

## MOTOR CYCLE BATTALION

Consisting of :—

Battalion headquarters; headquarters company of headquarters, signal platoon, 2 scout platoons and administrative and transport platoon; and 3 motor cycle companies, each of 3 motor cycle platoons of 3 sections.

## WAR ESTABLISHMENT

(i) Summary of ranks

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Headquarters company					3 motor cycle companies (each)				Total, motor cycle battalion
		Company headquarters	Signals platoon	2 scout platoons (each)	Administrative and transport platoon	Total, headquarters company	Company headquarters	2 motor cycle platoons (each)	1 motor cycle platoon (w)	Total, each motor cycle company	
Lieutenant colonel	1										1
Major	1						1			1	4
Captain		1				1	1			1	4
Adjutant	1										1
Quartermaster					1	1					1
Subalterns	(b) 2		1	1	1	4		1		2	12
Total officers	5	1	1	1	2	6	2	1		4	23
Regimental sergeant major	1										1
Regimental quartermaster sergeant					1	1					1
Company sergeant majors		1				1	1			1	4
Warrant officers, class III									1	1	3
Total warrant officers	1	1			1	2	1		1	2	9
Company quartermaster sergeants		1				1	1			1	4
Pioneer sergeants					(a) 1	1					1
Transport sergeant					1	1					1
Provost sergeant	1										1
Sergeant cook					1	1					1
Sergeants	(b) 2		1	3	1	8		1	1	3	19
Total sergeants	3	1	1	3	4	12	1	1	1	4	27
Corporals			1	4	2	11	1	3	3	10	(c) 41
Privates	15	3	24	16	67	126	28	27	27	109	(d) 468
Total rank and file	15	3	25	20	69	137	29	30	30	(r) 119	509
Total other ranks	19	5	26	23	74	151	31	31	32	125	545
Total all ranks	24	6	27	24	76	157	33	32	32	129	(c) 568
<i>Attached</i>											
R.A.M.C.											
Medical Officer					1	1					1
R.A.O.C.											
Armourer					1	1					1
Fitters M.V.	(s) 1				1	1					1

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Headquarters company					3 motor cycle companies (each)				Total, motor cycle battalion
		Company headquarters	Signals platoon	2 scout platoons (each)	Administrative and transport platoon	Total, headquarters company	Company headquarters	2 motor cycle platoons (each)	1 motor cycle platoon (w)	Total, each motor cycle company	
Total motor cycle battalion including attached	23	6	27	24	79	160	34	32	32	130	575

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

<i>Tradesmen</i>											
Blacksmith					1	1					1
Bricklayer					1	1					1
Carpenter and joiner					2	2					2
Corporal, driver operator			1			1					1
Driver operator			5			5	3			3	14
Driver mechanic				6	2	14	1			1	(g) 17
Equipment repairers					2	2					2
Mason					1	1					1
Motor mechanic					2	2	1			1	5
Technical storeman					2	2	1			1	5
Non tradesmen											
Total Tradesmen			6	6	13	31	6			6	49
<i>Non-tradesmen</i>											
Batmen			1	1	(h) 10	13	2			2	19
Batmen drivers								1		2	6
Butcher					1	1					1
Clerks	1	1			1	2	1			1	6
Cooks					3	3	3			3	12
Corporals				4	(j) 2	10	1	3	3	10	40
Drivers I.C.	5	1	3	6	13	29	5	2	3	12	70
Medical orderly					1	1					1
Motor cycle orderlies	2	1	5			6	4	2	2	10	38
Officers mess cook					1	1					1
Officers mess servant					1	1					1
Orderlies	3										3
Police	2										2
Postman (lance corporal)					1	1					1
Privates	2			3	2	8	1	22	22	67	211
Sanitary duties					4	4					4
Signallers			10			10	5			5	25
Storemen					2	2	1			1	5
Stretcher bearers					13	13					13
Water duties					(k) 1	1					1
Total non tradesmen	15	3	19	14	56	106	23	30	30	113	460
Total rank and file	15	3	25	20	69	137	29	30	30	119	509

(iii) Transport

Detail	Battalion headquarters	Headquarters company					3 motor cycle companies each			Total, motor cycle battalion
		Company headquarters	Signals platoon	2 scout platoons (each)	Administrative and transport platoon	Total, headquarters company	Company headquarters	3 motor cycle platoons (each)	Total, motor cycle company	
Motor cycles	6	1	5		1	7	4	2	10	43
Motor cycle combinations								11	33	99
Car 4-seater 4 wheeled	1									1
Trucks 8cwt 4 wheeled G.S.	2	1			2	3	1		1	8
Trucks 8cwt 4 wheeled wireless			4			4	4		4	16
Trucks 15cwt 4 wheeled G.S.	(p) 2		2	1	4	8	3	1	6	28
Truck 15cwt 4 wheeled water tank					1	1				1
Scout cars				11		22				22
Lorries 30cwt 6 wheeled					9	9	1		1	12

