

# Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 9/11, the Wars in Afghanistan & Iraq



**ZFC1343** Liberia National Flag from Desert Storm, August 1990. During Operation Desert Shield, the build up to Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, elements of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) were diverted to the African nation of Liberia. While the world's attention was on the Persian Gulf, the USMC, demonstrating its mobility and flexibility, diverted to Monrovia, Liberia, for Operation Sharp Edge, the evacuation of US citizens from that nation's war torn capital. After rescuing US, Liberian, Italian, Canadian and French citizens, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines resumed their deployment to the Gulf. During Operation Sharo Edge, they acquired this flag, which was subsequently donated to the US Army Ranger Museum in NYC; truly a unique flag from Desert Storm.



**ZFC1392** Iraqi national flag from 1963 to 1991. This small Iraqi flag is a war trophy from the Persian Gulf War codenamed Operation Desert Shield and/or Operation Desert Storm. This flag was acquired in the mid-1990s at the Bay Area Militaria Show in San Jose California, having been brought home by a Gulf War veteran. This is not a unit color, but an Iraqi national flag of the type used on vehicles. Small flags like this are highly prized by soldiers. The exact circumstances of this flag's capture are unknown, but it is similar to other Iraqi flags in the Zaricor Flag Collection.



**ZFC1124** Kuwait National Flag, 1990-1991. This small cotton flag is a war trophy from Operation Desert Storm, the code name for the liberation of Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's occupying forces. Fought in 1990 and 1991, it is also referred to as the First Gulf War. The flag is signed by 13 United States soldiers from an unidentified platoon.



**ZFC0833** Operation Desert Storm Victory Flag. This is an unofficial victory flag made commercially to capitalize on the success of the coalition lead by the US Armed Forces in the Gulf War. This flag has no official status and is intended for the mass market, primarily for sale to civilians and veterans of the 1991 Gulf War for reunion or home use. The display of flags on the US home front became ubiquitous and many entrepreneurs created patriotic flags similar to this example.



**ZFC2420** Welcome Home Banner from Desert Storm. This is typical of the "field expedient" banners and flags made by entrepreneurs in the wake of Desert Storm in 1990 & 1991. Demand for flags and patriotic decorations exceeded the supply and many businesses, not normally engaged in the manufacture of flags, but with the capacity to print and sew textiles, capitalized on the demand for patriotic bunting items and created generic items like this banner.





**ZFC3911 The South Tower Flag, World Trade Center, NY 9/11/01.** This 50 Star U.S. Flag, was recovered by a volunteer fireman working with the New York Fire Department during the recovery phase of the clean-up at the World Trade Center (WTC). Sifting through the rubble, the volunteer fireman discovered what he thought were fragments of clothing from a victim of the September 11th terrorist attack. As he dug further, he realized he had found the smoldering remains of a United States flag. From the amount of office equipment found in the same area, it was speculated that the flag had decorated one of the offices of the WTC.



**ZFC3045 Volunteer Fireman's Helmet.** This helmet was worn by a volunteer fireman from Ohio who drove to New York City (NYC) to assist in the search, rescue and recovery efforts for survivors in the aftermath of the attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) 9/11/01. He was wearing this helmet when the South Tower Flag (ZFC3911) was uncovered from the rubble of the South Tower of the WTC in NYC.



**ZFC2399 United States Flag from New York Fire Department (NYFD).** This flag belonged to "The Pride of Mid-Town," Battalion 9, Engine 54. This flag was constantly displayed on Engine 54 in solidarity with the nation, beginning at the end of 2001. It was retired only in March 2003. During the recovery effort, rigs from this fire station conveyed firefighters to the World Trade Center site in order to recover the remains of fallen brothers. Thus, this is a significant 9/11 Associated Flag of the NYFD, Manhattan battalion, used following the terrorist attack.



**ZFC2398 United States Flag from New York Fire Department (NYFD).** This is a flag associated with the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) on September 11th, 2001. It was displayed on Ladder 4, from Battalion 9, "The Pride of Mid-Town," in solidarity with the other units of the NYFD and during the search of the site for the remains of their fellow firefighters. Before that tragedy, few of the trucks and engines operated by the FDNY had customarily flown the United States flag, but since 9/11 the practice has become more widespread.



**ZFC2213 9/11 Remembrance Flag.** This 9/11 associated flag was designed by Gwendolyn Loiacono "...to honor and remember the thousands of heroes lost on September 11, 2001, who knowingly or not, gave up their lives for our freedom." This flag differs from the multitude of similarly inspired 9/11 flags in that proceeds from the sale of the flag are donated to 9/11 charities. The flag is also called the "Never Forget" flag and is widely displayed, albeit unofficially, by elements of the 42nd Infantry Division of the US Army.



**ZFC3685 9/11 Honor Flag.** This is a flag inspired by the terrorist attack of September 2001. It was the concept of John Michelotti and differs from many of the flags created by entrepreneurs after the tragedy in that it takes the form of the United States Flag; while displaying the individual names of all the victims that were killed as a result of the terrorist attacks. Like some of the 9/11 associated flags the proceeds of the sale of this flag are donated to 9/11 charities.





**ZFC0504** Afghanistan - Taliban Artillery Regimental Color, taken Nov. 2001. This Taliban flag was recovered from the rubble of the Taliban headquarters in Jalabad, Afghanistan. It was obtained in November of 2001 by independent filmmaker Jim Burroughs. The flag is a Taliban Army artillery regimental commander's flag, identified by the name of the commander and regiment written below the Arabic inscription "God is Great".



**ZFC2462** Iraq National Flag - 1991 to 2004. The takbir, which is the Arabic term for the phrase, *Allah'u Akbar* (God is great), was supposedly written upon the flag by Saddam Hussein's own hand, and was a Gulf War alteration of the customary 1963 Iraqi flag. As with all Arabic texts, the flag would be read from right to left on both sides of the flag, which are identical. This flag was taken in Fallujah, Iraq, by U.S. Special Forces.



**ZFC3717** Iraq National Flag from 1991 to 2004 captured by Sgt. Anthony Purtscher of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. This Iraqi flag was taken in the spring of 2003 from a fortified building in As Samawah, the capital of Al Muthanna Province in southern Iraq. The flag had been lowered, hidden and was taken only after a search of the building. It was captured with an Iraqi Army beret (see ZFC3747), which along with the flag, had been hidden in a bench to conceal the true identity of the building's occupants.



**ZFC3718** Iraq National Flag from 1991 to 2004, captured by Sgt. Anthony Purtscher of Company B, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. This Iraqi flag, along with a cache of valuable intelligence paperwork, was taken in the summer of 2003 from a Baath Party Headquarters building in the Al Amel district of Baghdad. The flag is double faced (each side opposed), so that the Arabic inscription reads correctly on both sides. The Baath Party formerly ruled Iraq and had initially played a prominent role in the Iraqi insurgency.



**ZFC3378** "Enjoy Baghdad" Hooch Flag. This is an unofficial flag which spoofs the traditional Coca-Cola wave logo, a ubiquitous American cultural symbol. It was brought home by troops returning from duty in Baghdad, Iraq. The flag is a "hooch flag," displayed in GI living quarters and common areas to boost morale and unit pride. The flag is inscribed with the date of July 2008, by soldiers from A Co. 4-1 BSTB (A Company, 4-14th Brigade's Special Troops Battalion of the 1st Infantry Division).