**UNITED STATES - National Flags & Ensigns**

**ZFC1072** 48 Star US Flag - This flag was the ensign of one of the major warships that participated in the bombardment of the beaches during Operation Overlord, the D-Day invasion of France beginning the morning of June 6th, 1944. To maintain secrecy, the name of the ship that flew this flag was not revealed when it was subsequently donated to the collection of Calvin Bullock of New York City. The rips and tears are typical of the damage inflicted on a ship’s flag due to weather and/or battle conditions.

**ZFC1090** 48 Star US – Battle of the Atlantic, 1942 – This large and well used wool 48 star US ensign was worn by a US vessel during the Battle of the Atlantic. In America’s early participation in WWII, 1942 was a critical year. The war against German submarines in the North Atlantic was not going well. This ensign was provided to Mr. Calvin Bullock by Capt. R.C. Sanders, the Head of the Supplies Department at Navy Yard New York, from “an undisclosed vessel,” which reflects the tight secrecy on the movement of military and merchant vessels supplying Great Britain through the North Atlantic route.

**ZFC1082** 48 Star US Ensign - This ensign was formerly part of the collection of Wall Street financier Calvin Bullock; a successful businessman and promoter of Anglo-American good will during WWII. His 1 Wall street offices in New York City contained one of the world’s leading collections of memorabilia pertaining to Napoleon & Lord Nelson. During World War II he built an important collection of US, British, French and other allied ensigns from his many international and important military and naval invitees to the Calvin Bullock Forum. Sadly, due to wartime security constraints the names of the American vessels that wore these ensigns remain unknown.

**ZFC2572** 48 Star US Roosevelt & Churchill Autographs – This cotton forty-eight star United States flag, bears the autographs of both U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. They autographed this flag in the fall of 1943 whilst together at either the Cairo or Tehran Conferences. Between 22 November and 1 December 1943, when both FDR and Churchill met with Allied leaders in Cairo, Egypt and Tehran, Iran.
**ZFC0149** 48 star US made in Occupied Belgium - This 48 star United States flag is a Liberation Flag, a reference made to any flag made in the hope of liberation from an oppressor; most commonly flags of the various allied nations during WWII. During the Nazi occupation of Belgium, Madame Edith Coort-Fresart and her three daughters (Marguerite-Marie, Marie-Therese, and Francoise) of Liege, Belgium, made Allied flags in secret from bed sheets and other materials scavenged in their household. On September 7th, 1944, three women who had taken great risks in making Allied flags were afforded the opportunity to fly them.

**ZFC0290** F Company, 75th “Ranger” Infantry Regiment - This is a 1944, original issue guidon for the US Army Rangers. Its design is based on U.S. Army “Model 1931” Infantry Company Guidon, with the designation “RANGERS” added. The 75th Rangers were formed from elements of the famous “Merrill’s Marauders,” who fought an unconventional, guerrilla-style campaign against the Japanese Army in Burma during World War II.

**ZFC0354** L Company, 139th Infantry Regiment, NC National Guard - This is a WWII U.S. Army “Model 1931” Infantry Company Guidon. The unit designation is for Company L, of the 139th U.S. Infantry. They are famous WWI regiment, which saw service again in WWII where they went ashore at Normandy and fought their way into Central Europe. They are currently a component of the NC Carolina National Guard.


**ZFC3696** A U.S. Army Air Corps Brigadier General Automobile flag - This ultramarine-blue woolen flag with a single, five-pointed star over the insignia of the U.S. Army’s Air Corps was made to identify the vehicle of a brigadier general on the staff of that corps. All general officers of the corps staff were authorized to fly field, boat and car flags, and this is an example of the last. The Philadelphia Quartermaster depot made it in 1939, and they were used up until WWII.

**ZFC3585** U.S. Marine Corps, General Alexander A. Vandegrift Personal flag – This USMC general officer personal flag was used at the very beginning of WWII by then Brigadier General Vandegrift, the former Assistant to the Commandant of the USMC, who after November 1941, became the Assistant Divisional Commander of the First Marine Division. Vandegrift commanded the First Marine in 1942 and 1943 at Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands. General Vandegrift was awarded the Medal of Honor for the Guadalcanal Campaign and eventually became Commandant of the Marine Corps.
General Robert Eichelberger – 4 Star - In September of 1944 General Eichelberger took command of the newly formed Eighth Army, leading the invasion of the Philippines. The Japanese met defeat by July 1945. After the Philippines, Eichelberger and his command supervised the surrender of over 50,000 Japanese troops. He was tapped to lead the invasion of the home islands of Japan, but the Japanese surrender after the atomic detonations precluded the necessity. In August Eichelberger's Eighth Army began a three-year Occupation of Japan where he played a leading role in the rebuilding a devastated country.

This extremely rare, wool, five-star rank flag designates the personal presence of General of the Army, the highest possible wartime grade in the United States Army. General of the Army "positional colors," as flags such as this are officially styled, almost never come to auction as most are in institutional collections. The rarity of this flag may be better understood by the fact that only four men achieved the grade of General of the Army during the war: George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Henry H. Hap Arnold, all in December 1944.

This flag was used by Lieutenant-General Matthew B. Ridgway from his appointment to that rank on 4 June 1945. This flag accompanied Ridgway for the remainder of 1945, when he was commander of the 18th Airborne Corps; serving in the Philippines as a deputy to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; and finally serving in the Mediterranean Theatre.

This wool flag exhibiting blue field with Army Air Corps insignia in center with a 5 point white star to left and right. This flag has been attributed to Maj. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Deputy Air Commander-in-Chief, SHAEF. The USAF headquarters was responsible for every US Army air operation during World War II. The USAF commanded all major components of the US Air Forces; including the US Army Air Corps (USAC) and all the essential support units such as engineers, MPs, medics, antiaircraft battalions, etc. It was an operational command headquarters whilst the USAAC itself was actually just a branch of the US Army.