(iv) Organization

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS		8cwt truck		Captain	
Motor cycle	1	Liaison officer			Company sergeant
Motor cycle	2	Provost sergeant			major
Motor cycles	3 and 4	Regimental police			Company
Motor cycles	5 and 6	Orderlies			quartermaster sergeant
Car 4-seater		Lieutenant colonel			Clerk
		Adjutant		Motor cycle	Driver I.C.
		Driver I.C.		Total personnel, etc—	Orderly
		Orderly		Officer 1	Other ranks 5
8cwt truck	1	Major		Pistols 2	Rifles 4
		Orderly		<i>Administrative and transport platoon</i>	
		Driver I.C.	8cwt truck	1	Quarter master
8cwt truck	2	Technical officer (subaltern)			Regimental
		Driver I.C.			quartermaster sergeant
		Sergeant fitter R.A.O.C.			Clerk
15cwt truck (office)	1	Regimental sergeant major	8cwt truck	2	Driver mechanic
		Sergeant clerk			Transport officer
		Clerk			Batman
		Driver I.C.			Driver I.C.
		Orderly	15cwt truck	1	Armourer R.A.O.C.
15cwt truck	2	Liaison officer or Intelligence sergeant			Medical officer
		Driver I.C.			Batman
		2 riflemen			Medical orderly
		L.M.G.			3 stretcher bearers
		A.T. Rifle	15cwt truck	2	Driver I.C.
					Medical equipment
					Packs and greatcoats.
					Sergeant stretcher bearer
					5 stretcher bearers
					Driver I.C.
					Medical equipment
					Packs and greatcoats

Total personnel etc—  
 Officers 5 Other ranks 19  
 Pistols 12 Rifles 13

HEADQUARTER COMPANY  
 Company Headquarters

15cwt truck	3	Corporal stretcher bearer 5 stretcher bearers Driver I.C. Medical equipment Packs and greatcoats.	Lorry 30cwt	9	Driver I.C. Sanitary dutyman 25 per cent reserve clothing 5 per cent reserve Web equipment
15cwt truck	4	Sanitary dutyman Driver I.C. Petrol reserve for headquarters company.	<i>Total personnel, etc.</i>		
			<i>Officers</i>	2	<i>Other ranks</i> 74
			<i>Pistols</i>	4	<i>Rifles</i> 75
15cwt truck water tank	5	Water duty man Driver I.C.	8cwt truck	1	Signal subaltern Batman
Motor cycle		Transport sergeant			Driver operator
Lorry 30cwt	1	Motor mechanic Technical storeman Storeman Corporal driver I.C. Quarter-master stores and baggage	8cwt truck	2	Sergeant Driver operator Signaller Driver I.C. Wireless set
Lorry 30cwt	2	Motor mechanic Technical storeman M.T. storeman <i>Fitter M. V. R.A.O.C.</i> Driver I.C. M.T. stores and tools.	8cwt truck	3	Driver operator Signaller Wireless set
Lorry 30cwt	3	2 equipment repairers Blacksmith Bricklayer Mason 2 carpenters Driver I.C. Pioneer stores.	8cwt truck	4	Driver operator Signaller Wireless set.
Lorry 30cwt	4(1)	Postman (lance corporal) 2 riflemen 6 batmen Driver I.C. L.M.G. A.T. rifle	15cwt truck (cable laying)	1	Corporal driver operator 3 signallers Driver I.C. Signal stores and wire Hand cable layer Packs and greatcoats.
Lorry 30cwt	5	2 batmen Driver mechanic Officers mess cook Officers mess servant Officers mess equipment and baggage.	15cwt truck	2	Driver operator 3 signallers Driver I.C. Signal stores Packs and greatcoats.
Lorry 30cwt	6	Sergeant cook Butcher 3 cooks Driver I.C. Cooking set.	Motor cycles	1-5	Orderlies
Lorry 30cwt	7	Sanitary dutyman Driver I.C. Ammunition reserve.	<i>Total, personnel, etc.</i>		
Lorry 30cwt	8	Pioneer sergeant Driver I.C. Sanitary dutyman Blankets of headquarters company Anti-gas capes (1 per man)	<i>Officer</i>	1	<i>Other ranks</i> 26
			<i>Pistols</i>	6	<i>Rifles</i> 21
			<i>Each scout platoon</i>		
			<i>Platoon headquarters</i>		
			Scout car	1	Subaltern Driver I.C. L.M.G. 2 pistols
			Scout car	2	Corporal Driver I.C. L.M.G. 2 pistols
			15cwt truck (q)		Corporal Batman Platoon baggage
			<i>3 sections (each)</i>		
			Scout car	1	Sergeant Driver I.C. L.M.G. 2 pistols

