

## Hints and Tips -

# Colour Guide - British Airborne

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## British Airborne SAS Europe



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Beret Airborne	Maroon	Dark Red 70.946
Helmet	Dark Green	Russian Green 70.894, Bronze Green 70.897

The airborne scarf was camouflaged in brown and green.

Scarf	Dark Green	Russian Green 70.894, Bronze Green 70.897
Scarf	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984

The Denison Smock was camouflaged with blotches of brown, black and green on a pale coloured background.

Base	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Base (option)	Pale Green	Pastel Green 70.885
Camouflage	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846, Flat Brown 70.984
Camouflage	Dark Green	Russian Green 70.894, Bronze Green 70.897
Camouflage	Black	Black 70.950

Uniform	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Webbing & Pouches	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Anklets / Gaiters	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
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).

## 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