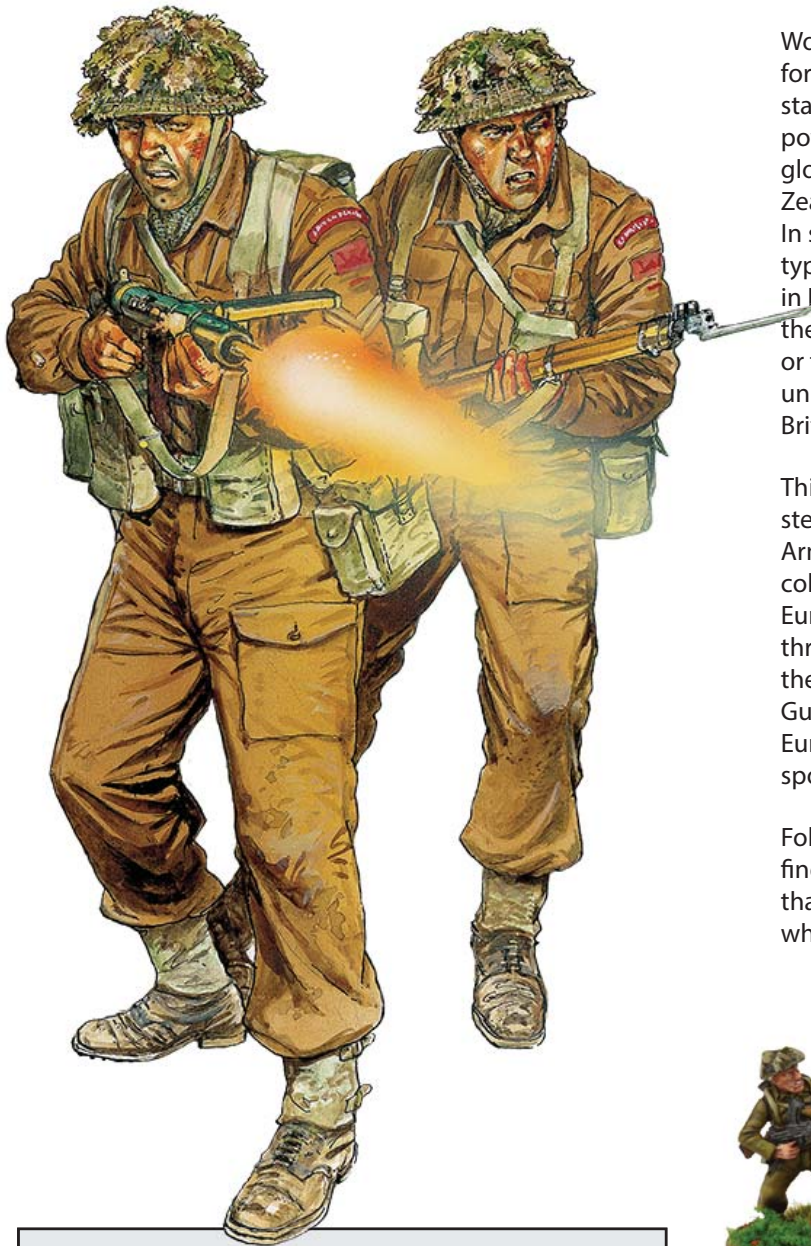


BRITISH ARMY



World War II saw soldiers from many of Britain's former colonies - now part of the Commonwealth - stand to fight alongside Britain again against the Axis powers. Not only did British soldiers fight around the globe, but men from Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and others answered the call. In some cases this meant they were uniformed as the typical British soldiers were (such as the Canadians in Europe) or they fought in uniforms more suited to the environment (such as the ANZACs in North Africa or the Gurkhas in southeast Asia). There are plenty of uniform options for Bolt Action forces drawn from the British and Commonwealth armies.

This Painting Guide will provide you with a step-by-step guide to painting an infantryman of the British Army, and the Cromwell Cruiser-class tank. The basic colour schemes depicted here were used in the European Theatre, from the early days of the War through to the Normandy landings and the push over the Rhine. This guide is even helpful for the Home Guard. Other units, such as the Airborne troops in Europe and Commonwealth troops in other theatres, sported a wider variety of uniforms and equipment.

Following the step-by-step painting guides, you'll find a collection of other units from the British forces that display the wider variety of painting possibilities when collecting these models.



There are many paint ranges available for painting up your miniatures, and it doesn't really matter which paints you use. That's completely up to you. We used a variety of paints in preparing this guide, and named them with abbreviations.

