

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM
Previously an Italian colony, after World War II, Britain and France undertook the administration of Libya on behalf of the United Nations. In terms of a United Nations Resolution an independent state of Libya, comprising Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzen, had to be set up by 01 January 1952. Provision for a national flag was made in the Constitution of Libya (see below) which was drawn up by the Libyan National Assembly and promulgated on 07 October 1951. Libya achieved full independence on 24 December 1951.

The flag adopted was in the ratio of $1: 2$ and consisted of three horizontal stripes, red over black over green, with a white crescent and five - pointed star in the centre of the middle stripe. The width of this stripe is equal to the width of the red and green stripes combined. The black stripe and its charges were taken from the black flag which the King had adopted when he was proclaimed Amir of Cyrenaica in 1947 (see SV - LY - 01.1-1). The red stripe represents Fezzen and the green Tripolitania.

From the Constitution of Libya issued on 7th October, 1951, Chapter I, Art. 7:
The national flag shall have the following dimensions: Its length shall be twice its breadth, it shall be divided into three parallel coloured stripes, the uppermost being red, the centre black and the lowest green, the black stripe shall be equal in area to the two other stripes and shall bear in its centre a white crescent, between the two extremities of which there shall be a five-pointed white star.
"The exact particulars of the Libyan National Flag prescribed by Article 7 of the Constitution shall be as follows: The red shall be sign red, and the green permanent green. The Crescent shall be on the hoistward side of the star, and the centre of the circle of which the crescent forms a part shall be in the centre of the flag. The star shall be in the open end of the crescent and one point of the star shall point to the centre of the circle. The maximum width of the 270 crescent shall equal $1 / 6$ th of its outside diameter which is $1 / 4$ th of the width of the flag.

