

Painting Planes



Night Bombers—First World War

A special finish called Night Invisible Varnish Orfordness (N.I.V.O) was applied to night time bombers during the First World War. This was a dark, grey green colour finish that was used on night bombers in 1918. It was thought to be the perfect colour to blend in against the sea on a moonlit night.



Pink Spitfires—Second World War

Spitfires on reconnaissance missions were often painted a grey pink colour. This was the perfect camouflage for flying in dawn and dusk as it made them very difficult for the enemy to spot.



Camouflage Colours: - Second World War

During the Munich Crisis in 1939 the R.A.F chose the **disruptive colour scheme** of dark earth and dark green on the top of the wings (known as sand and spinach) , with a plain sky blue colour painted beneath.

Islander (Museum Object)

The Islander plane in the museum collection had previously been painted a sandstone colour for a mission in the desert surroundings of the Gulf War in the 1990s. It had the nickname of Pinky for this reason! Its current low visibility grey colour scheme was more suitable for its time serving in the Falklands War in the 1980s.