United States Armed Forces

ZFC3282 United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) Major General – 2 Stars - This wool flag exhibiting blue field with Army Air Corps insignia in center with a 5 point white star to left and right. This flag has been attributed to Maj. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Deputy Air Commander-in-Chief, SHAEF The USAF headquarters was responsible for every US Army air operation during World War II. The USAF commanded all major components of the US Air Forces; including the US Army Air Corps (USAC) and all the essential support units such as engineers, MPs, medics, antiaircraft battalions, etc. It was an operational command headquarters whilst the USAAC itself was actually just a branch of the US Army.
ZFC3289 48 Star US Ensign, USS Anchor, the flagship of the Commander of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Forces, Rear Admiral Alan G. Kirk. The Anchor wore this large wool ensign during the Allied Invasion of Sicily. The ensign is inscribed, “GELA-SCOGGILLI-SICILY INVASION FLAGSHIP ATLANTIC AMPHIBIOUS FORCE JULY 9-10 1943” and “ADMIRAL KIRK, CAPT. P. L. MATHIE, GRANVILLE F LeMAISTRE, Sr. USS ANCON CHIEF QUARTERMASTER, JULY 11th 1943.”

ZFC1083 48 Star US Jack, USS Phelps, the first United States warship to drop anchor in Japanese “home” waters during World War II. This occurred at Kwajalein Island in January of 1944. Upon dropping anchor in the harbor of Kwajalein, this “jack” (symbolizing the reuniting of the ship with “mother earth”) was raised at the ship’s bow, in accordance with naval traditions.

ZFC1071 48 Star US flag - Lieutenant John McGee Danelz, USN used this flag during WWII. Lt. Danelz was an employee of the Wall St. investment firm Calvin Bullock Ltd, whose employment was interrupted by his wartime naval service. He gifted this flag to Calvin Bullock in April of 1944 after a “secret mission” in which the flag was carried.

This was a private purchase as ‘Sterling’ brand civilian from Amin & Co’s all wool commercial grade flags. It was gifted to Calvin Bullock by John McGee Danelz, an employee of Bullock who eventually rose to become vice president of Calvin Bullock Ltd. The inscription on the Bullock Master List reads: “An American Flag that I was able to use for my own Unit on an historic occasion. From Lt. John M. Danelz to Mr. C.B. - April 1944. The inscription refers to the use of this flag on ‘secret’ missions of the Navy during WWII. Bullock received this flag a matter of weeks after the flag’s last service on one of those ‘missions.’

ZFC3264 US Navy Construction Battalions. - The Latin phrase “Construimus Batuimus” curves across the top of this machine sewn, blue wool flag. It translates as “We build, We fight” and is the motto of the United States Navy Construction Battalions (CBs), commonly known as ‘Seabees.’ The unit designation “CB Maintenance Unit 524,” under the light blue anchor, identifies the unit that carried this color in the Pacific Theatre during WWII, where they served on Midway Island from 1944 to 1945.
Admiral Ballentine was a career naval officer and a naval aviator, who, as a captain, in 1943 he commanded the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill (CV-17) in battle; actions for which he was twice decorated. In 1944 and 1945 after his service on the Bunker Hill he served as Commander Air Fleet Seattle and later as Liaison Officer between the CinCPac (Commander in Chief, Pacific) and the Supreme Commander for the Allied Forces for the Occupation of Japan, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

Fleet admirals were appointed for life and the grade was created in 1944. This flag, a US Navy size 6 admiral’s flag, bears the white metal grommets, hallmark of flags made during the war.

The purpose of the flag was to acknowledge US Savings Bond Sales to corporations, individuals and military personnel. The image was taken from the statue of the Continental Minuteman at Concord, Massachusetts at the North Bridge. The flag was issued in various sizes, could have additional symbols added to it for superior performance in fund raising by exceeding goals.
ZFC0502 U.K. Royal Navy White Ensign of the battleship HMS Malaya acquired by Mrs. Hugh Bullock Yard, in August of 1941, when the battleship was undergoing repairs at the New York, Navy. Malaya had formed part of a defensive group in the Gulf of Aden and later joined the Mediterranean Fleet. After the Battle of Taranto in November 1940 the Malaya was based at Gibraltar. In this role she took part in numerous troopship escort duties to Suez, participated in Operation Harpoon, one of the many Malta convoys, and additional convoy escort duties of the West African Coast. She was damaged by torpedoes from U-106 off the Cape Verde Islands and sent to New York for repairs.

ZFC0229 HMS Penelope White Ensign worn during the Siege of Malta in 1942 – one of the jewels in the Bullock Collection is this White Ensign battle flag from the Battle of Malta in 1942 against German and Italian air and naval forces. The damage to this ensign is testimony to the fury of the engagement at the Siege of Malta.

ZFC0503 U.K. White Ensign – Due to wartime security constraints, the name of the vessel that wore this ensign during the invasion of Sicily remains unknown. In 1943 the Royal Navy was tasked with the Eastern Task Force, commanded by Admiral Bertram Ramsey, who planned the amphibious landings. The allied attacks on Sicily were code named Operation Husky and those for Salerno and Operation Avalanche. Both of these forces were commanded by the most famous British admiral during the Second World War Andrew B. Cunningham or ABC as he was known in the Royal Navy, who had a superb fighting record in the early war years and served as First Sea Lord.

ZFC0228 U.K. White Ensign – This battle ensign was on the leading Royal Navy ship of the invasion that assaulted the Normandy beaches on June 6, 1944. Calvin Bullock was the intended recipient of this flag and a German war flag (see ZFC1074) captured by British forces in the attack on Bayeux days after the landings. Commander Anthony Kimmance had secured the flags for Calvin Bullock for his return visit to New York. He arrived to present them to Calvin Bullock, only to learn that Mr. Bullock had died two days previously, but his son Hugh Bullock accepted them in his father’s name.

