

# THE GRAND ALLIANCE BREAKS

The Grand Alliance of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union was the key to their victory over the Axis powers. Diverging post-war aims pulled "The Big Three" apart. The decades-long nuclear standoff that followed became known as the Cold War.

Ideological differences manifested into anticommunist paranoia in the West, and equally paranoid blockading in the East. Disagreements over disarmament spiraled. Germany's example showed little relationship between the possession of weapons and likelihood to wage war. The Atom Bomb meant no side could disarm without making itself vulnerable.

## War Trophies

The war was a defining life experience and most servicemen brought home souvenirs ranging from the sentimental to the morbid. War trophies, like weapons, were a symbolic way to strip the enemy of power after a horrific war. Despite orders against it, the taking of trophy skulls, ears and hands was not uncommon.

### Nazi Formal Dress Dagger

When surrendering, Nazi officers would most commonly give up their sidearm as a show of full disarmament. If they did not have a sidearm, they would offer up a valuable symbolic item, like a dress dagger.

### Japanese Arisaka Infantry Rifle, Type 99

A chrysanthemum with sixteen petals was stamped on the receiver of rifles manufactured for the Imperial Japanese Army. As the symbol of the Japanese Emperor, the flower indicated the weapon belonged to him. The seal was often filed off of surrendered weapons, but not those taken in the field.

### Noncombatant Gas Mask

Fear of an airstrike or chemical attack was rampant in America during the war. If the Japanese were able to attack Pearl Harbor, what would stop them or Germany from launching another aerial attack? The U.S. government distributed gas masks in many cities, including Spokane.

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