

Dark Angels History and Army Variations

HISTORY & ARMY CHOICES

Historical schemes and this army's heraldry

[? Collection overview](#)

Sergeant markings in this army

OUR ARMY SCHEME · 17 OCTOBER 2026

Our sergeant scheme, chosen 17 October 2026: sergeants, including veteran sergeants, follow their normal unit and formation recipe everywhere. Their rank identifier is a **red skull waterslide decal on a tilt shield**.



Greenwing: armour-green shield; optional vertical bone centre stripe.



Deathwing: armour-bone shield; optional vertical green centre stripe—the inverse arrangement.

NORMAL UNIT TREATMENT

Helmets, rims, aquilas, and other details: normal unit treatment. Sergeant-specific bone-helmet recolouring and extra gold rank details are superseded; normal Deathwing bone helmets remain normal formation livery.

This is a personal army scheme. Higher-officer markings and Ravenwing-specific shield designs are still undecided, as is the complete Deathwing armour recipe. Painting steps and selected paints are in the [Intercessor guide](#).

Planning a unit: choose its chapter, company and era, then combine its documented markings with the personal heraldry chosen for the army.

How to read these differences

Published history, an author's interpretation, and our approved army conventions serve different purposes. An authentic older scheme is not automatically the current chapter standard. This page explains those differences; the companion organization

and markings pages provide the working reference.

Historical schemes: genuine, but tied to their edition

Ely's publication survey traces black armour in *Rogue Trader* (1987), a seventh-company "Raven Wing" in *White Dwarf* 96, the 1989 *Deathwing* expansion's white Terminators, and green studio miniatures by *WD123* (1990).

WD129–130 also depicts Deathwing power armour and company-coloured chest eagles and shoulder trim. Those are historical precedents, rather than instructions to add coloured rims to our models. By *WD166* (1993), the familiar green armour, bone chest eagles, red weapons, and plain shoulder trim appear. *Codex: Angels of Death* (1996) consolidates the Fallen, Unforgiven, and robed aesthetic. These publication references come from [Ely's 2021 survey](#).

Interpretation: why black became green

The change is documented; the story that studio painters misunderstood green reflections in Jim Burns's artwork is **unconfirmed hearsay**, acknowledged as such by Ely. His earlier article apparently confuses Angels of Absolution with the black-armoured Angels of Vengeance. [Ely's black-to-green article](#).

Successors: check their own heraldry

Shared ancestry does not require identical colours or specialist-company names. Angels of Absolution wear bone throughout, including vehicles; Angels of Vengeance retain black and have Dreadwing and Raptorwing formations; Angels of Redemption call their first two companies Redwings. These examples prevent the parent chapter's

green/bone/black arrangement being imposed on every successor. [Absolution](#), [Vengeance](#), [Redemption](#)

Ely also offers homebrew suggestions alongside the named successors. His Angels of Defiance quadrant description repeats a left-side label, making that passage unreliable for exact placement. [Successor article](#).

Worked example: Ely's personal fourth company

Personal collection choices and the era-specific commander roster

His "The Feared" demonstrates six battleline, two close-support, and two fire-support squads using a particular selection of modern units. It is an example allocation, not a compulsory shopping list. His commander Larathiel Adellum, named Lieutenants, bare-headed sergeants, flowers identifying sergeant bases, helmet-sword combat-squad leaders, and right-greave crusade badges belong to his collection. [Personal fourth company](#)

The uploaded chapter chart instead names Korahael, a published fourth-company commander associated with the 13th Black Crusade. That makes its named roster era-specific, not a timeless list of incumbents. [Korahael and publication references](#)

CONTINUE EXPLORING

[Collection overview](#) · [Our army scheme](#)

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