flown. No Geneva flag was flown as it might have led to confusion in the Dockyard, to whom a reversed White Ensign acted as a fire alarm.
- (b) R.N.Hospital, Plymouth flies the Union Flag at the masthead with the Geneva at the yard, while
- (c) R.N.Hospital, Chatham reverses the practice and flies the Geneva at the masthead with the Union Flag at the yard.

2. M.D.G. has no information regarding the routine flying of the Geneva flag as opposed to its wartime use as a distinguishing emblem. Not being H.M. Ships in Commission, R.N. Hospitals are not entitled to fly the White Ensign. They may, as 'Royal Hospitals' fly the Union Flag; Admiralty Librarian has been requested to furnish what information he can on this point.

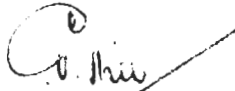
3. Of the two methods of flying the Union and Geneva Flags in conjunction, M.D.G. considers 1(b) to be the correct one i.e. that the Union Flag should be flown at the masthead with the Geneva at the yard.

  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
7<sup>th</sup> July, 1950.

The Geneva Convention, which regulates the use of the Red Cross flag, deals with its use by medical units and establishments as a protective emblem in time of war only. It lays down that the Red Cross flag must always be accompanied by the national flag of the belligerent power concerned unless the unit is captured, when the Red Cross flag only is flown.

2. The Manual of Military Law states (p.304) that there is no indication how the Red Cross flag and the national flag are to be associated.

3. Exhaustive examination of the relevant sources available in Library has failed to bring to light any orders or instructions relating to the flags to be flown by Naval Medical Establishments in time of peace. Presumably, as stated by M.D.G., the Union flag should be flown. It is understood that the Military Hospitals at Woolwich and Netley fly the Union Flag only; the Red Cross flag being hoisted in addition in time of war ~~only~~.

  
for Librarian.  
30.8.50.

Letter to N.M.C.S.S.

GSH 6/7.

6th September, 50.

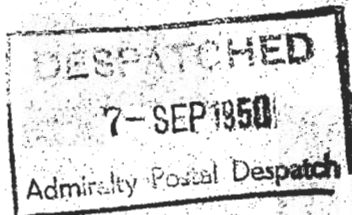
Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter NOK.1460-1 of the 16th June, and in reply to inform you that there is no fixed practice in Royal Naval Hospitals governing the flying of flags. My Lords understand that Military Hospitals in the United Kingdom fly the Union Flag only, the Red Cross Flag being hoisted in addition in time of war. My Lords consider that the practice of the Military Hospitals is correct at any rate.

2. I am to add that since Royal Naval Hospitals are not ships in commission they are not entitled to fly the White Ensign. Since they are "Royal" hospitals however, they may fly the Union flag.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) Nigel J. Abercrombie



Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff (London),  
11, Mill Street,  
London, W.1.

In view of the time which has elapsed since he wrote, a reply has been sent to the Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff (London) giving him an answer to his question. The answer given does not say that the practice followed by the Military Hospitals is the only correct one, but in M. Branch's view that practice is the safest.

2. Perhaps M.D.G. would like to consider the introduction of a stable practice in the Navy.

*C. M. D. G.*

for Head of M.  
8th September, 1950.

*Noted.*

*J. A. Brown*  
*W. H. H. H.*  
*12/9/50.*

It is considered desirable that a uniform practice be adopted at all Naval Medical Establishments.

2. This practice should include the flying of the Union Flag at the masthead; there are good reasons for ready identification of medical establishments at other times than in war, and it is suggested that the Geneva Flag should be flown at the yard.

3. Referred for consideration and the issue of instructions.

*J. M. D. G.*  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1950.

M. Branch sees no objection to the flying of the Red Cross Flag at the yards of masts erected at the R.N. Hospitals in time of peace and flying the Union Flag at the masthead. This proposal would not, however, correspond with the practice which we understand to be in operation at Military Hospitals, which only fly the Union Flag. Before we fly the Red Cross as a general practice in time of peace it might, therefore, be as well to discuss with the other Services with a view to arriving at a common practice.

