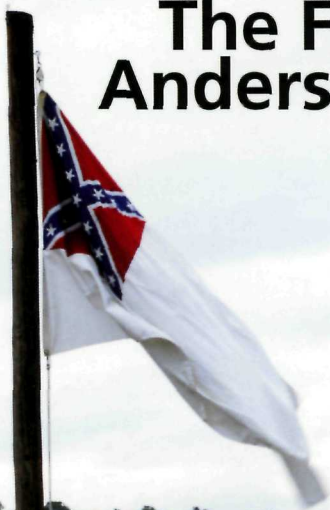


National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Andersonville National Historic Site
Andersonville National Cemetery

The Flags of Andersonville



Between February 1864 and May 1865, Camp Sumter Military Prison at Andersonville was a major Confederate army installation. As many as five thousand Confederate soldiers lived and worked at the site, which served not only as the largest military prison during the war, but also as a hub for soldiers and supplies moving through the state.

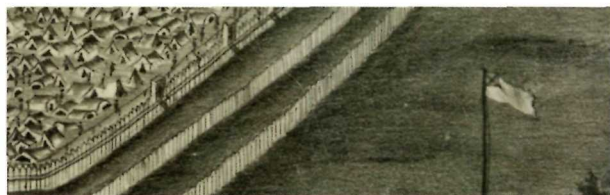
In order to both recognize the role of the Confederate army at the site and to consider the broader scope of the conflict, a Confederate flag will be flown at the Star Fort throughout the 150th Anniversary of the prison's operation.

Which Flags Flew at Andersonville?

Illustrations made by prisoners depict a variety of flags flown around the prison. Some show the rectangular flag of the Army of the Tennessee, while others show the Second National Flag, which was the official flag of the Confederate government during most of the prison's operation. Individual guard regiments had their own flags as well. In addition to the Confederate National flag, a series of white flags were placed throughout the prison in order to mark ranges for artillery pieces in the surrounding fortifications.

Symbols of Resolve

Flags mattered at Andersonville. For the Confederate soldiers stationed here, the Second National flag represented the hopes and dreams of an independent nation they endeavored to establish. For the Union prisoners in Andersonville, the Confederate Second National flag represented captivity and treason. Inside the prison, the US flag was contraband and could be seized and destroyed upon discovery. For prisoners, even a glimpse of the "Stars and Stripes" gave hope. For Confederate guards, the US flag was a symbol of destruction and invasion. Both flags serve as powerful reminders of the passions that motivated soldiers on both sides.



Lithograph depicting the Second National Flag at the prison
Library of Congress

For more information about the programs scheduled to take place at Andersonville National Historic Site throughout the 150th Anniversary of the prison's operation, visit <http://go.nps.gov/cwprisons>

The Second National Confederate flag is flown with support from Georgia Power, the Friends of Andersonville, Eastern National, and Sons of Confederate Veterans, Alexander H. Stephens Camp 78

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