

Empire to Commonwealth



A pictorial representation

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Dedication

To my father who taught me how to love history,
to have a sense of humour and to enjoy life.
To Steven & Polly for all the help & support
above & beyond - ever ongoing and appreciated;
To my family in Ireland who believe in me
.... and of course to Diana.

DIA dhuit agus go raibth mile maith agus



The Angevin (English) Empire

An introduction to the British Empire & The Commonwealth

This project details the territories occupied or obtained by Britain in what we call the “Modern Era”.

Controlled from London, there were previous empires based from the British Isles: The first English Empire (known as the Angevin Empire) is where the autocratic Kings of England married for land and/or were at war with the Kings of France whose crown they claimed. The first British Empire was the American Colonies of what is today part of The United States of America, but this project details the progressive land claim of what became known as the British Empire throughout the world, (eventually covering a 1/5th of the world’s surface – the largest empire in History – *so far*), and the unique formation of The Commonwealth.

The British Empire could be defined by the territories under its dominion or protection; its armed forces based overseas, medals awarded to its people of progressive campaigns and events and of course the Royal Family through the more than three hundred years of what became known throughout the world as the British Empire.

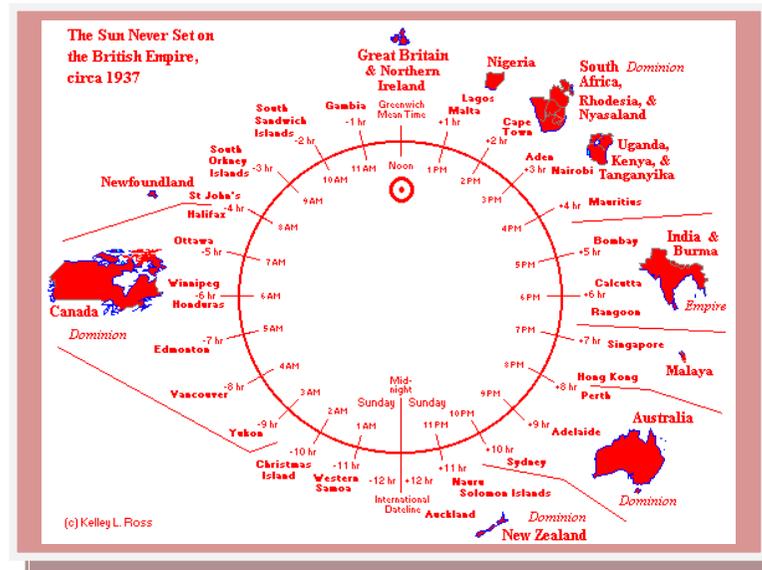
There are countless books and a plethora of information available on the internet to provide information on the Services, the British Royal Family and a Country’s development. This project sets out the British Empire and The Commonwealth pictorially; represented by the numerous paraphernalia of flags, emblems, medals, maps, monarchs and organisations within these organisations - all found on the internet. Hopefully this project can be seen as a “one stop shop” of information collated, for the first time, in one place.

The sun never sets on the British Empire

Chapter ONE – *Flags. From Empire to Commonwealth*

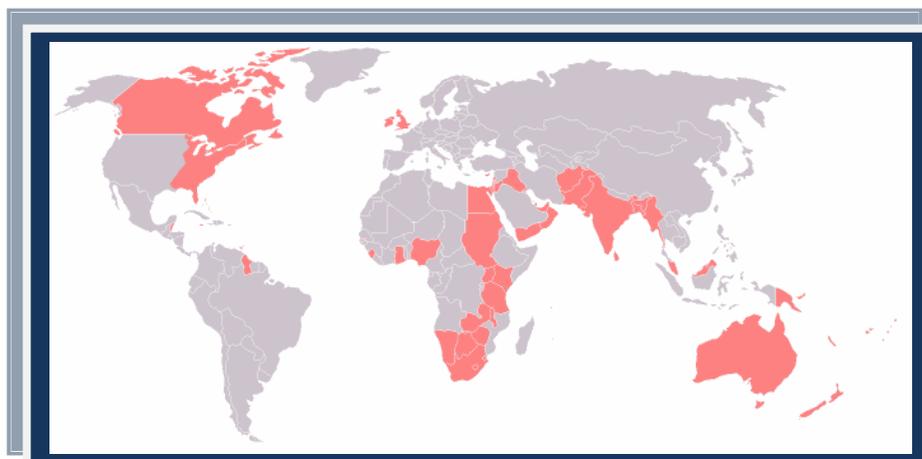
This chapter shows flags that are associated with any particular country, or group of countries. Some countries may have had more than one flag associated with them over the years (either by change of design, or as a country became larger, or incorporated other territories).