*W. H. H. H.*  
for Head of M.  
10th October, 1950.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have under consideration the question of the proper flags to be flown by Royal Naval Hospitals in peace-time. At present, there is a lack of uniformity in practice at these hospitals.

2. My Lords feel that it would not, perhaps, be improper for Royal Naval Hospitals to fly, in peace-time, a Union (Jack) Flag at the masthead and a Geneva (Red Cross) Flag at the yard of the mast erected.

3. It appears desirable that all three Services should, so far as possible, follow a like practice and your views on the above suggestion together with information as to the practice at present followed in the case of military hospitals would, therefore, be very much appreciated.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*A. J. Osley*

The Under Secretary of State  
War Office,  
Whitehall,  
S.W.1.

Copy sent to Air Ministry.

WDC.

R N.L. 2628/50 - NL 14/10

NL



Further correspondence on this subject should be addressed to:  
"The Under-Secretary of State (-----)"  
at the address hereunder:

Telephone :

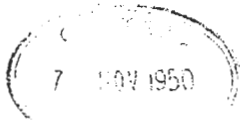
GRO 8040 Ext:371

THE WAR OFFICE,  
LONDON,  
S.W.1.

Please quote in any reply:

29/Gen/1143 (AG4(c))

6<sup>th</sup> November, 1950.



Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to refer to your letter N.L.2628/50 dated 16th October, 1950, and to state for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the Geneva (Red Cross) flag is not flown over Military Hospitals in peace time outside operational areas.

Certain Hospitals, as listed in King's Regulations Appendix VIII, have been granted the status of a flag station, and in consequence are permitted to fly the Union Jack. All other Military Hospitals fly the flag of the formation to which they belong.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Copies to:- Air Ministry.  
AMD2 (War Office).

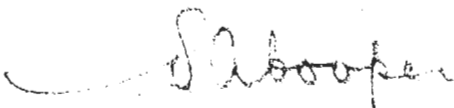
1st December, 1950

I am directed to state that the Admiralty have been considering the question of the proper flags to be flown by Royal Naval hospitals in peace-time. They consider that a Union Jack should be flown at the mast-head and a Geneva Red Cross flag at the yard.

2. In the interests of uniformity, they request information as to what flags are flown at Royal Air Force hospitals in peace-time.

3. The existing regulation concerning the use of the Red Cross flag is contained in Air Ministry Order A.108/43, paragraph 9. This instruction is derived from the Geneva Convention, 1929, (Article 22) which still operates, although it is now being revised.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,



(P. A. COOPER)  
Wing Commander,

for Director-General of Medical Services.

The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief,  
Headquarters, Home Command,  
Royal Air Force.

Copy to: The Secretary of the Admiralty, ✓  
S.W.1

N.A.1

A.6757/50/N.A.1

N.L. 5334  
1950

1st December, 1950

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Admiralty have been considering the question of the proper flags to be flown by Royal Naval hospitals in peace-time. They consider that a Union Jack should be flown at the mast-head and a Geneva Red Cross flag at the yard.

2. In the interests of uniformity, they request information as to what flags are flown at Royal Air Force hospitals in peace-time.

3. The existing regulation concerning the use of the Red Cross flag is contained in Air Ministry Order A.106/43, paragraph 9. This instruction is derived from the Geneva Convention, 1929, (Article 22) which still operates, although it is now being revised.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,



(F. A. COOPER)  
Wing Commander,

For Director-General of Medical Services.

The Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief,  
Headquarters, Home Command,  
Royal Air Force.

✓ Copy to: The Secretary of the Admiralty,  
S.W.1

No.L. 5334/50.

12th April, 1951.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to refer to Admiralty Letter of the 16th October, 1950, N.L. 2628/50, concerning the question of the proper flags to be flown by Service hospitals in peacetime (Your reference A.67374/50/M.A.I.) and to request that you will be good enough to state when a reply may be expected to the enquiry therein.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Sgd. A. S. OSLEY

The Under Secretary,  
Air Ministry,  
Adastral House,  
Kingsway, W.

