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**A MACHINE GUN BATTALION, MIDDLE EAST**

## WAR ESTABLISHMENT

(i) *Personnel*

79/W.E./5335 (S.D. 3)

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
Lieutenant-colonel	1	..	..	..	..	1
Major (2nd-in-command)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Majors or captain	..	1	..	..	1	4
Captains	..	1	..	..	1	4
Adjutant (captain)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Liaison officer (captain)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Lieutenants	..	..	..	1	1	4
Subalterns	3	..	1	..	2	11
Quartermaster	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total, officers	8	2	1	1	5	28
Regimental serjeant-major	1	..	..	..	..	1
Regimental quartermaster-serjeant	1	..	..	..	..	1
Company serjeant-major	..	1	..	..	1	4
Warrant officer, class II (anti-tank duties)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total, warrant officers	3	1	..	..	1	7
Company quartermaster-serjeant	1	1	..	..	1	5
Orderly room clerk (serjeant)	1	..	..	..	..	1
Serjeants –						
Intelligence	1	..	..	..	..	1
Provost	1	..	..	..	..	1
Signal	1	..	..	..	..	1
Medical	1	..	..	..	..	1
Transport	1	..	..	..	..	1
Technical	1	..	..	..	..	1
Pioneer	1	..	..	..	..	1
Mortar	..	1	..	..	1	4
Serjeants	..	..	3	5	11	44
Total, staff-serjeants and serjeants	9	2	3	5	13	61
Corporals (includes 10 lance-serjeants)	6	2	3	4	12	54
Privates (includes 40 lance-corporals)	67	33	34	21	122	555
Total, rank and file	73	35	37	25	134	609
Total, other ranks	85	38	40	30	148	677
Total, all ranks	93	40	41	31	153	705
<i>Attached –</i>						

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
R.A.M.C. – Medical officer	1	::	::	::	::	1
R.A.O.C. – Armourers (staff-serjeants or serjeants) (a)	2	::	::	::	::	2
Fitter, M.V. (serjeant)	1	::	::	::	::	1
Fitters, M.V. (includes 1 lance-corporal)	::	1	::	::	1	4
Electrician (maintenance)	1	::	::	::	::	1
Shoemaker (corporal)	1	::	::	::	::	1
A.C.C. – Corporals	1	1	::	::	1	5
Officers' mess, privates	1	::	::	::	::	1
Other ranks' mess, privates	3	::	1	1	3	15
Total, attached	11	2	1	1	5	31
Total, a machine gun battalion, Middle East (including attached)	104	42	42	32	158	736

(ii) Distribution of rank and file by trades and duties

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
<i>Tradesmen –</i>						
Bricklayer (b)	1	::	::	::	::	1
Carpenters and joiners (b)	3	::	::	::	::	3
Clerks	4	::	::	::	::	4
Equipment repairer	1	::	::	::	::	1
Driver-mechanics	4	1	1	2	5	24
Motor mechanics	1	1	::	::	1	5
Mason (b)	1	::	::	::	::	1
Technical storemen	2	1	::	::	1	6
Fitters, gun	::	1	::	1	2	8
Total, tradesmen	17	4	1	3	9	53
<i>Non-tradesmen –</i>						
Batmen	7	2	1	...	4	23
Batmen-drivers	3	...	...	1	1	7
Butchery duties	1	...	...	...	...	1
Drivers, I.C.	19	11	6	4	27	127
Driver-orderlies	4	...	...	...	...	4
A.A.L.M.G. numbers	...	2	...	1	3	12
Machine gun numbers	...	::	22	...	44	176
Mortar detachments	...	5	...	...	5	20

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
Intelligence duties (corporals)	::	1	::	::	1	4
Medical officer's orderly	1	::	::	::	::	1
Orderlies	1	2	3	::	8	33
Postman	1	::	::	::	::	1
Ration corporal	1	::	::	::	::	1
Rangetakers	::	1	2	::	5	20
Regimental police	3	::	::	::	::	3
Signallers	8	3	::	::	3	20
Stretcher bearers	4	::	::	::	::	4
Sanitary duties	1	1	::	::	1	5
Storemen	1	(c)2	::	::	2	9
Anti-tank riflemen	::	::	2	::	4	16
Officers' mess servant	1	::	::	::	::	1
M.T. duties (corporals)	::	1	::	::	1	4
Anti-tank gun numbers	::	::	::	16	16	64
Total, non-tradesmen	56	31	36	22	125	556
Total, rank and file	73	35	37	25	134	609

(iii) Transport

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
Motor-cycles	3	::	::	::	::	3
Cars, 5-cwt., 4 x 4	14	5	1	2	9	50
Cars, 4-seater	2	::	::	::	::	2
Trucks, 15-cwt.: G.S. (d)	4	4	5	::	14	60
Fitted for wireless	2	1	::	::	1	6
Water	1	1	'''	'''	1	5
Lorries, 3-ton, G.S.	6	2	1	1	5	26
Lorries, 3-ton, portee	1	::	::	4	4	17

(iv) Table of wireless sets

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
Wireless sets, No. 11, H.P.	2	1	∴	∴	1	6
Wireless sets, No. 18	2	1	1	1	4	18

(v) Table of weapons

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Four machine gun companies (each)				Total, machine gun battalion, Middle East
		Company headquarters	Two machine gun platoons (each)	Anti-tank platoon	Total, machine gun company	
Pistols, .38-inch	13	2	9	1	21	97
Rifles, .303-inch	87	38	31	29	129	603
Machine carbines	4	2	2	2	8	36
L.M.Gs., .303-inch	5	2	∴	3	5	25
Anti-tank rifles, .55-inch	6	∴	1	∴	2	14
Machine guns (Vickers)	∴	∴	4	∴	8	32
Mortars, 3-inch	∴	1	∴	∴	1	4
2-pr. Anti-tank guns	∴	∴	∴	4	4	16
Pistols, signal (to be allotted as required)	24	∴	∴	∴	∴	24
Cup dischargers	∴	∴	4	4	12	48

- (a) Where no R.A.O.C. Armourers are available an assistant armourer (Infantry) may be employed and paid as a tradesman.
- (b) Total of pioneers includes one corporal.
- (c) Will be trained in A.A. duties.
- (d) Up to 50 of these vehicles may be 15-cwt., 4 x 4 Armoured personnel trucks as and when available.

NOTES

- 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 and decontamination work.
- Three men per company will be trained in stretcher bearer duties.
- One 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. and if qualified may be paid as a shoemaker (group C, class III) only on the days on which he is actually employed at that trade.

NOTE ON FIRST REINFORCEMENTS

*Details left at base*

*Orderly room serjeant* 1

*First reinforcements –*

Captain 1

Subalterns 5

Company quartermaster-serjeant 1

Serjeants 2

Corporals 3

Lance-corporals 7

Privates 57

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Pistols, .38-inch 6

Rifles, .303-inch 70

(H. 1190) 3000 10/42 W.O.P. 11779