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Notified in A.C.Is. 14th August 1940

## A MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Consisting of –

Battalion headquarters; headquarter company of signal, A.A. and administrative platoons; and four machine gun companies, each of 12 guns (three platoons). The battalion is on a truck basis and all personnel are carried in M.T.

## WAR ESTABLISHMENT

79/W.E./1489

Detail	Personnel					Vehicles	
	Officers	Warrant Officers	Staff-serjeants and serjeants	Rank and file	Total	Motor cars, 4-seater	Motor cycles
<b>SUMMARY</b>							
Battalion headquarters	4	1	3	27	35	1	5
Headquarter company	4	3	5	101	113	..	21
Headquarter company (attached)	1	..	3	6	10	..	..
4 machine gun companies	12	12	28	524	576	..	21
Total, battalion	20	(a) 16	36	(b) 652	724	1	50
Total, battalion (including attached)	21	16	39	658	734	1	50
<i>Not included in above totals</i>							
<i>Details left at base -</i>							
Orderly room serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
First reinforcements	(c) 4	3	4	(v) 65	76	..	..

This establishment supersedes W.E. No. II/1931/12 C/2 which will, however, be retained in Vol. II until no longer required for the mobilization of units still retaining anti-tank guns.

## COMPOSITION IN DETAIL

(i) *Personnel, &c.*

Detail	Personnel					Vehicles	
	Officers	Warrant Officers	Staff-serjeants and serjeants	Rank and file	Total	Motor cars, 4-seater	Motor cycles
<b>BATTALION HEADQUARTERS</b>							
Lieutenant-Colonel	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
Major (2nd in command)	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Adjutant	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Subaltern for intelligence	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Regimental serjeant-major	..	1	..	..	1	..	..

Serjeant (orderly room clerk)	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Provost serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Privates	..	..	..	10	10	..	3
<i>Medical section -</i>							
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	16	16	..	..
Total, battalion headquarters	4	1	3	27	35	1	5
HEADQUARTER COMPANY							
<i>Headquarters -</i>							
Major or captain	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Company serjeant-major	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Company quarter-master-serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Total, headquarters	1	1	1	3	6	..	..
<i>No. 1 (signal) platoon -</i>							
Subaltern	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Privates	..	..	..	25	25	..	16
Total, platoon	1	..	1	26	28	..	18
<i>No. 2 platoon (4 A.A. L.M.Gs.)</i>							
Warrant Officer, Class III	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
Corporals	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	13	13	..	1
Total, platoon	..	1	..	15	16	..	2
<i>No. 3 (administrative) platoon</i>							
Quarter-master	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Subaltern for transport	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Transport serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Serjeant for technical stores	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporals	..	..	..	(x) 4	4	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	48	48	..	..
<i>Pioneer section -</i>							
Pioneer serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	4	4	..	..
Total, platoon	2	1	3	57	63	..	1
Total, headquarter company	4	3	5	101	113	..	21
<i>Attached -</i>							
<i>R.A.M.C. -</i>							
Medical officer	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
<i>R.A.O.C. -</i>							
Armourers	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Shoemaker	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Fitters (motor vehicle)	..	..	1	(v) 4	5	..	..
Electrician	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
<i>Light aid detachment</i>	1	1	..	11	13	..	1
<i>R.A.S.C. -</i>							

<i>Drivers, I.C., 2nd line transport (d)</i>	..	..	..	4	4	..	..
R.A.Ch.D. -							
<i>Chaplain and batman</i>	1	..	..	1	2	..	1
Total, headquarter company (including attached)	5	3	8	107	123	..	21
4 MACHINE GUN COMPANIES (each of 12 guns) (each)							
<i>Headquarters -</i>							
Major or captain	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Captain	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Company serjeant-major	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Company quarter-master-serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Transport corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Cook corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	20	20	..	2
Total, headquarters	2	1	1	22	26	..	3
<i>1 platoon (4 guns) -</i>							
<i>Headquarters -</i>							
Subaltern	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	6	6	..	1
<i>2 sections (each of 2 guns) -</i>							
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporals	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	28	28	..	..
Total, platoon	1	..	2	37	40	..	1
<i>2 platoons (each of 4 guns) (each) -</i>							
Warrant officer, Class III	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	5	5	..	1
<i>2 sections (each 2 guns) -</i>							
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporals	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	28	28	..	..
Total, each platoon	..	1	2	36	39	..	1
Total, each machine gun company	3	3	7	(e) 131	144	..	6

