

Hints and Tips -

Colour Guide - British Infantry

By Michael Farnworth

March 2008

British Infantry Commonwealth Forces



Artizan figures by Andrew Taylor of Ares Painting

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	Dark Green	Russian Green 70.894, Bronze Green 70.897
Helmet Cover	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Leather Jerkin	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Uniform	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Backpack	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Backpack straps	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Webbing & Pouches	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Webbing (variant)	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Webbing (variant)	Pale Green	Deck Tan 70.912, Pastel Green 70.885
Anklets / Gaiters	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Boots - Officer	Tan	US Tan Earth 70.874
Boots - Soldiers	Black	Black 70.950

Notes

British uniforms were consistent over all branches of the army. Commandos, infantry, artillery and many Commonwealth forces engaged in Europe had only slight variations of insignia and beret. Airborne forces were similar but with the addition of a camouflaged Denison smock jacket. A few specialists units also received camouflaged trousers.

Khaki cloth was mostly a brown shade and relatively colourfast. Vallejo English uniform 70.921 is very dark and brown, Flat Earth 70.984 or US Field Drab 70.973 are lighter tones. Canadian produced cloth was slightly greener in tone.

Webbing, anklets and ammunition pouches were issued in Sand and Green shades. They were made from were cotton canvas and faded rapidly. In theory, green is correct for the late war period in Europe but soldiers were issued with both colours. Green ammunition pouches were sometimes worn with sand coloured webbing and vice versa.

British made vehicles and metal items were dark green (Reflective Green). American made vehicles were olive green drab (US Dark Green 70.893).

Insignia

The unit badge was a curved shape at the top of the shoulder. For most infantry regiments this was red background and white text.

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.

Britain

Martin Brayley: **The World War II Tommy: British Army Uniforms European Theatre 1939-45** (The Crowood Press Ltd)

A very useful book with colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment.

Jean Bouchery: **1944-45 British Soldier: From D-Day to V-Day: Pt. 1** (Histoire & Collections)

Jean Bouchery: **1944-45 British Soldier: From D-Day to V-Day: Pt. 2** (Histoire & Collections)

Taken together these two books are very comprehensive. Part 1 covers uniforms. Part 2 covers vehicles and weapons. Both are illustrated with diagrams and colour photographs showing original uniforms and equipment