ZFC0220 This United Kingdom Flag – The 6th British Airborne Divisional HQ Command Pennant came directly from the Estate of United States Army General Matthew B. Ridgway. Ridgway acquired the pennant as a token of appreciation, and a momento of command from elements of the British 6th Airborne Division after the crossing of the Rhine and the advance into Germany in the spring of 1945, when he visited the British Airborne’s headquarters in Wiesau, Germany, on the Baltic coast, for a Thanksgiving Service at the end of the war.
ZFC3287 United Kingdom – Royal Air Force Ensign - This is a seven, wool Royal Air Force (RAF) Ensign from World War II. The RAF Ensign is used only on RAF installation and bases from freestanding flagpoles, it is never paraded. It was adopted in 1920 after a contentious round of discussion involving the Admiralty, The War Office and the Air Ministry. The Royal Navy, who relented only after King George intervened, initially opposed it. The Royal Air Force Ensign is flown daily at established RAF stations. It was acquired with other WWII glider related material it is likely that it was from a base associated with the Glider Pilot Regiment. It was acquired with an POW embroidered RAF Glider pilots wing insignia (ZFC3309) and several WWII cloth pilot’s maps of Europe.

ZFC3266 United Kingdom – This is a Royal Artillery camp flag of Battery C of the Light Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Regiment of the Royal Artillery. Although batteries of the Royal Artillery do not carry flags – the gun is considered the symbol of the unit – their camps were often marked with flags like this example. The actual amalgamation of Light Anti-Aircraft and Searchlight Regiments and did not officially occur until after WWII; this flag is thought to be from one of two expedient wartime formation serving in the Netherlands in 1944 and 1945.

ZFC3272 UK Airborne Parachutist Drop Panel Marker Flag - This Cotton yellow parachutist drop zone marker would have been used by both pathfinders and airborne troops to mark drop, landing zones and resupply zones for parachutists and glider borne forces during airborne operations. Markers of this type used at Normandy for D-Day, for Operation Market Garden & Operation Varsity in WWII.

UK Artifacts

ZFC3309 This British Prisoner of War (POW) made United Kingdom Army Glider Pilots Wings. The original “wings” for pilots in the Glider Pilot Regiment was the Army Flying Badge (‘Lion with Blue Wings’). Regiment was formed in 1942 and early war Glider Pilot’s wore wings similar to these. In 1944 the insignia would be changed to a winged “G.” The Glider Pilot embroidery is framed and inscribed on the back “British POW.” Prisoners of War often passed the long hours in captivity by painstakingly creating detailed craft pieces like this example.
France Battleship - This French ensign comes from the battleship Richelieu, the famous WWII French Battleship that served both the Vichy and Free French governments. On the 24 September 1942, Richelieu fought against Allied naval forces at the Battle of Dakar. In November 1942, when the French forces in Africa joined the Allies, this battleship sailed to New York Navy Yard for refitting. In 1943, this flag was given to Calvin Bullock by Vice Admiral R. Fenard, Chief of the French Naval Mission in the United States.

France Corvette Aconite – This French ensign is from the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest continuous campaign of WWII, fought from 1939 to 1945. In the war against the U-boats, the Free French corvette Aconite sank 2 U-boats on the same day, one by ramming! They were the U-444 and U-432, both sunk on 11 March, 1943, within hours of each other in the North Atlantic. In 1943, this flag was given to Calvin Bullock by Vice Admiral R. Fenard, Chief of the French Naval Mission in the United States.

Free French Flag - the Free French flag was most commonly displayed by exiled French military forces outside of France; in parallel with the conventional military effort, urban resistance movements within France were created under the name Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur or French Forces of the Interior (FFI) and ‘Maquis’ or literally The Bush the name for the primarily rural resistance. Both of these movements made use of the Free French symbol to difference them from the unpopular collaborationist Vichy regime, which continued to use the plain French Tricolore. During the occupation, in 1944 a patriotic Frenchwoman crocheted this flag at great personal peril. After liberation the flag was framed and preserved. Subsequently, and perhaps on one of his many trips to Europe, this flag was acquired by Mr. John Tuteur, President of the Paramount Flag Company of San Francisco, CA, who displayed it in his personal office before conveying it to Dr. Whitney Smith, the Director of the Flag Research Center of Winchester, MA.

HMS HMTS, a Flower class corvette, built in Canada, arrived at Halifax on 13 April 1941 and was one of the original ships of the Newfoundland Escort Force, the force created to extend eastward to Iceland the convoy escorts necessary to thwart the U-Boat menace. During this duty she and the HMCS Skeena were credited with sinking the U-588 on 31 July 1942. She then transferred to the Mid-Atlantic Escort Force in the Atlantic when this ensign was presented to Mr. Calvin Bullock.
Canada, Blue Ensign - This flag was the official Royal Canadian Civil Ensign & Jack during World War II. It was used by His Majesty’s Royal Canadian Navy vessels, like the HMCS Winnebago, as a jack. A jack is a flag of national character flown by vessels when anchored or when under way while dressing ship. Additionally, the flag bears the brand name “Pioneer” on the label, a trade mark of the venerable Jones Tent & Awning Company of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Canada Red Ensign, homemade – Airborne Association – This homemade cotton flag was acquired with an airborne grouping. It is a flag made for a Canadian Soldier serving with the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion (CPB) when they served with the famed British 6th Airborne Division as a part of the 3rd Parachute Brigade. The Canadians were always sensitive to their national pride, especially after they were prevented from displaying Canadian Flags during the First World War. The 1st CPB was rightfully proud of their reputation – during their service in Europe they achieved every objective and never had a mission fail; they were the only Canadians who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the advanced farther into Germany than any other Canadian unit.