This chapter therefore shows a unique glance at how countries were identified by the rest of the world and within the Empire in history and in today's Commonwealth



Chapter TWO – *Air Force Stations*

The Empire's Royal Air Force had bases throughout the world. These are represented here by the emblems they displayed on RAF bases, including the country they were in under British Rule or Protectorate; complete with the flag of the country when the RAF left the base, i.e. end of Treaty or Independence. The Chapter then goes on to show how member states of The Commonwealth have developed their own air force and have kept the traditions going of issuing their own badges along with today's RAF of the UK.



Map of the British Empire

Chapter THREE – *Air Force Squadrons*

Listing both the RAF Squadrons and also the Foreign Squadrons who flew with the RAF during the Great Wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. The chapter then proceeds to show each member state's squadrons today flying under their own banners.

Chapter FOUR – *Air Force Miscellaneous*

A few ad-hoc coat of arms and emblems associated with the air forces within The Commonwealth as countries developed their own systems.

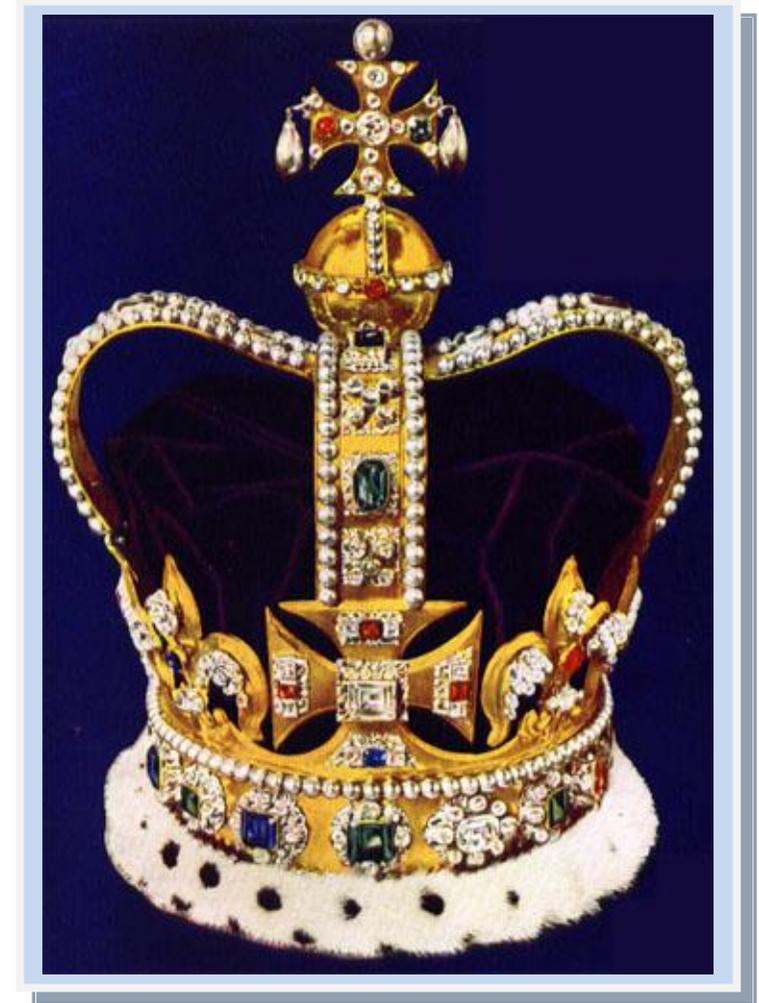
Chapter FIVE – *Naval Bases.*

Although many naval bases did not have emblems, this section shows names associated with badges that has been carried on since 1919. The Chapter progresses from Empire to show you how the Royal Navy looks today - along with the Navies of Australia, Canada, India and New Zealand.