These can be deciphered below:

VMC = Vallejo Model Color

AP = Army Painter



PAINTING YOUR BRITISH INFANTRY

1



The first step is always to prepare your models for painting. After assembling a squad of five models, we applied a layer of fine basing grit, and let the glue dry.

Many people undercoat their models with black or white sprays. We chose to spray each model with AP Uniform Grey spray as sometimes a black undercoat can mean you have to apply multiple coats of your other paints, and white can leave the colours a bit too bright for the muted uniform colours of WWII.

2



The next step includes painting the basecoats over the largest areas. We started with VMC English Uniform over the uniform tunic and trousers. This was followed by VMC Russian Uniform for the helmet. We then painted the face and hands with AP Tanned Flesh, a good base colour for Caucasian skin.

3



The next step was to paint all of the webbing (backpack included) and gaiters with VMC Khaki. The hessian strips on the helmet were painted with VMC Dark Sand. We then painted the rifle stock and entrenching tool handle with AP Oak Brown. The bedroll in his backpack was painted with VMC German Camo Brown-Black.

If you are painting a lot of models at once and are on a tight timeframe, you might also choose to paint the black and silver areas (covered in Steps 8 & 9).

4



We followed up Step 3 by painting a layer of AP Strong Tone Wash over the entire model and let it dry thoroughly.

If you are painting a lot of models at once and chose to paint the black and silver areas before the wash, you could finish your painting here, although your models would like quite dark and not quite as nice as they could if you decided to push on.

5



While the wash adds great shadows to your model, to make it really pop you need to go back and add some highlights. We started by highlighting the uniform tunic and trousers with VMC English Uniform. The skin was highlighted with a 50/50 mix of AP Tanned Flesh/VMC Basic Skintone.

6



For the next stage of highlighting, we touched up the highlights on the face and hands with VMC Basic Skintone, and highlighted the tunic and trousers with a 70/30 mix of VMC English Uniform/VMC Dark Sand. We highlighted the webbing with VMC Khaki, and the Hessian strips on the helmet with VMC Dark Sand.

7



The uniform was given a final highlight of a 40/60 mix of VMC English Uniform/VMC Dark Sand. The webbing and gaiters were given a final highlight with a 50/50 mix of VMC Khaki/VMC Pale Sand, and the eyes were painted at this point.

8



The next step was to paint all the metal areas and boots with AP Matt Black. You can really start to see the finished product, as the black helps tidy up all the rough areas left by the previous painting.

The final step for painting this model was to paint the metallic areas. We highlighted the areas with a 50/50 mix of AP Matt Black/AP Gun Metal.

DECALS

If you feel like adding more detail to your British (or Commonwealth) infantry models, we make a range of great waterslide decals covering a variety of the units that were part of the Commonwealth armed forces.



TOP TIPS



While almost all buckles on the British webbing were painted in the same khaki color, we've chosen to paint them silver to add a bit of variety to the miniature. The same thing goes for the tea mug, which would typically have been enamelled. Of course, during the course of the war, the paint and enamel could most certainly have chipped off with regular wear and tear.

BASING



Basing is the thing that really helps tie your army together. There are many, many ways you can do your basing, depending on where you want your troops to be fighting, and what your gaming table looks like. For our purposes, we painted the base completely

with VMC German Camo Brown-Black, drybrushed the grit and painted the edge with VMC Beige Brown, drybrushed again with VMC Dark Sand, and then glued down different flocking materials to give a variety of colours and textures.

THE COMPLETED BRITISH INFANTRY SECTION



This completed Regular Infantry Section (using the squad listing on page 22 of Armies of Great Britain), has the minimum five men, including an NCO with a Sten submachine gun and a soldier with the Bren light machine gun.

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VARIANTS OF BRITISH UNIFORMS



◀ These men are part of the BEF - British Expeditionary Force - that fought in Belgium and France in 1940. You'll note that while their uniforms are the same olive drab as our infantryman, their equipment and webbing is a darker green.

▶ These hard-as-nails Commandos have been built using the plastic British Commando sprues, almost identical to the Infantry sprues except for the classic green berets. Their paint jobs are also similar to our infantryman, with the webbing and packs/pouches being lighter.



◀ These paratroopers of the British Airborne are wearing three-colour camouflage jackets with quite a lot of extra gear, as befits a unit dropping behind enemy lines. They are also wearing a mix of the famous red berets and the Airborne Troop helmet, a more rounded, tighter fitting helmet than the ubiquitous Mark I helmet worn by most Tommies.