USSR

The naval ensign of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was introduced 27 May 1935 by government decree. It was solemnly raised on ships as the new ensign of the USSR on 1 July, replacing a red and white ensign in use since 1924. During World War II the Red Navy did well in coastal defense efforts, in riverine warfare, and in amphibious landings. Small ensigns of this type would have been worn by coastal patrol craft, riverine flotillas and on submarines. This ensign, although it was dominated by socialist symbols, it was still reminiscent of the colors of the Imperial Russian Navy’s St. Andrew ensign. Curiously, this Soviet made ensign was fitted with Englefield Clips, a method of attachment more commonly found in the Royal and Commonwealth Navies; perhaps indicating use on a Lend Lease warship.

ADDITIONAL ALLIES

GREECE

The Greek State and War Flag was presented to Mr. Calvin Bullock by the Prime Minister of Greece, during WWII, when the Greeks maintained a government-in-exile. Between 1941 and 1944 the internationally recognized Greek government, nominally headed by King George II, but led by Prime Minister Emmanuel Tsouderos, was headquartered in Cairo Egypt. Commonly called the “Cairo Government”, they maintained diplomatic offices in the United States where they helped the Office of Strategic Services train Greek expatriate soldiers for missions inside Greece.

ZFC1014 - This Greek State and War Flag was presented to Mr. Calvin Bullock by the Prime Minister of Greece, during WWII, when the Greeks maintained a government-in-exile. Between 1941 and 1944 the internationally recognized Greek government, nominally headed by King George II, but led by Prime Minister Emmanuel Tsouderos, was headquartered in Cairo Egypt. Commonly called the “Cairo Government”, they maintained diplomatic offices in the United States where they helped the Office of Strategic Services train Greek expatriate soldiers for missions inside Greece.
**INDIA**

ZFC1085 A Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Jack with Star of India Badge, 1934 to 1947. At the start of the World War II the RIN was very small with only eight warships with which to carry out their primary duty: to patrol the Indian Ocean. By the end of the war, its strength would rise to 117 combat vessels and 30,000 personnel who participated in every theatre. Notably, the Royal Indian Navy sloops Sutlej and Jumna played a key role in Operation Husky which was the Allied invasion of Sicily. Owing to the presence of many flags from this time and the theatre of war, as well as Calvin Bullock’s predilection for collecting flags from significant vessels, it is highly probable that this jack was from one of these two RIN warships.

**AUSTRALIA**

ZFC3270 Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Jack and National Flag. At the beginning of World War II the Royal Australian Navy was the most battle ready of the Commonwealth navies. Although modest in size she immediately began operations in defense of Australia and eventually served in all theatres of the War. This yard made cotton flag would have been used either a jack for vessels of the RAN or as a courtesy ensign for other vessels in Australian ports.

**WWII ARTIFACTS**

ZFC3318 Boeing Aircraft Japanese Flag “Aerial Victory Decal” – During WWII it was customary for pilots to record their aerial victories on their warplanes. Often either the national flag or the aircraft marking of the enemy, these “kill” markings were both a tally and a source of pride to the highly competitive pilots, these markings were generally done with paint; however, the Boeing Aircraft corporation, of Seattle, Washington, provided decals of a stylized Japanese ensign - there are only eight instead of the correct 16 rays - for use in the Pacific Theatre.

ZFC3284 General Eisenhower Operation Torch Proclamation - In November of 1942 the Allies took the offensive by opening a Second Front against the Axis with massive amphibious landings in North Africa. President Roosevelt had reassured the French in North Africa that the “allies seek no territory and have no intention of interfering with friendly French Authorities in Africa.” Lieutenant General Dwight Eisenhower also sought to reassure the French with a Proclamation issued in both French and Arabic that the United States did not wish to conquer the French colonies, but to restore the democracy and liberties of the French people. He also reiterated that the Americans would depart as soon as German and Italian forces were driven out of the area. (Framed with ZFC3273)
**ZFC3273** Operation Torch: 48-Star US Flag Arm Band – This is a 48-star United States flag imprinted on a treated cloth arm band issued to US invasion troops for the invasion of North Africa. When the US forces landed in November 1942, they were opposed by troops of the Vichy French regime that controlled Algeria and French Morocco. The flags were issued in the hope that the French military would recognize the Americans as liberators rather than enemies; after a week of fierce fighting most of the French forces in Africa came back over to the Allied side.

**ZFC3317** 3rd US Army of General George Patton, 70th Infantry Division Final Periodic Report Poster, May 1945, issued under the imprimatur of Acting Chief of Operations, Brigadier General Halley Grey Maddox showing the organizational disposition of the divisions and corps of 3rd US Army in May of 1945. The 3rd US Army under General Patton did not participate in the D-Day landings, but were the spearhead of the breakout across central Europe, eventually halting in Czechoslovakia, farther east than any other American units.

**ZFC3194** Iwo Jima Flag Raising photo, autographed Joe Rosenthal the Iwo Jima flag raising photographer, and inscribed “Best wishes to Harry Brand from Joe Rosenthal.” Harry Brand was director of publicity for the Twentieth Century-Fox Studios, was one of Hollywood’s most able press agents and executives. He was involved in many top-level decisions regarding policies, politics, and union relations. He was a very valuable aide-de-camp for Joe Schenck and Darryl Zanuck, both pioneers in the US film industry. The photograph was inscribed to Harry Brand on 18 February 1983, on the 38th observance of the Anniversary of Battle of Iwo Jima, hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter at the Greater Los Angeles Press Club.

**ZFC3426** Hawaiian Territorial Japanese Enumeration Summons issued to Takahashi Shigeyoshi in April 1942. These summons were issued after Executive Order 9066, was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on 19 February 1942, authorizing military commanders to designate “military areas” at their discretion, “from which any or all persons may be excluded.” On the US mainland this was a precursor to internment. Because the Japanese were such a large and integral part of the Hawaiian economy all Japanese-Americans were required to register, but very few were interned.