Scout car	2	Corporal Driver mechanic L.M.G. 2 pistols
Scout car	3	Private Driver mechanic L.M.G. 2 pistols
<i>Total, personnel, etc.</i>		
<i>Officer</i>	1	<i>Other ranks</i> 23
<i>Pistols</i>	22	<i>Rifles</i> 2
<i>Each motor cycle company</i>		
HEADQUARTERS		
<i>Fighting</i>		
Motor cycles	1-4	Orderlies
8cwt truck	1	Major or captain Company sergeant major Clerk Driver I.C. A.T. rifle
8cwt truck	2	Captain 2 signallers Driver I.C. Wireless set
8cwt trucks	1-3 (each)	Driver operator Signaller Wireless set
<i>Administrative portion</i>		
15cwt truck	1	Motor mechanic Technical storeman Driver I.C. <i>Fitter M. V. R.A.O.C.</i> Petrol reserve for company
15cwt truck	2	Company quarter master sergeant Storeman 2 batmen Driver I.C. Q.M. stores Company reserve of S.A.A. and mortar ammunition

15cwt truck	3(1)	Corporal Driver I.C. Rifleman L.M.G. A.T. rifle Packs, greatcoats and blankets of company headquarters.
Lorry 30cwt	1	3 cooks Driver I.C. Cooking set Water in tins

*Total, personnel, etc.*

<i>Officers</i>	2	<i>Other ranks</i>	32
<i>Pistols</i>	6	<i>Rifles</i>	28

*3 Platoons (each)*

*Platoon headquarters*

Motor cycles	1-2 (each)	Orderly (pistol)
Motor cycle combination	1	Subaltern Batman-driver or driver I.C. (1 pistol, 1 rifle)
Motor cycle combination	2	Sergeant Driver I.C. (1 pistol, 1 rifle)
15cwt truck	1	Driver I.C. Private 2-inch mortar A.T. rifle Platoon baggage (2 rifles)
<i>3 motor cycle sections (each)</i>		
Motor cycle combination	1	Corporal 2 privates (3 rifles)
Motor cycle combination	2	3 privates (3 rifles)
Motor cycle combination	3	2 privates L.M.G. (2 pistols)

*Total, personnel, etc.*

<i>Officer or warrant officer</i>	1	<i>Other ranks</i>	31
<i>Pistols</i>	10	<i>Rifles</i>	22

(v) Table of weapons and ammunition

Detail	Number	Ammunition—Rounds		
		On man or with gun	In platoon, company and battalion reserve	Total
Pistols (including officers pistols) ·38-inch	(m) 176	12	1056	3168
Rifles (including those for attached personnel) ·303	399	50	41000	60950
Anti tank rifle ·55-inch	23	200	920	4692
Light machine guns ·303-inch				
A.A. defence	5	1000	2500	7500
With motor cycle platoons	27	1000	13500	40500
With scout platoons	16	700	12800	24000
2-inch mortars—				
H.E.	9			
Smoke		14	54	180
Signal bombs (n)		40	162	522
Pistols signal (o)	22	12	132	396
Hand grenades			(u) 144	144

- (a) The pioneer sergeant is a tradesman
- (b) Includes a sergeant or corporal clerk who is a tradesman
- (c) Includes 7 lance sergeant
- (d) Includes 30 lance corporals
- (e) At least 1 officer and 12 men in each battalion will be trained in anti gas duties and decontamination work
- (f) Provisional allotment
- (g) Provisional allotment
- (h) Includes one for medical officer and one for regimental sergeant major
- (i) Includes
- (j) Includes 1 stretcher bearer and 1 driver I.C.
- (k) The driver of the water truck is also trained in water duties
- (l) Fitted with an A.A. motley mounting central
- (m) Officers, regimental sergeant majors and solo motorcyclists are armed with pistols and in addition certain personnel of scout and motor cycles platoons, specifically shown in tables.
- (n) A proportion of signal bombs may be allotted in addition to H.E. and smoke bombs.
- (o) Allotted as follows:—
- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Battalion headquarters                | 3 |
| Scout platoon                         | 4 |
| Each motor cycle company headquarters | 2 |
| Each motor cycle platoon              | 1 |
- (p) 1 for office
- (q) Will normally move with administrative and transport platoon
- (r) 1 man in each company will be trained in peace in the repair of boots
- (s) Will be a staff sergeant or sergeant
- (t) In each motor cycle company 1 man will be trained in sanitary duties and 1 in water duties as part time employment
- (u) 1 box of 12 per motor cycle platoon and 3 boxes of 12 in battalion reserve
- (v) 1 liaison officer and 1 technical officer
- (w) 1 motor cycle platoon will be commanded by a warrant officer class III

NOTE ON FIRST REINFORCEMENTS AND ATTACHED PERSONNEL  
(Not included in totals on page 2)

Details left at base—

Orderly room serjeant 1

First reinforcements—

Officers 5

Warrant officers 1

Serjeants 2

Rank and file 50

Total 58

Attached—

R.Signals. A signals section will be attached. It will be similar to C (divisional cavalry) section. See W.E. of divisional signals in Vol. II

NOTE

Wireless sets are allotted as under—

Battalion headquarters (signal platoon) 1 for communication with the higher headquarters, 1 to work to motorcycle companies and 2 spare for allotment as required.  
Total 4.

Each motor cycle company 1 to work to battalion headquarters, 1 to work to forward platoons, and 2 for forward platoons  
Total 4.

Total number of wireless sets in motor cycle battalion is 16

Motor Cycle Reconnaissance Battalion, November 1939

