

**British Infantry Battalion (Higher Establishment)**

**War Establishment reference II/1931/12F/2**

**Notified 4<sup>th</sup> June 1941**

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Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>5 Officers, 50 men</b>
<b>Headquarter Company</b>	<b>8 Officers, 247 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 7 men)
Signal Platoon	(1 Officer, 35 men)
Anti-aircraft Platoon	(20 men)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 45 men) - (six 3-inch mortars)
Carrier Platoon	(2 Officers, 62 men) - (13 Carriers)
Pioneer Platoon	(1 Officer, 21 men)
Administrative Platoon	(2 Officers, 57 men)
<b>Four Rifle Companies, each</b>	<b>5 Officers, 119 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 11 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 36 men)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>806 all ranks (33 Officers and 773 men)</b>

### Summary Table, British Infantry Battalion, June 1941

Detail	Headquarters Company								Four Rifle Companies, each		Total, Rifle Company	Total, Battalion	
	Battalion HQ	Company HQ	Signal Platoon	Anti-aircraft Platoon	3-in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	Pioneer Platoon	Administrative Platoon	Total, HQ Company	Company HQ			Three Rifle Platoons (each)
<b>i). Personnel</b>													
Officers	5	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	8	2	1	5	<b>33</b>
Warrant officers	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	<b>7</b>
Staff-serjeants	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	<b>5</b>
Serjeants	4	0	1	1	4	5	1	6	18	0	1	3	<b>34</b>
Corporals	2	0	2	2	6	10	2	7	29	1	3	10	<b>71</b>
Privates	43	5	32	17	35	47	18	43	197	8	32	104	<b>656</b>
Total, all ranks (including attached)	55	8	36	20	46	64	22	59	255	13	37	124	<b>806</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>													
Bicycles	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	1	5	<b>31</b>
Motorcycles	5	0	3	1	3	8	1	2	18	0	0	0	<b>23</b>
Motorcycle combinations	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Cars (4-seater)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Cars (2-seater)	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt	2	1	2	2	3	1	0	4	13	2	1	5	<b>35</b>
Lorries, 30-cwt	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Lorries, 3-ton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	13	0	0	0	<b>13</b>
Carriers, Universal	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	0	<b>14</b>
Carriers, Universal, 3-inch mortar	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
<b>iii). Weapons</b>													
Pistols	11	1	4	1	4	2	1	3	16	2	1	5	<b>47</b>
Rifles	42	7	32	19	42	58	21	56	235	11	33	110	<b>717</b>
Machine carbines	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	3	9	<b>42</b>
Light machine guns	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	3	9	<b>50</b>
Twin light machine guns	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Anti-tank rifles, .55-inch	0	0	1	4	3	4	0	1	13	0	1	3	<b>25</b>
2-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	1	3	<b>16</b>
3-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Signal pistols (for carriers)	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	13	0	0	0	<b>14</b>
Signal pistols (issued as required)	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>24</b>

#### Notes

Attached personnel consist of 1 Officer, 4 Serjeants, 2 Corporals and 14 Privates (included in above).

Of the total Corporals (excluding attached) 14 may be Lance-serjeants.

Of the total Privates (excluding attached) 48 may be Lance-corporals.

**Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 50 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Lieutenant-colonel	1	Pistol	
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	
Regimental serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class I	1	Pistol	
Serjeant clerk	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman	Private	6	Rifle	
Intelligence officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Intelligence serjeant	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Intelligence	Private	1	Machine carbine	
Intelligence	Private	2	Rifle	
Intelligence	Private	3	Rifle	
			Bicycle	3
Provost-serjeant	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Regimental Police	Private	3	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	3
Medical officer (RAMC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Medical officer's orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Medical serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Stretcher bearer	Corporal*	2	Rifle	
Stretcher bearer	Private	18	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Car, 2-seater	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Car, 4-seater	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, office <i>office equipment</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>intelligence equipment</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Lorry, 30-cwt, GS <i>Medical Officer &amp; equipment</i>	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Machine carbine	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>55</b>		

\* Headquarters included two Corporals but their positions are not identified and the above is assumed.

### Changes to be made when the Battalion serves in an Armoured Division

Delete one car, 2-seater, and one truck, 15-cwt, GS, and add two trucks, 15-cwt, fitted for wireless.

Two Drivers, I.C. become Driver-mechanics.

### Headquarter Company (8 Officers, 247 men)

#### Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 7 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Rangetaker	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck-15-cwt, personnel	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>8</b>		

#### (No.1) Signal Platoon (1 Officer, 35 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Signal serjeant	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	3	Rifle	
			Bicycle	3
Orderly	Private	2	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
Signaller	Private	5	Rifle	
			Bicycle	5
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Signaller	Corporal	2	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	19	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck-15-cwt, personnel	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>signal stores</i>	
			Anti-tank rifle	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>36</b>		

**Changes to be made when the Battalion serves in an Armoured Division**

16 Signallers become Driver-operators (transport unchanged).

**(No.2) Anti-aircraft Platoon (20 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>reserve ammunition</i>	
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>stores &amp; equipment</i>	
<b><i>Four detachments, each</i></b>				
LMG number and rifleman	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Car, 2-seater	1
			Twin LMG	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>20</b>		

**(No.3) Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 45 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	2	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
Mortar detachment	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Rangetaker	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Mortar detachment	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			72 rounds 3-inch ammunition	
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Mortar detachment	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			72 rounds 3-inch ammunition	
			Anti-tank rifle	1
<b>Six detachments, each</b>				
Detachment commander	Serjeant**	1	Rifle	
Mortar detachment	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			72 rounds 3-inch ammunition	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>46</b>		

\* The positions of two of the six Corporals are not identified in the W.E.