**ZFC3321** The "United" We Fight poster was created in 1943 after the 1942 Joint Declarations of the United Nations opposed to the Axis powers. The poster is important because it represents one of the first occurrences in print of the term “United Nations” as a precursor to the 1945 formation of the United Nations in San Francisco. The poster features the flags of those countries or governments-in-exile that pledged to support the Allied. The poster was created in 1943 by United States Office of War Information and made by United States Government Printing Office.

**ZFC2300** “To Have and to Hold” War Bonds Poster was issued by the US Treasury in 1944. War bond posters were a mainstay on the home front encouraging the purchase of the debt securities issued for the purpose of financing WWII. In this poster a helmeted soldier reaches out his arm while extending the American flag. To Have and to Hold is a reference to the novel by Mary Johnson. Made into films twice before the war, it was about romance, intrigue and conflict between settlers, Indians and the Spanish in colonial Jamestown, Virginia.
**ZFC1950** US Bastogne “Nuts” octagonal brass plaque, probably a locally produced souvenir from Bastogne, Belgium, depicts General McAuliffe replying “NUTS” to a German surrender offer in December 1944, during the German encirclement of the town of Bastogne. Often brass items like this were locally produced, from melted-down artillery brass casings of which there was a great surplus in the Ardennes, following the Battle of the Bulge. These were both presented to Bastogne veterans and sold locally after the war.

**ZFC3310** French Capitulation du Reich plaque – This brass plaque was made immediately after the Capitulation of the 3rd Reich in May of 1945. Reportedly made from castoff shell casings these plaques are something of a mystery. Identified by the French as La médaille commémorative Américaine, they are one of a half-dozen commemorative medallions made after the Victory in Europe. They are similar to other locally produced commemoratives made in France and Belgium during and after the Liberation.
### GERMANY - 3rd Reich Early Flags

**ZFC1190** German, 3rd Reich, black, white and red (BW R) pennants like this were used from 1933 to 1935 when the BW R tricolor was restored as the national flag and flown concurrently with the Nazi Party flag. This flag was eventually displaced, in 1935, when the swastika flag became the sole national flag of the 3rd Reich. Although black, white and red would remain the national colors until 1945, pennants like this example made in Hamburg were only decorative, but made perfect GI-bring-backs for returning American servicemen.

**ZFC1350** German, 3rd Reich, black, white and red (BW R) flag was restored as the German flag from 1933 to 1935. This early example was defaced with an upright swastika, probably right after the Nazi party discontinued the use of the plain German tricolor. This small flag was returned to the United States by an American GI and donated to the US Army Ranger Museum of New York City.

### GERMANY - 3rd Reich National Flags & Banners

**ZFC1321** This is a 3rd Reich Tricolor pennant with a Reichsadler (3rd Reich Eagle) stamped on the center stripe. The angled styled wings on the eagle are those used on the eagle on wehrmacht (armed forces) uniforms. This pennant was likely altered for unofficial military decorative purposes; acquired by an American serviceman and provided to the US Army Ranger Museum. Small flags like this were highly prized as war souvenirs.

**ZFC0964** Germany under the 3rd Reich used a Reichsdienstflagge (State flag and Civil Ensign) from 1935 to 1945 for government authorities and German state and provincial flags. This symbolized the authority of the party and the national government in coordinating the internal political subdivisions of the 3rd Reich with the national government. Accordingly, on land, this flag was flown over non-military, government institutions. At sea it was used as an ensign by all government vessels that were not commissioned as warships.

**ZFC1128** This German, 3rd Reich, Lotsenflaggen or Pilot Flag was adopted in 1935 and utilized until 1945. The flag continued the tradition of using a merchant flag with white “picture frame” border as a special signal, which was flown by a vessel requiring or carrying a nautical pilot.
GERMANY - 3rd Reich Sub-National Flags & Organizations

ZFC0950: Germany 3rd Reich National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) Party Banner, 1933-1945. When the swastika flag was adopted on 11th March 1933 as co-national flag, immediately after the March 1933 elections, new flags were created, including the Swastika Flag (Hakenkreuzfahne) which was used until 1945. However, its use and its incorporation into other flags and ensigns were modified after the elections of late 1935. Those used between 1933 & 1935 often have a smaller disc centered on the red field. After 1935 an off-centered disc was introduced for use at sea. Elongated banners with the swastika were commonplace after 1935, and banners such as this were ubiquitous throughout the 3rd Reich.

ZFC1308: Germany, 3rd Reich, National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) Party flag, 1933-1935; and sole German national flag from 15 September 1935 to the collapse of the 3rd Reich in 1945. In Germany, during this period, wide use was made of flags for political propaganda. The swastika became the ubiquitous symbol of this era and flag usage permeated every facet of public life. Because of this flags were plentiful and in a vanquished Germany, returning GIs brought back plain Nazi flags like this example. Flags like this were so plentiful that essentially every American GI who wanted one got one. The single remaining tassel on this flag may have indicated some level of official use.

ZFC1125: Germany, 3rd Reich, Deutscher Reichsbund für Leibesübungen (DRL) 1934 to 1938, Nationalsozialistischer Reichsbund für Leibesübungen (NSRL) 1938 to 1945, or “National Socialist League of the Reich for Physical Exercise” the Reich Sports Office, was the umbrella organization for all sports activities in Nazi Germany. At the height of their power they organized the 1936 Berlin Olympics, where they merged sport with Nazi Aryan propaganda. After the war began there were fewer and fewer athletic competitions as athletes were called to military service, and the power of the Reichs Sports Office diminished.

ZFC1341: Germany, 3rd Reich, The Reichsluftschutzbund, (RLB) or “National Air Raid Protection League” was founded on 29 April 1933 on the order Air Minister and Oberbefehlshaber (Supreme Commander) of the German Luftwaffe (Air Force) Hermann Goering. It was originally a voluntary, uniformed, paramilitary civil defense organization, but during the war membership became compulsory for almost all Germans. They were reactive, going into action in response to aerial attacks. Flags like this were apparently used after 1942 when they were formally taken over by the Luftwaffe. This is most likely a G.I. bring back that was eventually donated to the US Army Ranger Museum in New York City.