DLF/COB.25.





TEL. HOLBORN 3434 Extn. ....

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

AIR MINISTRY

and should quote the reference:—

A.67374/50/S.7.(a).

Your Ref. N.L.2628/50.

R Nh 2628/50 . W/4404/50.

W/5-334/505  
AIR MINISTRY

LONDON, W.C.2.



17/11. April, 1951.

18 APR 1951

REGISTERED

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to your letter of the 16th October, 1950, addressed to the Under Secretary of Secretary of State, War Office, concerning the flying of flags over Service Hospitals, and to say that at the present time there is a certain lack of uniformity by R.A.F. Hospitals, i.e. some fly the Royal Air Force Ensign and the Geneva Red Cross while others fly the Royal Air Force Ensign only.

2. While the Council agree that the Royal Air Force should abide by the provisions of the Geneva Convention during a period of hostilities, they do not consider that the flying of the Geneva Red Cross in peace time outside operational areas is necessary. They propose, therefore, to issue instructions that in peace time the R.A.F. Ensign shall be flown over those R.A.F. Hospitals entitled to fly the ensign, but that in the event of hostilities (and in operational areas at all times) the Geneva Red Cross and the Union flag shall be flown over all R.A.F. medical formations and establishments.

3. A copy of this letter has been sent to the War Office.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

The Secretary,  
Admiralty,  
London, S.W.1.

TEL. HOLBORN 3434 Extn. 501

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
MINISTRY S.7(a)

and should quote the reference:—

A.67374/50/S.7(a)

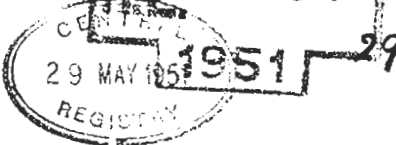
Your ref. N.L. 2628/50

NL

AIR MINISTRY,  
LONDON, W.C.2.



2094



May, 1951.

Pr NL 2628/50.

Sir,

Flying of Flags at R.A.F. Hospitals.

I am directed to refer to this Department's letter of even number dated 17th April, 1951, and, further to paragraph 2 thereof, I am to forward for your information the attached draft of an Air Ministry Order which it is intended to publish in the near future.

2. I am to ask that, if you have any comments on this proposed Air Ministry Order, you will notify this Department at an early date.

3. A copy of this letter and attachment have been sent to the War Office.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

The Secretary,  
Admiralty,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

May, 1951.

S.7(a)

Flying of Flags at R.A.F. Hospitals.

A.67374/50/S.7(a)

/5/51.

Uniformity of practice is to be followed in the flying of flags at R.A.F. Hospitals.

2. In peace time the R.A.F. Ensign is to be flown only at those R.A.F. Hospitals entitled to fly the Ensign in accordance with K.R.156(2)
3. In war time, and in operational areas at all times, the Geneva Red Cross and the Union Flag is to be flown at all R.A.F. medical formations and establishments.

DJS

TEL. HOLBORN 3434 Extn. 1437

Correspondence on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,

AIR MINISTRY

and should quote the reference:—

A. 67374/50/S. 7(A)

Your Ref. N.L. 2628/50

PT NL 2094 - 422056/51 - PDG 6.NL  
Si.



AIR MINISTRY,

LONDON, W.C.2.

22 June, 1951.

Sir,

Flying of Flags at R.A.F. Hospitals

NL 29/5

I am directed to refer to this Department's letter of even number, dated 29th May, 1951, and to inform you that if no reply thereto is received before Friday, June 29th, 1951, it will be assumed that you have no comments to make on the proposed Air Ministry Order and, accordingly, arrangements will be made for the Order to be published.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

NL 2094  
N.L. 2628/50  
M.S.G.

Referred re above.

J. H. H. H. H.  
2076/Si.

The Secretary,  
Admiralty.