\*\* Detachments Nos.1, 3 and 5 each commanded by a Lance-serjeant (Corporal), and Detachments Nos.2, 4 and 6 each commanded by a Serjeant.

**(No.4) Carrier Platoon (2 Officers, 62 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
Second-in-command	1st Lieutenant	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>ammunition and kit</i>	1
<b>Four Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
			2-inch mortar <i>36-rounds 2-inch ammunition</i>	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
<b>Motorcycle Section</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
LMG number and rifleman	Private	6	Rifle	
			Motorcycle, solo	5
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	4
LMG number and rifleman	Private	3	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	4	Machine carbine	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	4	Rifle Motorcycle combination*	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>64</b>		

\*each combination to carry three men, one armed with a machine carbine and two with rifles.

**(No.5) Pioneer Platoon (1 Officer, 21 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Pioneer serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	1
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Bricklayer	Private	1	Rifle	
Carpenter and joiner	Private	6	Rifle	
Mason	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>tools &amp; stores</i>	
<i>Two Sections, each</i>				
Pioneer	Corporal*	1	Rifle	1
Pioneer	Private	4	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>22</b>		

\* The W.E. shows two Corporals in the Platoon and the above assumes one per Pioneer Section.



**(No.6) Administrative Platoon (2 Officers, 57 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Transport	Subaltern	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Quarter-master	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	2	Rifle	
Butchery duties	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	2	Rifle	
Equipment repairer	Private	1	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	2	Rifle	
Officer's mess servant	Private	1	Rifle	
Postman	Private**	1	Rifle	
Sanitary duties	Private	4	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Technical stores	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Private**	3	Rifle	
Water duties	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Car, 2-seater	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, water (200-gal)	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	3	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>reserve ammunition</i>	3
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>960 rounds 2-inch mortar</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Anti-tank rifle	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>360 rounds 3-inch mortar</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>officers' mess</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>MT stores &amp; tools</i>	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	5	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>cooking sets, rations, water tins</i>	5
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>baggage</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>anti-gas equipment</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>petrol distribution</i>	1
<b><i>Attached personnel</i></b>				
Armourer (RAOC)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Shoemaker (RAOC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Serjeant cook (ACC)	Serjeant	2	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	10	Rifle	
Officers' mess cook (ACC)	Private	1	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>59</b>		

\* The W.E. shows five Corporals in the Platoon but gives no indication of the posts that they occupied.

\*\* Was or included one Lance-corporal.

**Four Rifle Companies (5 Officers, 119 men), each****Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 11 men)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	2	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	2	Rifle	
			Bicycle	2
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Corporal*	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>13</b>		

\* The W.E. shows one Corporal in Headquarters and the above assumes his position.

**Changes to be made when the Battalion serves in an Armoured Division**

Delete one orderly and add one truck, 15-cwt, fitted for wireless and one Driver-mechanic.

**Three Rifle Platoons (1 Officer, 36 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
			Bicycle	1
Mortar detachment (2-inch)	Private	2	Rifle	
			2-inch mortar	1
			36-rounds 2-inch ammunition	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Machine carbine	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	9	Rifle	
			Light machine gun	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>37</b>		

**Notes**

1. The original War Establishment gives a figure for the number of Corporals in Headquarters and Platoons but does not specifically identify the position that they occupied. Some of these I have assumed and noted as such in the above.
2. Only a few personnel are positively identified as Lance-corporals. With 48 allowed across the whole Battalion there would be sufficient for one per Rifle Section but this is not explicitly stated
3. No rank is stated for either the Battalion Quarter-master or the attached Medical Officer (RAMC).
4. A batman was provided for each Officer, the Regimental Serjeant-major and the Medical Officer.
5. Scottish Battalions and Irish Battalions (except the RUR) will be allowed one Serjeant Piper and five Pipers in addition. A Battalion of Foot Guard will be allowed two Drill Serjeants (Warrant Officers, class II) in addition.
6. Changes to be made when Battalion serves in an Armoured Division all included in Amendment No.7, see over page for located amendments.

### Known Amendments (all courtesy of Tony Chadwick)

No.2 of 29<sup>th</sup> June 1941 confirmed one of the motor mechanics as a Lance-corporal.

No.3 of 14<sup>th</sup> August 1941 confirmed two of the stretcher bearers as Corporals.

No.6 of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1942 allowed for one Lance-corporal among the eight tradesmen of the Pioneer Platoon.

No.7 of 17<sup>th</sup> August 1942;

**Battalion Headquarters;** deleted the 30-cwt lorry and added one car, 2-seater and one truck, 15-cwt, GS (both for Medical Officer); no driver added, appears Medical Officer's batman drove the car.

**Anti-aircraft Platoon;** anti-tank rifles removed from Detachments and carried two per 15-cwt truck.

**Mortar Platoon;** each Carrier now shows 66 rounds of 3-inch ammunition and each 15-cwt truck now shows 72 rounds of 3-inch ammunition.

**Carrier Platoon;** replaced the four motorcycle combinations with four cars, 5-cwt, and changed four of the LMG numbers and riflemen to Drivers, I.C.

**Administrative Platoon;** one Driver, I.C. became a Driver-mechanic. 3-ton lorry with 3-inch mortar ammunition changes from 360 rounds to 324 rounds.

**Weapons** - the personal weapon of each man responsible for a light machine gun (excluding twin LMGs) changed from a rifle to a pistol. Overall added 50 pistols and deleted 50 rifles.

#### Anti-tank guns

No figures for guns or transport are given, only the following note.

Battalion which are issued with 2-pdr anti-tank guns may hold the following additional ranks and appointments.

Serjeants	1
Lance-serjeants	3
Corporals	3

The number of Privates will be decreased by 7.