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Also in this view the upper section has already been coated with the dark oil colour – a mix of Mars Brown and Mars Black, and this is followed by working up through lighter and lighter shades of brown – Mars Brown on its own, Light Red and finally Mars Yellow and Buff Titanium. The method is important though and a little long-winded. I use a good quality brush – say a Winsor & Newton Series 7 that's seen better days. Spreading bristles are an advantage, as these will be instrumental in creating the grain effect.

Right from the start, the paint is added in careful, steady strokes, using just the tips of the brush to touch the kit part. Wipe the brush after each pass, then as much paint is removed from the section as has been put down. What should gradually appear is a series of fine lines within the paint, of different colours that have been added, and as the lighter colours are worked in, short strokes begin to add the bar-like pattern. At this point it's really, really important to wipe the brush after each stroke because it's very easy to contaminate the paint and ruin the effect if you don't remove darker paint from the bristles. I should stress that washing the brush out should not be done until after the painting is finished, as the white spirit left on the bristles, even with the most conscientious of drying, will thin the paint and just make a right old mess.

Patience and time are what is needed, and final very gentle additions of the Buff Titanium within each bar of lighter colour top off the effect, and really make the wood-grain appear lifelike.

Photographs 14 and 15 show the dried and

finished rifle in position on the back of the bust, and like the face, it's when the surrounding areas are added that the item really comes into its own.

Just a mention of the shovel that is also on view in both these views; I wanted it to look used and a bit beaten, with rust and a few bits of soil in evidence. It is supplied with a rough surface on the casting that enhances this appearance, and the only change I made was to sand down the edge so I could make that look like it had been sharpened – these shovels were sometimes used as weapons in their own right when close combat and lack of anything else was to hand.

I painted the shovel with an undercoat of Chaos Black (GW) acrylic and then began adding the printer's inks. I began with a mix of Mars Black/ Bronze mix that was actually little different to the black undercoat, but established a coating on the shovel that I could blend other lighter colours into. I added some of the Bronze colour, stippling this in to the darker colour to blend it in smoothly, and then a larger amount of Antique Silver, and finally some small amounts of Bright Silver.

The shovel looked very metallic, but I wasn't finished yet. I now added small amounts of Light Red and Mars Brown to begin building up small areas and spots of rust, and also some Payne's Grey to darken some areas of the rust.

This was then dried in the heated cupboard for 24-hours before adding some thin washes of Payne's Grey, Mars Black and some more of the Light Red, all these colours backing up what had gone on previously to create a slightly rusted but well used shovel. The final addition of more of the Bright Silver along the 'cutting edge' of the shovel made it look like it's seen a whetstone recently. This is perhaps shown better in **Photo 16**.

Finishing touches

Luckily for me there is a very good museum for the Lancashire King's Own Regiment in the centre of Lancaster – my hometown – and it has a lot of uniforms equipment and other pertinent displays for the would-be researcher. The staff are also very helpful, and in the past have given me some good pointers for what I needed to find out about. In this case I wanted to look at a WW1 uniform sleeve for the rank badges and also that little crown badge that I wanted to add in place of the triangle that I'd already removed.

Photograph 17 shows the image I took of the badges, and it made me realize that there is more detail to the rank chevron than I'd initially supposed. There are tiny little 'L' shaped chevrons within each rank line and the size of the bust would allow me to depict these, granted with a little difficulty, a steady hand and perhaps an amount of cursing when no-one else was around to hear!

A little of those areas can be seen at the bottom corner of **Photo 18**, where all of the pieces of the kit have come together to make up the finished bust. This view though is more important because it really made me notice the bulge at the right-hand side of the mouth, and this to me looked like he should be smoking a cigarette. After this photo was taken I opted to drill a fine hole into the line between the lips on that side of the mouth, where a short length of toilet paper was used to depict the roll-up smoke.

