

## British Infantry Battalion

**War Establishment reference II/233/2**

**Notified 19<sup>th</sup> May 1943, effective 30<sup>th</sup> April 1943**

**A [www.bayonetstrength.uk](http://www.bayonetstrength.uk) PDF updated June 2019**

Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>5 Officers, 45 men</b>
<b>Headquarter Company</b>	<b>4 Officers, 91 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 5 men)
Signal Platoon	(1 Officer, 35 men)
Administrative Platoon	(2 Officers, 51 men)
<b>Support Company</b>	<b>7 Officers, 185 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 8 men)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 42 men) - (six 3-inch mortars)
Carrier Platoon	(2 Officers, 61 men) - (13 Carriers)
Anti-tank Platoon	(2 Officers, 53 men) - (six 6-pdr guns)
Assault Pioneer Platoon)	(1 Officer, 21 men)
<b>Four Rifle Companies, each</b>	<b>5 Officers, 122 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 14 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 36 men)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>845 all ranks (36 Officers and 809 men)</b>

Please see the comments at the end of this document regarding the issue of individual weapons allocation, which is not provided in the original document and has been derived from a number of other sources.

Personnel seating for vehicles is shown as given in organization table for the W.E. except for the Administrative Platoon.

### Summary Table, British Infantry Battalion, May 1943

Detail	Battalion HQ	HQ Company			Total, HQ Company	Support Company					Total, Support Company	Four Rifle Companies, each		Total, Rifle Company	Total, Battalion
		Company HQ	Signal Platoon	Administrative Platoon		Company HQ	3-in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	Anti-tank Platoon	Assault Pioneer Platoon		Company HQ	Three Rifle Platoons (each)		
<b>i). Personnel</b>															
Officers	5	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	1	7	2	1	5	<b>36</b>
Warrant officers	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	<b>8</b>
Staff-serjeants	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	<b>6</b>
Serjeants	4	0	1	6	7	0	4	5	4	1	14	0	1	3	<b>37</b>
Corporals	2	0	3	4	7	0	5	9	6	2	22	1	3	10	<b>71</b>
Privates	38	3	31	40	74	6	33	47	43	18	147	11	32	107	<b>687</b>
Total, all ranks (including attached)	50	6	36	53	95	9	43	63	55	22	192	16	37	127	<b>845</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>															
Bicycles	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	<b>33</b>
Motorcycles	5	0	5	2	7	0	3	7	5	0	15	0	0	0	<b>27</b>
Cars (4-seater)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Cars (2-seater)	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Cars, 5-cwt, 4x4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	1	<b>8</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt	4	0	3	1	4	1	3	2	2	0	8	3	0	3	<b>28</b>
Lorries, 3-ton	0	0	0	12	12	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	<b>13</b>
Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gallons)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Carriers, Loyd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
Carriers, Universal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1	0	14	1	0	1	<b>19</b>
Carriers, Universal, 3-inch mortar	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	<b>7</b>
<b>iii). Weapons</b>															
Pistols	5	1	1	2	4	1	1	2	2	1	7	2	1	5	<b>36</b>
Rifles	13	4	18	36	58	6	28	40	35	17	126	10	29	97	<b>585</b>
Machine carbines	32	1	17	15	33	2	14	9	18	4	47	4	4	16	<b>176</b>
Light machine guns	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	13	6	0	19	1	3	10	<b>63</b>
Projectors, infantry, anti-tank	0	0	1	3	4	0	3	4	0	0	7	3	0	3	<b>23</b>
2-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	10	1	1	4	<b>26</b>
3-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
6-pdr anti-tank guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Signal pistols	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	2	20	1	1	4	<b>38</b>

#### Notes

Attached personnel consist of 1 Officer, 4 Serjeants, 2 Corporals and 17 Privates (included in above).

Of the total Corporals (excluding attached) 13 may be Lance-serjeants.

Of the total Privates (excluding attached) 64 may be Lance-corporals.

**Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 45 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Lieutenant-colonel	1	Pistol	
Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 4-seater	1
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic ( <i>seat for CO</i> )	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun	1 1
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 2-seater	1
Orderly room clerk	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, office <i>office equipment</i>	1
Intelligence serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Intelligence personnel	Corporal	1	Rifle Bicycle	1
Intelligence personnel	Private	5	Rifle Bicycle	5
Intelligence officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Regimental serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class I	1	Machine carbine	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>intelligence equipment</i>	1
Provost-serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Regimental Police	Private	3	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	3
Medical officer (RAMC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Medical officer's orderly-driver	Lance-corporal	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>(fitted with side tents)</i>	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	1
Medical serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS	
Stretcher bearer	Corporal	1	Machine carbine	
Stretcher bearer	Private	19	Machine carbine	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>50</b>		

***Changes to Headquarters when the Battalion is serving as part of an Armoured Division***

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Delete</b>				
Intelligence personnel	Corporal	1	Rifle Bicycle	1
Intelligence personnel	Private	5	Rifle Bicycle	5
<b>and insert</b>				
Intelligence personnel	Corporal	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Intelligence personnel	Private	5	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	5
<b>Delete as per strikethrough</b>				
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine <del>Car, 2-seater</del>	<del>1</del>

**Headquarter Company (4 Officers, 91 men)**

**Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 5 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	1
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 2-seater	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>6</b>		

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

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Signal serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Signal office and Line Section</b>				
Signaller-orderly	Private	3	Rifle	
			Bicycle	3
Signaller-orderly	Private	4	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	4
Signaller	Corporal	2	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
<b>Wireless and Visual Section</b>				
Signaller	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	9	Rifle	
Signaller (No.18 set operator)	Private	9	Machine carbine	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>36</b>		

**Changes to Signal Platoon when the Battalion is serving as part of an Armoured Division**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>the following personnel</b>				
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
Signaller-orderly	Private	3	Rifle	
Signaller	Corporal/Private	13	Rifle	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>are all now detailed as</b>				
Driver-operator	Corporal/Private	18	Machine carbine	
<b>in the Wireless and Visual Section</b>				
<b>is changed to</b>				
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Truck, 15-cwt, fitted for wireless (with No.19 set)	1

**(No.2) Administrative Platoon (2 Officers, 51 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Transport	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Quarter-master	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Car, 2-seater	1
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Butchery dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	2	Rifle	
Equipment repairer	Private	1	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Postman	Private	1	Rifle	
Sanitary dutyman	Private	4	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Technical stores	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Water dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>reserve ammunition</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>2-inch mortar ammunition</i>	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>3-inch mortar ammunition</i>	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>officers' mess</i>	
			<i>cooking sets, ration &amp; water tins</i>	
			Light machine gun	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	5	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>cooking sets, ration &amp; water tins</i>	5
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>MT stores &amp; tools</i> Light machine gun Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1 1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>petrol</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>QM stores</i> Light machine gun	1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal) <i>rations</i>	1 1 1
<b><i>Attached personnel</i></b>				
Shoemaker (RAOC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Serjeant cook (ACC)	Serjeant	2	Rifle	
Officers' mess cook (ACC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	11	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>53</b>		

Each Company Quarter-master-serjeant and the storemen from Headquarters of both Headquarter Company and Support Company were carried in transport of the Administrative Platoon.

**Support Company (7 Officers, 185 men)****Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 8 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	1
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	1
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck-15-cwt, personnel	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>9</b>		

***Changes to Headquarters when the Battalion is serving as part of an Armoured Division***

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Add</b>			Truck, 15-cwt, fitted for wireless (with No.19 set)	1

**(No.3) Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 42 men)*****(See also the alternative Mortar Platoon organization near the end of this document)***

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Private	1	Machine carbine	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	2
Mortar detachment	Corporal	1	Rifle	1
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS 3-inch ammunition	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
<b>Continued...</b>				



Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Mortar detachment Driver, I.C.	Private Corporal*	1 1	Rifle Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>3-inch ammunition</i> Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1 1
Mortar detachment Driver, I.C.	Private Private	1 1	Rifle Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>3-inch ammunition</i> Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1 1
<b><i>Six detachments, each</i></b>				
Detachment commander	Serjeant**	1	Rifle	
Mortar detachment Driver-mechanic	Private Private	3 1	Rifle Machine carbine Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar 3-inch mortar <i>3-inch ammunition</i>	1 1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>43</b>		

\* The position of one of the five Corporals is not identified in the W.E. and the above is assumed.

