

Hints and Tips -

Colour Guide - Free French in North Africa

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French Forces in North Africa



Artizan figures painted by Mick Farnworth

Item	Colour	Vallejo Model Colour
Officers Kepi	Black	Black 70.950
Officers Kepi Top	Red with Gold Trim (refer to a book as each rank is different)	
Officers Jacket	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.983
Officers Jacket	Khaki Green	Russian Uniform 70.924
Foreign Legion Kepi	White	
Kepi Brim	Black	Black 70.950
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
Khaki Drill Shorts	Sand	Iraqi Sand 70.819, Dark Sand 70.847
Socks	Khaki	US Field Drab 70.973, English Uniform 70.921, Flat Earth 70.
Anklets / Gaiters	Beige	German Camo Beige 70.821
Boots - Soldiers	Black	Black 70.950

Notes

At the start of the war, the French Army wore a khaki green uniform and the distinctive Adrian helmet. After the fall of France, British equipment and uniforms were substituted to overcome the lack of French uniforms.

The Free French forces in the mid war period was equipped with many British items of clothing. French "Adrian" helmets were worn if available. The French Foreign Legion wore the distinctive white kepi hat with a black brim.

From circa 1943 onwards, American uniforms began to dominate and by 1944, the Free French looked virtually identical to American infantry.

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.