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ZFC1307: Germany, 3rd Reich, Deutsche Arbeitsfront, (DAF) or German Labor Front was, from 1933 to 1939, the organizations that replaced all German trade unions after Hitler came to power. The DAF existed as a facilitator so that both the interests of workers and employees could be mutually represented. The DAF was founded “...for the good of the fatherland...” There were no wage negotiations, strikes. They were dissolved after the commencement of the Second World War. This flag is inscribed “From Gene Hurley, Germany 1945” and is assumed to be war booty.
ZFC0933  Germany, 3rd Reich, Reichskriegsflagge, (Reich War Flag), 1938-1945 were used throughout the German military establishment. They were designed to carry on the traditions of the Imperial War Flag of the German Empire. As the War Flag they were used as interment flags for fallen members of the German Wehrmacht. They, like all Nazi symbols, were banned during the “denazification” of Germany.

ZFC1331  3rd Reich Naval Ensign 1938-1945 – In the Second World War the main German combat component in the Battle of the Atlantic, which lasted for the entire war, was the U-Boot. The German Kriegsmarine (War Navy) had the largest submarine fleet in World War II, which they put to devastating use against Allied shipping in the Atlantic. Early in the war, U-Boot victories against Allied shipping were so effective, that on January 1943, the Allies made the defeat of German U-Boats the number one priority.

ZFC1336  Germany, 3rd Reich, Military Vehicle Panel Marker, field expedient, 1939 – 1945. During WWII the speed that mechanized forces of the 3rd Reich moved created constantly changing frontlines and forward areas and the need for air support and aerial resupply necessitated the use of these vehicle marking panels to identify themselves to Luftwaffe warplanes. This single sided banner with corner grommets is a theatre made, field expedient, vehicle banner, likely made from a German national flag, which was taken by an American GI and donated the US Army Ranger Museum of New York City.

ZFC1127  Germany, 3rd Reich, Reichskriegsflagge, (Reich War Flag), 1938 -1945 w as clearly inspired by the old Imperial War Flag (see ZFC1127), but executed in the black, white and red colors of the 3rd Reich. This flag was flown daily at all Wehrmacht installations. They were used by the Heer (Army) at headquarters buildings, smaller versions and replaced unit colors after the 1944 assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler. These were highly sought after by American GI as war booty (see ZFC2074).

ZFC0975  3rd Reich Naval Ensign 1938-1945 – Keeping the fleet of U-Boats supplied with food, fuel and weapons was a high priority for the 3rd Reich. This task fell largely to the Kriegsmarine’s submarine tenders, vessels the either met up with the submarines at sea to replenish them or provided these services while docked at a port adjacent to where the submarines are operating. Germany had some tenders intentionally interred on neutral ports for this purpose. During WWII U-Boats sank over 2,900 Allied ships representing over 14 million tons. This large ensign is typical of those displayed on Kriegsmarine submarine tenders.

ZFC1127  Germany, 3rd Reich, Reichskriegsflagge, (Reich War Flag), 1938 -1945 w ere used throughout the German military establishment. These were designed to carry on the traditions of the Imperial War Flag of the German Empire. As the War Flag they were used as interment flags for fallen members of the German Wehrmacht. They, like all Nazi symbols, were banned during the “denazification” of Germany.
GERMANY - 3rd Reich Schutzstaffel Flags & Banners

ZFC0932 Germany, 3rd Reich, Schutzstaffel “Protective Echelon” (SS) House Flag - this example is finished as a wall banner, on one side only. Ceremonial banner flag with the double lightning bolt insignia of the Nazi SS were used as a general purpose “House Flag,” indicating an SS installation or office. They were also widely used at SS events.

ZFC0917 Germany, 3rd Reich Schutzstaffel “Protective Echelon” (SS) Reifeldhaken, “Territorial Commander” automobile flag. Flags like this were used between 1942 and 1945 to identify a vehicle bearing a general officer of the Waffen SS.

ZFC0931 Germany, 3rd Reich SS Automobile Flag Cover - when parked cloth canvas covers like this were used to protect the automobile flags of high ranking officers when not in use.

GERMANY - 3rd Reich Artifacts

ZFC0962 Germany, 3rd Reich, NSDAP Armband, inscribed with 8 US GI Names. The ubiquitous red Nazi Party armbands were popular among U.S. soldiers as souvenir items. Brought home as war booty, they served as a moments of service. This specimen is signed by the solders, who presumably captured its owner. Autographed in the left side “PFC Gardes, PFC Wm. Hobeinbush, PFC. Bermanaun and PFC Precut” and on the right side, “PFC W. Bogeonman; S/Sgt Aasen; Sgt. Clark and PFC Meinick.”

ZFC1320 Germany, 3rd Reich, Hitler Youth Armband. The Hitler Youth was created as the youth organization of the National Socialist German Workers Party, (NSDAP). Founded in 1926 they were originally a part of the Sturmabteilung (SA), the infamous “Brown Shirts.” When the NSDAP came to power in 1933, the absorbed all youth organizations in Germany with the exception of those of the Roman Catholic Church. After 1936 membership was obligatory for all German youth who all wore armbands like this example.

ZFC1330 Germany, 3rd Reich, Deutscher Volkssturm Wehrmacht “literally the People’s Storm,” more figuratively “People’s Army,” 1944 to 1945, armband. They were formed in the last part of WWII and reflected the dire straits of the 3rd Reich. It was composed of conscripted men between 16 and 60 years of age, not already in service on some kind. Although placed under the Wehrmacht, they were an organized by the Nazi Party. The term armband is something of a misnomer as an armband like this was the only Volkssturm uniform item.
Germany, Memorial Card for Xavier Goldbrunner, a young Grenadier, from Oberhausen, aged 19 years 9 months. He fell on the Eastern Front, 29 December 1942, in the fierce fighting at Voronezh, a city in southeastern Russia.

