

Hints and Tips -

Colour Guide - British 8th Army

By Michael Farnworth

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British and Commonwealth 8th Army
 Commandos - North Africa & the Med
 S.A.S. & L.R.D.G.



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Beret Artillery, AFV	Black	Black 70.950
Beret Infantry	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Helmet	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Helmet Cover	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Leather Jerkin	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Khaki Drill Uniform	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Serge Wool Uniform	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Webbing & Pouches	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Webbing (variant)	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Socks	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.
Anklets / Gaiters	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Boots - Officer	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874
Boots - Soldiers	Black	Black 70.950

Notes

Please refer to the excellent article below

Colour Guide to Painting the British Army in the Middle East and the Mediterranean

by ????????????????

This short article is intended to give you some basic reference points for the colours to use when painting your British troops for the tabletop. We've generalised a great deal to keep things simple, but following even these basic guidelines should help you turn out a respectable force for the desert war.

British Infantry

The uniforms worn by British troops serving in the Middle East and the Med. varied depending upon location, season and weather, in addition to the alterations made to the British uniform throughout the war. The khaki 'Battledress, Serge' co-existed alongside the tropical and khaki drill clothing specifically designed for warmer theatres of war, and it would not be uncommon to find troops kitted out in a combination of both. When painting your troops for the desert, you can afford to add some variation in the colours of the uniforms worn by your figures simply due to battlefield conditions, but aim for a pale khaki look for most of them.



Figure One

The first figure is kitted out with long khaki drill trousers and a khaki woollen pullover above his khaki drill shirt. The web equipment is a canvas colour (a pale brown/green colour works well), and this would bleach in the sun, as would the rest of the uniform, to a very pale, sometimes just off-white colour. The Mark II helmet has a sandy desert finish and a web chin strap. Caps and tam o'shanter were khaki.



Figure Two

The second figure wears the khaki drill tropical shirt and shorts with a covered helmet. Khaki socks and puttees are worn, a common variation being web anklets. Web equipment is the same colour as the first figure. Both wear the standard British infantry footwear, the black 'ammunition boot'.



Commandos, S.A.S. & L.R.D.G.

Commando uniforms varied along with that of the standard infantryman, with a mixture of khaki drill and khaki battledress being common. The woollen commando cap was khaki, and Commando webbing was often whitened to improve friendly identification in night operations.

S.A.S. troops wore a variety of headgear, including the practical Arab shemagh, worn to protect from dust and the sun. The S.A.S. beret was a beige colour. The S.A.S. figures shown above wears the shemagh, khaki battledress trousers with canvas anklets, a khaki drill shirt and an issue leather jerkin.

Further Reading

Books

General

Andrew Mollo: **The Armed Forces of World War 2** (Little, Brown and Company)

This book is a very useful overview of uniforms and insignia. There are 250 colour drawings and 100 photographs which cover every nation involved in WW2. The original 1981 version is a large format book. There is an A5 reprint that does not include the Eastern front.

Chris McNab: **20th Century Military Uniforms: 300 Uniforms from Around the World** (Grange Books PLC)

This book is similar in style to Andrew Mollo's book and has many of the same illustrations.

Osprey books are also very good but there are several which touch the subject, so it is difficult to recommend one item.