\*\* 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, 61 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic ( <i>seat for signaller</i> )	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun	1 1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	2
Second-in-command	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>ammunition</i>	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS stores	1
<b>Four Sections, each</b>				
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal 2-inch mortar	1 1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1 1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>63</b>		

**(No.5) Anti-tank Platoon (2 Officers, 53 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal	1
Second-in-command	Subaltern	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>ammunition</i>	1
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Fitter (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>ammunition &amp; fitters' stores</i>	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<i>No.1 Detachment</i>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Carrier, Loyd 6-pdr anti-tank gun 2-inch mortar	1 1 1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Carrier, Loyd Light machine gun <i>side shields</i>	1 1
<i>No.2 Detachment</i>				
Gun number	Corporal*	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Carrier, Loyd 6-pdr anti-tank gun 2-inch mortar	1 1 1
Gun number	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Carrier, Loyd Light machine gun <i>side shields</i>	1 1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>55</b>		

\* No.2 Detachment in each Section commanded by a Lance-serjeant (Corporal)

**(No.6) Assault Pioneer Platoon (1 Officer, 21 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
<b>Pioneer Section</b>				
Pioneer serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Bricklayer	Private	1	Rifle	
Carpenter and joiner	Private	6	Rifle	
Mason	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>tools &amp; stores</i>	1
<b>Two Assault Sections, each</b>				
Pioneer	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Pioneer	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt <i>tools &amp; explosives</i>	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>22</b>		

**Four Rifle Companies (5 Officers, 122 men), each****Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 14 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Sniper	Private	2	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	3	Rifle Bicycle	3
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun 2-inch mortar Projector, infantry, anti-tank <i>(for issue to Platoons)</i>	1 1 1 3
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company serjeant-major Driver, I.C.	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	1
	Corporal	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS	
Clerk Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS	
Storeman Batman-driver	Private	1	Rifle	1
	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>the trucks carry Company stores, tools and greatcoats</i>	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>16</b>		

***Changes to Headquarters when the Battalion is serving as part of an Armoured Division***

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Orderly <b><i>Amend</i></b>	Private	3	Rifle	3
			Bicycle	
Orderly <b><i>To read</i></b>	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	
Orderly <b><i>Add</i></b>	Private	2	Rifle	2
			Bicycle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, fitted for wireless (with No.19 set)	1

**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
<b>2-inch Mortar Sub-section</b>				
Sub-section commander	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			2-inch mortar	1
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Rifle	
<b>Three Sections, each*</b>				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Machine carbine	
<i>Rifle Group</i>				
LMG number and rifleman	Private	6	Rifle	
<i>Bren Group</i>				
LMG number and rifleman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>37</b>		

\* Section organization shown as detailed in Infantry Training, Part VIII, of March 1944.

**Known amendments**

There were nine amendments made to W.E. II/233/2 between its issue in April 1943 and it being superseded by II/233/3 in November 1944. I have only been able to locate a few of these, while certain others are outlined in various publications. Below are the details of these amendments that I have been able to verify.

**Notified in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.2 of 20<sup>th</sup> August 1943;**

The replacement of all cars, 2-seater, by cars, 5-cwt, in Field Force units from 31<sup>st</sup> July 1943.

**Notified in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.6 of 24<sup>th</sup> January 1944;**

The promotion of all Rifle Company Commanders to Major.

**Notified in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.9, of 18<sup>th</sup> April 1944;**

The addition of one truck, 15-cwt, water, to the Administrative Platoon, to be driven by the Water Dutyman. The addition of one lorry, 3-ton, to the Administrative Platoon, for the carriage of all the Battalion's anti-gas stores. This to be driven by one Orderly, transferred from the Headquarters of the Support Company.

***Notified in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.10 of 19<sup>th</sup> May 1944;***

Approval granted by the War Establishment Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1944 for -

The promotion of the commander of the Mortar Platoon from a Lieutenant to a Captain.

The centralisation of the eight snipers from the Rifle Companies at Battalion Headquarters and the addition of one Serjeant, one Corporal and two Lance-corporals to available ranks.

***Detailed in Infantry Notes (21 Army Group) No.11 of March 1945;***

Amendment No.4 of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1944 allowed for one solo motorcycle in the Signal Platoon to be replaced by one car, 5-cwt.