Japan – Hinomaru, “Disk of the Sun,” national flag. This large cotton Japanese flag is typical of flags made in Japan with the traditional leather reinforcing patches. Dating from antiquity the red Sun Disc or Hinomaru, represents Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess has a special place in Japanese culture. This WWII flag was likely brought back by a returning GI.

In Japan, from 1938 to 1945 wide use was made of flags for propaganda and moral. The flag was a ubiquitous symbol Japanese Empire and flag usage permeated every facet of public and military life. The paper or cardboard reinforcements indicate that this flag was made late in the war when shortages curtailed the use of the traditional leather reinforcing corner patches.

Imperial Japanese War Flag – 1870 to 1945. The War Flag of Imperial Japan has its origins in the Hinomaru, “Disk of the Sun,” national flag, but adds 16 rays to the sun disc extending them off the flag. This is a graphic representation of Nippon, or that Japan is literally the “Land of the Sun.” The war flag was used by the Imperial Japanese Army, and was then basis, with a purple fringe, for Japanese regimental flags.

Imperial Japanese War Flag – 1870 to 1945. Small silk flags like this were sometimes used as Hinomaru Yosegaki or a “Good Luck Flag.” Often purchased by relatives and friends, they were generally kept on a soldier’s person.

Imperial Japanese War Flag – 1870 to 1945. Large fringed, silk Imperial Japanese War Flags are uncommon. Probably never carried into combat, flags like this were restricted, but not banned in occupied Japan, where like this example, they were keenly sought by American GIs.
Imperial Japanese Naval Commission Pennant, traditionally, masthead pennants were flown from a nation’s warship. Customarily, these pennants were used by the armed ships of sovereign states to distinguish warships from other vessels. The Japanese masthead pendant, in its present form, was adopted in 1914; it was abolished following the Japanese surrender of 14 August 1945 and re-adopted in 1956. It is interesting to note that the Japanese masthead pennant utilizes an 8-rayed sun used on naval rank flags rather than the 16-rayed sun found on the ensign.

Imperial Japanese Navy Vice Admiral Flag, 1889 to 1945

The Imperial Japanese Navy (INJ) adopted new rank flags for the grade of admiral in 1889. They were based on the Imperial War Flag, but differed in that there were only eight rays emanating from the red sun disc. An admiral flew the flag unfaced; a vice admiral’s flag, as in this example, added a single red stripe at the top edge. The INJ only elevated 45 officers to the grade of vice admiral (14 of them posthumously); a given the almost total destruction of the INJ during the war few admirals flags have survived.

Imperial Japanese Navy Rear Admiral Flag, 1889 to 1945

– The Imperial Japanese Navy (INJ) promoted 53 officers (14 of them posthumously) to the grade of rear admiral, the most junior admiral in the INJ. The rear admiral’s flag was similar to admirals of superior grade except that it displayed a red stripe at both the top and bottom edges of the flag. Because of their relative scarcity flags like this were seized by American sailors as they boarded surrendered INJ ships.

Japanese National Flag on telescoping bamboo pole – Flags like this example have been identified by returning American GIs as Aviator Float Flags to be used by deceased Japanese Army & Navy pilots. This flag was acquired as a GI bring back from a veteran.

Imperial Japanese Naval Ensign was adopted in 1889, and has its origins in the Imperial War flag adopted in 1870. Like the war flag, the ensign added 16 rays to the Hinomaru, or “Disk of the Sun”, national flag, but offset the disc towards the hoist. This is a graphic representation of Nippon, or that Japan is literally the “Land of the Sun. This ensign was used until 1945 when the Imperial Japanese Navy was disbanded. The design was resurrected by the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force in 1954.
**JAPAN - Soldier (Hinomaru Yosegaki) “Good Luck” Flags & (Shussei nobori) “Send-off Banners”**

**ZFC0578** Japanese Soldier (Hinomaru Yosegaki) Good Luck Flag - Canadian Soldier Bring back – Japanese national flags with kanji characters surrounding the red sun disc. These flags were ubiquitous among Japanese servicemen, and prized as a souvenir by all Allied personnel. This flag was acquired from Canada. Although Canada’s role in the Pacific and Far-east is not well known, a few Canadian troops served in Burma & Malaysia; but their largest participation was the troops sent to the Aleutian Islands to retake the islands of Kiska and Attu from the Japanese; and it is likely that this flag emanates from that campaign.

**ZFC1362** Japanese Soldier (Hinomaru Yosegaki) Good Luck Flag - This sewn cotton with a kanji inscription, though minimal, is typical of the many “Good Luck Flag” brought back from the Pacific Theater by returning GIs. This example was formerly on display at the US Army Ranger Museum in New York City.

**ZFC1355** Japanese Soldier (Hinomaru Yosegaki) “Good Luck Flag” – According to attribution this flag was carried by a Japanese pilot. After the war this flag was donated to the US Army Ranger Museum of New York City; who incorrectly identified it as a Hozobukuro (Service Records Bag). The kanji inscription indicated that this “Good Luck Flag” was presented to a general officer.

**ZFC2404** Japanese Sailor (Hinomaru Yosegaki) “Good Luck Flag”, from Manila, 1945 - This Good Luck Flag was inscribed to an Osaka sailor from his family and friends, including the mayor of Osaka. It was recovered from a ruined factory in Manila along with the sailor’s identity tag (see ZFC24050). The Manila Naval Defense Forces, an expedient organization of Japanese sailors, marines and soldiers strove to prevent the Americans return. In the fierce fighting Manila was almost entirely destroyed.