Chapter SIX – *Naval Ships*

Pages of Ship's badges belonging to the nations that protect the interests of the Former British Empire and of The Commonwealth today.

At the end of the Chapter is a unique section on the **Royal Navy Division.**



St. Edward's Crown

Chapter SEVEN – *The Army*

A collection of cap badge images from The British Empire to the separate Armies of Britain, Australia, Canada and India today.

Chapter EIGHT - *Royalty*

This chapter starts with the Royal Standard as used by the British Sovereign around the world today. Continuing the chapter shows the coat of arms used by the Monarch along with the monarch's partner (i.e. Joint Ruler, Queen Consort or Prince Consort) from Queen Elizabeth I to the present Royal House of Windsor.

This section also shows how the United Kingdom's flag developed from the flag of St. George to the Union flag of the United Kingdom as the Royal Houses progressed through time. Portraits of the monarchs and their consorts and reign dates are also displayed.

Chapter NINE – *Monarch's Representatives*

Displaying the flags that were hoisted for a Viceroy, Governor-General, Governor, Lieutenant Governor (Etcetera) acting on behalf of the Monarch in the bygone days of the British Empire and as representatives of the Queen in today's Commonwealth.

Chapter TEN – *Prime Ministers*

Portraits and photographs of Prime Ministers (with their coat of arms) leading the British Empire from within the United Kingdom, followed by a list of Ministers in the dominions to representatives of the Queen's Governments abroad.



Chapter ELEVEN – *Christian faith within England*

Although Roman Catholics were prohibited from holding office for a considerable period of time within the duration of the British Empire, these are included as the British Isles were made up predominantly of Protestants and Catholics.

Chapter TWELVE – *Heraldry in the UK.*

The making up of Great Britain – Heraldic arms of the counties of England, Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland along with the Royal coat of arms of each nation and principality.

Chapter THIRTEEN – *Heraldry at the time of the Empire*

Coats of Arms belonging to both countries and dominions whilst they were part of the British Empire. Some of these could have now changed since Independence.



Official coat of arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury



Chapter FOURTEEN – *Maps*

This chapter deals with old maps found of countries within The British Empire, the last of the World's Empires, covered a fifth of the world's surface. As this is put together, you will see "the sun never set" on it. Old maps reveal the cartographer's discovery of islands and territories that came under the Empire.

Chapter FIFTEEN – *Currencies*

A selection of bank notes issued of countries within the British Empire illustrating the different currencies and monarchs' heads that appeared on them.

Order of the British Empire

Chapter SIXTEEN – *Stamps*

A selection of stamps issued throughout the Empire showing dominions, protected states and crown colonies.

Chapter SEVENTEEN – *Medals and Awards*

Medals awarded for various reasons within the British Empire (and still carried through in some instances to The Commonwealth) provide a visual image of campaigns and achievements made in the name of Great Britain during the Colonial era.

Chapter EIGHTEEN – *Pictures of Empire*

A different selection of images that promoted the Empire, King & Empire etc..

The British Empire promoted “togetherness” by emphasising the benefits of Empire and the glory of the King Emperor.

Chapter NINETEEN – *Statistical Information*

Statistical charts of the past 100 years that shows empires, wars and types of government that have come to pass within the last century.



Chapter TWENTY – *Police*

A selection of badges found on the internet relating to Empire & Commonwealth Police.

This Chapter also includes old and new badges and flags of the world famous **Royal Canadian Mounted Police.**

Chapter TWENTY ONE – *Republic of Ireland*

The Republic of Ireland was once a part of the British Empire and decided not to join The Commonwealth. This section takes a brief look at the Republic today as the United Kingdom's neighbouring island in The British Isles.

End Acknowledgements

This work is not my work, but a collection of other people's work that has now gathered into one place. This Acknowledgement shows you the original sites that are more detailed in written work than this pictorial representation.