***Amendments actually located;***

No.6 of 4<sup>th</sup> August 1944 confirmed the change of rank of the Mortar Platoon commander from Lieutenant to Captain.

No.7 of 27<sup>th</sup> August 1944 changed one lorry, 3-ton, GS in Administrative Platoon (that driven by a motor mechanic and carrying MT stores and tools) to a lorry, 3-ton, winch.

No.8 of 1<sup>st</sup> September 1944 added three trailers, 10-cwt, GS to the Battalion; one each to the Signal Platoon, the Administrative Platoon and the Assault Pioneer Platoon.

***Notified in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.16 of 18<sup>th</sup> November 1944;***

Amendment No.9 of 25<sup>th</sup> October 1944 amended the First Reinforcement details only.

Also, the PIAT for the Signal Platoon is not shown on the original W.E. but was authorised by an amendment, date unknown. It is included in a total for the Battalion as of June 1943.

***Amendments to the handling of the 3-inch Mortar Platoon;***

Though not issued as an amendment there was a major change to the handling of the Mortar Platoon, first alluded to in Army Training Memorandum No.47 published in January 1944. This was codified in a revised Infantry Training pamphlet (Part IV) published in May 1944. The pamphlet included a revised organization for the Mortar Platoon that provided for its deployment as Sections of two Detachments each, rather than simply as six individual Detachments. The organization of the Platoon under this revision is shown overleaf.

**Alternative organization for Mortar Platoon (as per Infantry Training Part IV, May 1944)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Rangetaker	Private	1	Machine carbine	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			3-inch ammunition (90 bombs)	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Mortarman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			3-inch ammunition (90 bombs)	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Mortarman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			3-inch ammunition (90 bombs)	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
<b><i>Three Sections, each</i></b>				
Mortarman	Corporal*	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b><i>Two detachments, each</i></b>				
Detachment commander	Serjeant**	1	Rifle	
Mortar number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			3-inch ammunition (66 bombs)	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>43</b>		

\* Lance-corporal in third Section.

\*\* One Detachment in each Section commanded by a Serjeant (also acts as Section commander) and the other by a Lance-serjeant (Corporal) (also acts as Second-in command of Section).



### Notes

1. The original War Establishment shows the numbers of Corporals allotted per subunit, but does not necessarily identify which particular personnel were to have the rank. Where the rank of Corporal in the foregoing is uncertain I have marked this as assumed.
2. Only a few personnel are positively identified as Lance-corporals. Allocation to certain Platoons is shown in Infantry Training pamphlets and this is shown in the foregoing.
3. No rank is given for either the Battalion Quarter-master or the attached Medical Officer (RAMC).
4. Scottish Battalions and Irish Battalions (except the RUR but including the LIR) 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.
5. Assault Pioneer Platoon to be trained in anti-gas duties.

### Author's comments

British War Establishment tables had ceased to include details of individual weapons (pistols, rifles and machine carbines) by late summer of 1943. This information had graduated to the AFG.1098 war equipment table for the unit. Neither the W.E. issued for the British Infantry Battalion in 1943 or 1944 includes details of personal weapons issue.

The scale of issue of pistols, machine carbines and rifles is given in Appendix A to War Office letter No.57/SA/2139 (Inf.1) dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 1943. For the Infantry Battalion this is given as;

Pistols	All Officers
Machine carbines	Warrant Officers, class I Drivers of motorcycles Drivers of all vehicles (except Carriers Universal) 1 per signaller carrying No.18 set in Signal Platoon Section commanders in Rifle Platoon Number 1 of 2-inch mortar in Rifle Platoon Rangetakers Stretcher Bearers
Rifles	Remaining personnel
No personal weapon	Firers of single LMGs not in possession of personal weapon (total 48)

Prior to obtaining AFG.1098-708 for June 1943 I had thought 16 Signallers were responsible for No.18 sets and that drivers of Universal Carriers fitted for 3-inch mortar had rifles. In fact there were only nine Signallers issued with a Sten gun, and all seven carrier drivers in the Mortar Platoon had Sten guns instead of rifles (further confirmed by the 1944 3-inch mortar training pamphlet).