**ZFC3074** Japanese Soldier (Hinomaru Yosegaki) Good Luck Flag, with inscriptions, shrine seals, stamps, and messages – This Good Luck Flag is in excellent condition. Acquired directly from Japan it is likely a hinomaru yosegaki from one of the estimated 1,000,000 soldiers in the Japanese Home Islands in 1945.

**ZFC0920** Japanese Shussei nobori “Send-off Banners” – As a part of Japan’s Imperial expansion at the beginnings of the 20th century the militarists sought to utilize bushido, or “The Way of the Warrior” in order to instill the traditions of the Samurai or the military nobility of feudal Japan into the modern Japanese armed forces. According to an early report service a “Send-off” celebration was held where banners like this early war example were paraded.

**ZFC0924** Japanese Guzuri “Triumphant Return” – Imperial Japan’s martial culture traditionally made a ceremonial event of the return of a young man from military or naval service. Often community organizations organized a “Triumphant Return” Participants escorting the soldier or sailor from the railway station or port, displayed large banners inscribed with the new veteran’s names, such as this wartime example.
Japan - Imperial Artifacts

ZFC2405 Japan - Imperial Navy - Sailor’s Wooden ID tag - This wooden dog tag belonged to a Japanese sailor who died in the Japanese defense of Manila in 1945. Metal was so scarce in wartime Japan that by 1945 conscripts were being issued ID tags made of wood. This was recovered from the body of a Japanese sailor and was found with a flag (see ZFC2404) inscribed by the mayor and a councilman from Osaka to him. It was recovered from the top floor of a heavily damaged factory.

ZFC2095 Imperial Japanese Navy - Petty Officer’s Cap - These soft cloth caps were introduced in 1937 as an alternative to traditional naval headgear. They are identical for all ranks, officer and enlisted alike, differing only in the quality of materials used in their manufacture. The various ranks were differentiated by white bands around the bottom of the cap: two stripes for officers, a single stripe, as in this example, for non-commissioned or petty officers and plain for the enlisted men. They were originally intended for shore use by the Tokubetsu Rikusentai or “Special Naval Landing Force” often erroneously referred to as Japanese Marines. During the war their use spread throughout the fleet. The device on the front, a golden yellow anchor, was the same for all ranks. Soft cloth caps like this were a popular US sailor bring back.

ZFC1334 Imperial Japanese Army Field Cap – Introduced in 1938 these soft cloth caps replaced the flat-topped peaked cap. The cloth field cap sometimes had short leather brim but more usually one made of stiffened cloth, like this example. They were originally issued in khaki, but later they were issued in various shades of green ranging from grey-green to a dark green. The insignia for all ranks was a single golden yellow five point star. Originally issued to Japanese troops in China, by the end of WWII they were widely worn in all theatres and by all ranks. Caps were a desirable GI bring back.

ZFC1322 Japanese Senninbari or “Thousand Stitch Belt” was a strip of white cloth embroidered with 1000 stitches, each hand made. They were used as tokens and presented to Japanese service men about to depart for the front the senninbari were usually worn as a sash under the uniform. Senninbari originated in the 1890s during the First Sino-Japanese War of. Each stitch was a wish for good fortune, and sought to imbue the wearer with courage, and immunity from harm. They were made by a serviceman’s mother; wife or sisters who would then solicit additional stitches from female worshipers at a Shinto temple.

ZFC0957 Japanese Aviator Scarf or Hachimaki or “Headband” – This imprinted silk could be used as either a scarf or folded and used as a headband. The flags in either end are the national flag and the war flag. The headband was a traditional Japanese headgear which was worn as a symbol of perseverance of effort by the wearer. Scarves were widely worn by aviators for both practical and symbolic reasons.

ZFC2194 Second Philippine Republic, 1945 to 1945 National Flag - this Philippine flag is of a pattern that differs from the version introduced by the Philippine Commonwealth in 1936. This flag is believed to be a variant made in and used by the Second Philippine Republic; 1943 to 1945, the Philippine government that collaborated with the occupying Japanese. It was acquired with a Japanese flag which dated to the period of Japanese Occupation.
The Kingdom of Italy, national, civil and state flag, (1848-1946 – the red, white and green tricolor of the Kingdom of Italy has its origins in the red, white and green regimental flags issued to Italian troops fighting with Napoleon. In 1848 the tricolor was adopted by the Kingdom of Sardinia. In 1861 the arms of the House of Savoy were added to the flag and it became the flag of the Kingdom of Italy. During WW II it was on the side of the Axis and this flag served as the national, civil and state flag of Italy. With a crown above the arms it served as the naval ensign and war flag. This WW II era flag is typical of flags at the end of the Kingdom of Italy as a republic would be declared in 1946.

Italian Socialist Republic Flag, War Flag, 1943-1944 – The Italian Social Republic (Repubblica Sociale Italiana) was a client state of Nazi Germany created on September the 23rd, 1943 by Mussolini. At this point in the war, Mussolini had already ceded most of Italian territory to the Allied advance, however a portion of Northern Italy was still under the control of German forces; although the exact area was in constant flux due to the conditions of war. This state was sometimes known as the “Republic of Sal” due to the fact that the Ministry of the Interior was based in the town of Sal. The lifespan of Mussolini’s Italian Social Republic was roughly just one year; in the opening months of 1945 Allied troops overwhelmed the North of Italy and Mussolini was shot at the end of April in the same year. This is a war-flag of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana; the civil or national flag was actually the same as the present day Italian Republic, but it was barely used in comparison with this war-flag which was predominantly flown.

Italy, WW II, Anti-Fascist Partisan Armband – 1943 to 1945 – The anti-fascist movement was initially composed of independent groups primarily drawn from the members of political parties outlawed by the Fascist regime. Often led by officers loyal to the monarchy, the partisans often took inspiration from the wishes of King Victor Emmanuel III or the Allies. This is a field expedient made from a piece of red white and green ribbon with a simple rubber stamped impression of the partisan seal bearing an inscription around a five point star, later a symbol of the Italian Republic.