

# COLORS OF WAR

SELECTION OF COLORFUL USAAF COMBAT VETERANS OF WORLD WAR TWO  
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Pilots and crew chiefs of the 21st Fighter Squadron, 51st Fighter Group, pose with a P-40K. The aircraft is finished in an RAF style camouflage scheme with lots of overpainting while the national insignia features the briefly used red outline.



Early model P-40s at the Curtiss factory. A completed P-40 painted Olive Drab/Neutral Gray in the background has its Allison engine run up while the airframe in the foreground awaits its camouflage colors. This view shows the odd blue metallic primer that Curtiss used on these aircraft.

Aircraft operated by the 51st Fighter Group in the CBI carried a wide variety of markings and color schemes. This Curtiss P-40N Warhawk was photographed with its crew chief at Kunming, China, during 1944. The 51st FG arrived in India during March 1942 and was assigned to the 10th Air Force and defended aircraft flying the Hump. In October 1943, the unit moved to China and saw considerable action against the Japanese while guarding the airfields in the Kunming area. *Little Joe II* was painted in the standard Olive Drab/Neutral Gray camouflage with considerable overpainting while the nose art comprised an interesting rendition of a shark or tiger mouth.