

# Hints and Tips -

## Colour Guide - US Airborne

By Michael Farnworth

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### U.S. Airborne



Artizan figures by Andrew Taylor of Ares Painting



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Helmet	Dark Green	US Dark Green 70.893
First aid pouch on helmet	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973,
Uniform (Italy & D Day)	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
	Khaki Yellow	Middlestone 70.882 or darker - Khaki Grey 70.880
Uniform Patches (D Day)	Dark Green	US Dark Green 70.893
Uniform (Market Garden)	Brown Olive	Brown Violet 70.887
Webbing	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Pistol Holster	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846
Boots	Brown	Mahogany Brown 70.846

### Notes

Artizan figures are wearing the M1942 jump uniform. The US Airborne wore desert coloured uniforms from North Africa Sicily, Italy to Normandy. For D day, many troops added reinforcement patches to elbows and knees. In the films Saving Private Ryan and Band Of Brothers, the uniforms are darker and greener. To achieve this look, mix 25% US Dark Green with 75% Middlestone. Sometimes the M1942 jump suit was camouflaged with stripes of black and olive green paint. The boots were long red leather boots called Cocoran after one of the manufacturers. First aid dressings were often stuck to the helmet with two bands of green sticky tape.

After September 1944, olive green uniforms were issued. Winter clothing in the 1944/45 period was the same as US infantry.

### Insignia

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne had a US flag on their right shoulder and their unit badge on the left shoulder. With the 101<sup>st</sup>, some books say that they wore the US flag on D day but many experts say that the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne did not wear the US flag during the Normandy campaign.

Airborne soldiers had a playing card symbol painted on both sides of the helmet. Company B make waterslide transfers for these badges and symbols.

NCOs had a horizontal white stripe on the back of the helmet. Officers had a vertical white stripe on the back of the helmet.

## 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.

#### America

Richard Windrow & Tim Hawkins: **World War II GI: US Army Uniforms, 1941-45** (The Crowood Press Ltd)

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