(ii) *Transport*

Detail	Battal ies	Headquarter company	4 M.G. companies (each)	Total, battal	Total, battal

		Company headquarters	No. 1 platoon	No. 2 platoon	No. 3 platoon	Total, company	Company headquarters	3 platoons (each)	Total, each company		
Motor cycles	5	..	18	2	1	21	3	1	6	50	50
Car, 4-seater, 4-wheeled	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Trucks, 8-cwt., 4-wheeled, 5-seater for - Officers and personnel	1	1	1	..	2	4	1	..	1	9	9
Trucks, 15-cwt., 4-wheeled, G.S., for - Medical officer, medical section	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	}93
Battalion office	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
A.A.L.M.Gs., detachments and ammunition	..	..	..	(f) 4	..	4	..	..	..	4	
M.Gs., detachments and ammunition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	12	48	
Signal personnel and stores	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	
Personnel, equipment, and company and platoon reserves of ammunition	..	..	..	..	(t) 3	3	(t) 2	2	8	35	
Trucks, 15-cwt., 4-wheeled, water tank	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	2
Lorries, 30-cwt., 4-wheeled, G.S., for - Officers' mess	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	}16
M.T. stores and fitters	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	
Cooks and cooking sets	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	5	
Baggage, decontamination stores and anti-gas capes (q)	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	5	
Reserve clothing (r)	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	
Reserve S.A.A.	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	
Distribution of petrol	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	
<i>Attached -</i> <i>Light aid detachment, R.A.O.C. -</i> <i>Motor cycle</i>	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
<i>Car, 2-seater, 4-wheeled</i>	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
<i>Lorries, 30-cwt., 6- wheeled -</i> <i>Store</i>	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	2
<i>Breakdown</i>	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1
<i>2nd line - R.A.S.C.</i>											
<i>Lorries, 3-ton, 4-wheeled, for supplies (g)</i>	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	2

(iii) *Distribution of rank and file by trades and duties*

Detail	Bas ##	Headquarter company	4 M.G. companies (each)	To tal
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		Company headquarters	No. 1 platoon	No. 2 platoon	No. 3 platoon	Total, company	Company headquarters	One platoon	Two platoons (each)	Total, each company	
<i>Tradesmen -</i>											
Clerk	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Equipment repairer	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Bricklayer	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Carpenters	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	3
Mason	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Motor mechanics	} (u)	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4
Driver mechanics		..	..	..	(h)	3	..	1	1	3	15
Technical storemen	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	6
Total, tradesmen	..	..	..	..	12	12	2	1	1	5	32
<i>Non-tradesmen -</i>											
Batmen	5	1	1	..	2	4	2	1	..	3	21
Cooks	..	..	..	..	(x)	3	(w)	..	..	4	(y)
					3		4				18
Clerks	2	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	8
Drivers, I.C.	..	..	..	..	(j)	25	5	5	5	20	105
					25						
Butcher	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Postman (k)	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Sanitary duties	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	4
Water duties	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2
Officers' mess cook and servant	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2
Serjeants' mess	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2
Storemen	..	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	6
Signallers	..	..	20	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	20
Orderlies	..	..	6	1	..	7	2	3	3	11	51
Stretcher bearers	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Regimental police	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Medical officers' orderly (k)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
A.A.L.M.G. detachments	..	..	..	14	..	14	..	..	..	..	14
M.G. detachments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23	23	69	276
Rangetakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	6	24
Scouts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	6	24
Ammunition numbers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	4	16
Transport corporals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	4
Total, non-tradesmen	27	3	27	15	44	89	20	36	35	125	620
Total, rank and file	27	3	27	15	56	101	22	37	36	131	652

(iv) Organization

NOTE. – Loading and allotment of vehicles may be varied according to tactical or administrative requirements.