▶ The Chindits were units comprised of British and Burmese troops and Gurkhas, trained to operate deep behind the Japanese lines and engage in a hard-and-fast, hit-and-run style of guerilla warfare. Their uniforms are typical of the green worn by many nations against the Japanese.



◀ The Gurkha regiments from Nepal have fought alongside the British for close to two centuries. During WWI they fought all around the Mediterranean as well as in southeast Asia. These Gurkhas are dressed for combat in the tropical jungles against the Japanese.

▶ Here we see a unit of the famous Home Guard - these are based on the popular UK TV series Dad's Army - who were tasked to be the last line of defence against the threat of German invasion. They typically wore surplus uniforms or uniforms made to mimic those of the frontline forces.



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PAINTING YOUR BRITISH TANKS



1 We assembled the Cromwell as per the instructions. Much like the infantry, once everything was ready, we undercoated it with AP Uniform Grey. Once the undercoat was dry, we used a large brush to apply the basecoat - VMC Russian Uniform. We thinned the paint a little to ensure it went on smoothly, so had to apply two coats for a solid coverage. If you have an airbrush and are painting quite a few vehicles, you could certainly spray on your basecoat.

2 Once the second coat was dry, we applied AP Strong Tone wash over the whole tank with a very large brush, paying particular attention to where the shadows would fall.



3 We let the wash dry thoroughly and then drybrushed the entire tank lightly with VMC Russian Uniform.



4 We then followed up with a light drybrush of a 50/50 mix of VMC Russian Uniform/VMC Pale Sand, concentrating on picking up all the edges.



5 Many people wait until the end of painting their tanks to apply the decals, but we chose to do it at this stage in order to ensure that any shading and weathering we applied later would be applied to the decals too. As we'd built our Cromwell with a hedgecutter, we moved the unit decals up to the front panel of the tank

Once the decals had dried and were fully secured in place, we applied a coat of VMC Satin Varnish over them, to cut back the glossy appearance.





6 The next step was to apply a bit of 'chipping' - areas where the paint has been scratched or worn off and reveals the original primer coat underneath. For this we simply sponged on VMC German Camo Brown-Black using a folded piece of sponge from a Warlord Games blister pack. Be careful to apply the chipping in areas that would see the most wear and tear.

Of course, if you want your tanks to be factory-fresh, you can skip Steps 6-7.

7 With decals like the Allied Star so prominent on the back deck of the Cromwell, we took a little extra time to paint in some of the thin panel lines using VMC Pale Grey, a fine brush, and a steady hand.



8 Almost there! We then painted everything that wasn't going to remain in the camouflage colours with AP Matt Black. This included the tracks, the rubber edges of the road wheels, some of the tools on the deck and so on.

9 Any metallic areas were highlighted with a 50/50 mix of AP Matt Black/AP Gun Metal. Some of the edges that had been chipped received small dabs of AP Gun Metal. The tool handles were painted with AP Oak Brown and highlighted with a 50/50 mix of AP Oak Brown/VMC Beige Brown. At this point we also gave the silver areas (and some of the chipped areas) a thin wash of VMC Red Leather for that slightly rusting look.



THE COMPLETED CROMWELL CRUISER TANK

And finally...

To give it the 'slogging around Europe, seeing lots of action' look we drybrushed a mixture of browns onto the tracks and undercarriage of the tank, simulating a coating of mud.



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VARIANTS OF BRITISH VEHICLES

► This Churchill MkVII has obviously seen a lot of action recently with mud and road dust caking its undercarriage. In addition to the standard green, this tank is sporting some soft-edged patches of black camouflage paint.



▼ This Churchill AVRE has been modified to take out German fortifications. The main gun has been replaced with a 290mm petard, and the tank has been modelled with a winch on the rear deck to help with recovery. The light coloured road dust suggests this Churchill has been active near the French coast.



► This Matilda II Infantry tank is painted up like those that served with the BEF in Belgium and France in 1940. The three-colour camouflage scheme is two tones of green plus black.



▲ This Morris Quad Tractor is also painted in the BEF scheme, with the windows painted up in a blue-grey to simulate the reflection of glass. This tractor has markings that show it being used by a regiment of the Royal Artillery.

▼ This Universal Carrier has been adapted to carry a 3" mortar. The colour scheme is a very simple one, much like our Cromwell tank, and probably matches the vast majority of British vehicles in the later years of the war.

