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Notified in A.C.Is. for the week ending 31st May, 1939

AN INFANTRY (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

Detail	Personnel					Vehicles	
	Officers	Warrant officers	Staff-serjeants and serjeants	Rank and file	Total	Motor cars, 4-seater	Motor cycles
SUMMARY							
Battalion headquarters	4	1	3	27	35	1	5
Headquarter company	4	3	6	101	114	..	11
Headquarter company (attached)	1	..	3	6	10	..	..
4 machine gun companies	12	12	28	472	524	..	24
Total, battalion	20	(a)16	37	(b)600	673	1	40
Total, battalion (including attached)	21	16	40	606	683	1	40
<i>Not included in above totals</i>							
<i>Details left at base –</i>							
<i>Orderly room serjeant</i>	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
<i>First reinforcements</i>	(c)4	3	4	60	71	..	..

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
BATTALION HEADQUARTERS							
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 clerk	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Provost serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Privates	..	..	..	10	10	..	3
<i>Medical section –</i>							
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..

Detail	Personnel					Vehicles	
	Officers	Warrant officers	Staff-serjeants and serjeants	Rank and file	Total	Motor cars, 4-seater	Motor cycles
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	..	..	..	26	26	..	6
Total, platoon	1	..	1	27	29	..	8
<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	..	..
Serjeant for technical stores	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Serjeant cook	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporals	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	48	48	..	..
<i>Pioneer section –</i>							
Pioneer serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporal	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	4	4	..	..
Total, platoon	2	1	4	56	63	..	1
Total, headquarter company	4	3	6	101	114	..	11
<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	4	5	..	..
Electrician	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
<i>Light aid detachment</i>	1	1	..	11	13	..	1
<i>R.A.S.C. –</i>							

Detail	Personnel					Vehicles	
	Officers	Warrant officers	Staff-serjeants and serjeants	Rank and file	Total	Motor cars, 4-seater	Motor cycles
<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	9	107	124	..	11
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
Privates	..	..	..	20	20	..	2
Total, headquarters	2	1	1	21	25	..	3
<i>1 platoon (4 guns) –</i>							
<i>Headquarters –</i>							
Subaltern	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	6	6	..	1
<i>2 section (each 2 guns) –</i>							
Serjeant	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Corporals	..	..	..	3	3	..	..
Privates	..	..	..	24	24	..	..
Total, platoon	1	..	2	33	36	..	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	..	..	..	24	24	..	..
Total, each platoon	..	1	2	32	35	..	1
Total, each machine gun company	3	3	7	(e)118	131	..	6

(ii) Transport

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Headquarter company					4 M.G. companies (each)			Total, battalion	Total, vehicles by type
		Company headquarters	No. 1 platoon	No. 2 platoon	No. 3 platoon	Total, company	Company headquarters	3 platoons (each)	Total, each company		
<i>1st line</i>											
Motor cycles	5	..	8	2	1	11	3	1	6	40	40
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	
Battalion office	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
A.A. L.M.Gs., detachments and ammunition	..	..	..	(f) 4	..	4	..	..	..	4	
M.Gs., detachments and ammunition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	12	48	94
Signal personnel and stores	..	..	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	3	
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	
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	16
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	Battalion headquarters	Headquarter company					4 M.G. companies (each)				Total, battalion
		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	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Driver mechanics	..	..	..	..	(h)3	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	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	..	..	3	14
Clerks	2	1	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	8
Drivers, I.C.	..	..	..	..	(j)2 6	26	5	5	5	20	106
Butcher	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Postman (k)	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Sanitary duties	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	4
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 officer's orderly (k)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
A.A.L.M.G. detachments	..	..	..	14	..	14	..	..	..	..	14
M.G. detachments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	19	57	228
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	19	32	31	113	568
Total, rank and file	27	3	27	15	56	101	21	33	32	118	600

(iv) Table of weapons and ammunition

Detail	Number	Ammunition – rounds		
		On man or with gun	Reserve	Total
Pistols (including officers' pistols), .38-inch	(m)165	12	990	2,970
Rifles, including those for attached men, .303-inch	518	40	(s)31,000	51,720
Anti-tank rifles, .55-inch	(n)18	200	720	4,320
Light machine guns, .303-inch	(t)13	1,000	6,000	19,000

Detail	Number	Ammunition – rounds		
		On man or with gun	Reserve	Total
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. The allotment of warrant officers, Class III, is provisional pending further examination of the peace organization.
- (b) Of the 48 corporals in a battalion, 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 after mobilization 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 officer 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 are allowed for these weapons.
- (u) Provisional allotment. The whole question of artificer personnel is still under consideration.

By Command of the Army Council

H J Creedy (signed)

THE WAR OFFICE

31st May 1939

(B39/172) 10000 5/39 W.O.P. 3071

Notified in A.C.Is. for the week ending 26th July, 1939

AN INFANTRY (MACHINE GUN) BATTALION – continued

WAR ESTABLISHMENT – continued

(iv) Organization

This organization table forms part of, and should be attached to, W.E. No. III/1932/32 E/1. No alteration has been made to the details of the establishment.

By Command of the Army Council

H J Creedy (signed)

THE WAR OFFICE

26th July 1939

(iv) Organization

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</i>	<i>... 5</i>
<i>Other ranks</i>	<i>... 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
8-cwt. truck	Subaltern <i>Driver-mechanic</i> Batman
15-cwt. truck 1	7 signallers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Signal gear
15-cwt. truck 2	6 signallers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Signal gear A.T. rifle
15-cwt. truck 3	6 signallers <i>Driver, I.C.</i> Signal gear
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Total personnel, including attached –</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Officers ... 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Other ranks ... 32</i></p>	
<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, I.C.</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
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Total personnel, including attached –</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Other ranks ... 20</i></p>	
<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 storeman 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	C.Q.M.S. Storeman Serjeants' mess cook Serjeants' mess servant Driver, I.C. Equipment A.T. rifle
30-cwt. lorry 6	Serjeant cook 2 cooks Butcher Driver, I.C. Cooking set Water in tins
30-cwt. lorry 7	Officers' mess cook Officers' mess servant Driver, I.C. Officers' mess gear

30-cwt. lorry 8	Storeman Shoemaker (R.A.O.C.) 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. 3 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, including attached –</i>	
<i>Officers .. 2</i>	
<i>Other ranks ... 23</i>	
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 4 gun numbers Driver, I.C. Machine gun Tools
<i>Total personnel, including attached –</i>	
<i>Officers</i>	<i>... 1</i>
<i>Other ranks</i>	<i>... 35</i>

(B39/255) 10000 8/39 W.O.P. 3308-2