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS	
Motor cycle 1	Subaltern for intelligence
Motor cycles 2-5	Provost serjeant 3 regimental police
Car, 4-seater	C.O. Adjutant Clerk <i>Driver, I.C.</i>
8-cwt. truck...	2nd in command Clerk 2 batmen <i>Driver, I.C.</i>
15-cwt. truck 1 (office)	R.S.M. Clerk Batman <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Office gear
15-cwt. truck 2	Medical officer Medical orderly 3 stretcher bearers 2 batmen <i>Driver-mechanic</i> Medical equipment
15-cwt. truck 3	Serjeant 6 stretcher bearers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Medical equipment
15-cwt. truck 4	7 stretcher bearers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Medical equipment
<i>Total personnel, including attached –</i> <i>Officers           ...       5</i> <i>Other ranks       ...       37</i>	
<i>This includes 5 drivers, I.C., and 1 driver-mechanic of No. 3 platoon, headquarter company</i>	
HEADQUARTER COMPANY	
Company Headquarters	
8-cwt. truck...	Major or captain Company serjeant-major Clerk Batman <i>Driver, I.C.</i>
<i>C.Q.M.S. and storeman are carried in No. 3 platoon</i>	
No. 1 signal platoon	
Motor cycle 1	Serjeant
Motor cycle 2	Corporal
Motor cycles 3-8	6 orderlies
Motor cycles 9-18	10 signallers
8-cwt. truck	Subaltern <i>Driver-mechanic</i> Batman
15-cwt. truck 1	5 signallers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Signal gear
15-cwt. truck 2	4 signallers <i>Driver, I.C.</i>

	Signal gear A.T. rifle
<i>Total personnel, including attached –</i>	
<i>Officers</i> ...	1
<i>Other ranks</i> ...	31
<i>This includes 3 drivers, I.C., and 1 driver-mechanic of No. 3 platoon, headquarter company</i>	
No. 2 platoon	
Motor cycle 1	W.O., Class III
Motor cycle 2	Orderly
15-cwt. truck 1	Corporal 3 gun numbers <i>Driver-mechanic</i> L.M.G. A.T. rifle
15-cwt. truck 2	3 gun numbers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> L.M.G. A.T. rifle
15-cwt. truck 3	Corporal 3 gun numbers <i>Driver-mechanic</i> L.M.G. A.T. rifle
15-cwt. truck 4	3 gun numbers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> L.M.G. A.T. rifle
<i>Total personnel, including attached –</i>	
<i>Other ranks</i> ...	20
<i>This includes 3 drivers, I.C., and 1 driver-mechanic of No. 3 platoon, headquarter company</i>	
No. 3 (Administrative and transport) platoon	
<i>A echelon</i>	
Motor cycle	Transport serjeant
8-cwt. truck 1	Transport subaltern Serjeant for technical stores Clerk <i>Fitter, M.V. (R.A.O.C.)</i> Driver, I.C.
15-cwt. truck 1	4 sanitary men Driver, I.C. Equipment
15-cwt. trucks 2 and 3 (water tank) (each)	Water duty man Driver, I.C.
30-cwt. lorry 1	Technical storemen Driver, I.C. Distribution of petrol
30-cwt. lorry 2	<i>Serjeant, fitter (R.A.O.C.)</i> <i>3 fitters, M.V. (R.A.O.C.)</i> <i>Electrician (R.A.O.C.)</i> Technical storeman Stores
30-cwt. lorries 3 and 4 (each)	<i>Armourer staff-serjeant (R.A.O.C.)</i> Driver, I.C. S.A.A. reserve



30-cwt. lorry 5	Pioneer serjeant Pioneer corporal 4 pioneers Driver, I.C. Decontamination stores and anti-gas capes
<i>B echelon</i>	
8-cwt. truck 2	Quarter-master Clerk Batman Driver, I.C.
15-cwt. truck 4	R.Q.M.S. Equipment repairer Postman Driver, I.C. Equipment L.M.G.
15-cwt. truck 5	<i>C.Q.M.S.</i> Storeman Serjeants' mess cook Serjeants' mess servant Driver, I.C. Equipment A.T. rifle
30-cwt. truck 6	Serjeant cook 2 cooks Butcher Driver, I.C. Cooking set Water in tins
30-cwt. truck 7	Officers' mess cook Officers' mess servant Driver, I.C. Officers' mess gear
30-cwt. truck 8	Storeman <i>Shoemaker (R.A.O.C.)</i> Driver, I.C. Reserve clothing
<i>Total, personnel including attached, but excluding drivers, I.C., and driver-mechanics attached to battalion headquarters and to Nos. 1 and 2 platoons, headquarter company</i>	
<i>Officers                    ...            2</i>	
<i>Other ranks                ...            56</i>	
EACH MACHINE GUN COMPANY	
Company Headquarters	
Motor cycle 1	M.T. corporal
Motor cycles 2 and 3	2 orderlies
8-cwt. truck	Company commander Batman Driver, I.C.
15-cwt. truck 1	2nd in command Motor-mechanic Batman 2 ammunition numbers Driver, I.C. L.M.G.
15-cwt. truck 2	C.S.M. 2 ammunition numbers

	Clerk Driver, I.C. L.M.G.
30-cwt. lorry 1	C.Q.M.S. 4 cooks Driver, I.C. Cooking set Water in tins Officers' mess box Rations
30-cwt. lorry 2	Technical storeman Storeman Driver, I.C. Baggage Decontamination equipment Anti-gas capes Stores
<i>Total, personnel –</i>	
<i>Officers</i>	... 2
<i>Other ranks</i>	... 24
Each Platoon	
Motor cycle	Orderly
15-cwt. truck 1	Subaltern or W.O. class III 2 range-takers 2 orderlies Driver, I.C.
15-cwt. truck 2	Serjeant 2 scouts Driver, I.C. Batman (if platoon is commanded by a subaltern) A.T. rifle
15-cwt. trucks 1-4 (each)	Corporal or serjeant 5 gun numbers Driver, I.C. Machine gun Tools
<i>Total, personnel each platoon</i>	
<i>Officers</i>	... 1
<i>Other ranks</i>	... 39

(v) *Table of weapons and ammunition*

Detail	Number	Ammunition – rounds		
		On man or with gun	In platoon, company and battalion reserve (l)	Total
Pistols (including officers' pistols), .38-inch	(m) 175	12	1,050	3,150
Rifles, including those for attached men, .303-inch	559	40	(s) 34,000	56,360
Anti-tank rifles, .55-inch	(n) 18	200	720	4,320

Light machine guns, .303-inch	(t) 13	1,000	6,000	19,000
Machine guns (Vickers), .303-inch	48	3,500	216,000	384,000
Pistols, signal	(o) 24	12	..	288
Hand grenades	..	..	(p) 180	180

- (a) Nine platoons in the battalion are commanded by warrant officers, Class III, who are equipped as officers.
- (b) Of the 48 corporals in a battalion (excluding cooks), 10 may be lance-serjeants, and of the privates, 41 may be lance-corporals.  
Scottish battalions will be allowed 1 serjeant piper and 5 pipers in addition. At least 1 officer and 12 men (including all pioneers) will be trained in anti-gas duties and decontamination work.
- (c) To be found from R.A.R.O. or other sources.
- (d) Provided by corps troops supply column, R.A.S.C.
- (e) 1 man in each company will be trained to repair boots, as a part-time employment, under the supervision of the shoemaker, R.A.O.C. 1 man in each company will be trained in sanitary duties as a part-time employment.
- (f) Fitter with central "Motley" A.A. mountings.
- (g) 1 lorry in each echelon of corps troops supply column, R.A.S.C.
- (h) 1 each for signal platoon, A.A. platoon and medical section.
- (j) Includes all drivers for battalion headquarters and headquarter company.
- (k) Lance-corporal.
- (l) Distributed as required between battalion reserve vehicles, company and platoon trucks. Not more than 80 boxes of S.A.A. will be carried in the 2 lorries allotted for battalion reserve, the remainder being distributed on the 90 M.G., signal and personnel trucks at 2 or 3 boxes to each truck.
- (m) Officers, R.S.M., warrant office platoon commanders, motor cyclists and Nos. 1 and 2 of machine gun detachments are armed with pistols, and the remainder with rifles.
- (n) Allotted as follows:-
- |                        |    |    |    |
|------------------------|----|----|----|
| Signal platoon         | .. | .. | 1  |
| A.A. platoon           | .. | .. | 4  |
| Administrative platoon | .. | .. | 1  |
| Each M.G. platoon      | .. | .. | 1  |
| Total                  | .. | .. | 18 |
- (o) Pistols are allotted as required.
- (p) 1 box of 12 for each M.G. platoon carried in company or platoon trucks, and 3 boxes in regimental reserve.
- (q) Carry 1 spare anti-gas cape for each man.
- (r) Carries a 25 per cent reserve of clothing, any which will not fit in this lorry being distributed on other baggage vehicles.
- (s) 60 rounds for each rifle.
- (t) In addition to the A.A. platoon, 1 truck in the administrative platoon and 2 trucks in each M.G. company headquarters are fitted with forward "Motley" A.A. mountings and provided with A.A.L.M.Gs. No extra personnel is under consideration.
- (u) Provisional allotment. The whole question of artificer personnel is still under consideration.
- (v) Includes 3 corporals and 3 lance-corporals.
- (w) Includes a corporal.
- (x) Includes a lance-serjeant cook.
- (y) May be Group B trade-men if qualified.

(z) One of the fitters (motor vehicle) drives the lorry, 30-cwt., for M.T. stores.

(B38/67) 15000 9/40 W.O.P. 5951 (T.S. 5346)