

British Motor Battalion

War Establishment reference I/1931/8D/2

Notified 21st February 1940

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Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	5 Officers, 26 men
Headquarter Company	5 Officers, 116 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 5 men)
Signal Platoon	(1 Officer, 27 men)
Administrative Platoon	(3 Officers, 84 men)
Four Motor Companies, each	4 Officers, 158 men
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 28 men)
Scout Platoon	(1 Officer, 41 men)
One Motor Platoon	(1 Officer, 29 men)
Two Motor Platoons, each	(30 men)
Total strength	800 all ranks (26 Officers and 774 men)

Summary Table, British Motor Battalion, February 1940

Detail	Battalion HQ	Headquarter Company			Total, HQ Company	Four Motor Companies, each				Total, Motor Company	Total, Battalion
		Company HQ	Signal Platoon	Administrative Platoon		Company HQ	Scout Platoon	One Motor Platoon	Two Motor Platoons (each)		
i). Personnel											
Officers	5	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	0	4	26
Warrant officers	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	15
Staff-serjeants	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
Serjeants	4	0	1	5	6	0	2	1	1	5	30
Corporals	1	0	2	4	6	2	5	3	3	16	71
Privates	20	3	24	74	101	24	34	25	25	133	653
Total, all ranks (including attached)	31	6	28	87	121	30	42	30	30	162	800
ii). Transport											
Motorcycles	6	1	5	1	7	3	5	1	1	11	57
Cars (4-seater)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trucks, 8-cwt (6-seater)	2	1	1	2	4	1	0	0	0	1	10
Trucks, 8-cwt (wireless)	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	6
Trucks, 15-cwt	2	0	2	6	8	3	0	4	4	15	70
Lorries, 30-cwt	0	0	0	11	11	1	0	0	0	1	15
Carriers, scout	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	44
Scout cars	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	14
iii). Weapons											
Pistols	14	2	6	4	12	6	19	2	2	31	150
Rifles	17	4	22	83	109	24	23	28	28	131	650
Light machine guns	3	0	0	5	5	2	13	3	3	24	104
Anti-tank rifles, .55-inch	1	0	0	5	5	2	11	3	3	22	94
2-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	12
Signal pistols	3	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	1	9	39

Notes

Attached personnel consist of 1 Officer, 1 Staff-serjeant *or* Serjeant and 8 rank & file (included in above).

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

Of the total Privates (excluding attached) 45 may be Lance-corporals.

Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 26 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Lieutenant-colonel	1	Pistol	
Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Car, 4-seater	1
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 8-cwt	1
Technical officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Armourer (RAOC)	Staff-serjeant <u>or</u> Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 8-cwt	1
Regimental serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class I	1	Pistol	
Clerk	Serjeant <u>or</u> Corporal	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Orderly	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, office <i>office gear</i>	1
Liaison officer*	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS*	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Pistol Scout car	2
			Light machine gun	2
Intelligence serjeant*	Serjeant	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Orderly	Private	2	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	2
Provost-serjeant	Serjeant	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Regimental Police	Private	2	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	2
*see note 3	Total, all ranks	31	*fitted with AA LMG mount	

Headquarter Company (5 Officers, 116 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 8-cwt	1
Orderly	Private	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
	Total, all ranks	6		

Signal Platoon (1 Officer, 27 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Signal Subaltern	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 8-cwt No.11 set (LP)	1 1
Signal serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 8-cwt No.11 set (LP)	1 1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Signaller	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 8-cwt <i>signalling equipment packs and greatcoats</i>	1
Orderly	Private	5	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	5
Driver-operator	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt (cable laying) <i>signal stores and wire hand cable layer packs and greatcoats</i>	1
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>signal stores and wire packs and greatcoats</i>	1
Total, all ranks		28		

Administrative & Transport Platoon (3 Officers, 84 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Transport officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 8-cwt	1
Quarter-master	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 8-cwt	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Medical officer (RAMC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Medical officer's orderly	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Serjeant in charge stretcher bearers	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Stretcher bearer	Corporal	2	Rifle	
Stretcher bearer	Private	15	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	3	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	3
			<i>Medical equipment packs and greatcoats</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Lorry, 30-cwt, GS	1
			<i>Medical equipment packs and greatcoats</i>	
Rifleman	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS*	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
			<i>HQ Company blankets</i>	
Pioneer Serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Blacksmith	Private	1	Rifle	
Bricklayer	Private	1	Rifle	
Carpenter and joiner	Private	2	Rifle	
Mason	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	10	Rifle	
Butcher	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Equipment repairer	Private	2	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	2	Rifle	
Postman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Sanitary duties	Private	4	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	2	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Serjeant cook	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Cook	Private	3	Rifle	
Officer's mess cook	Private	1	Rifle	
Officer's mess servant	Private	1	Rifle	
Armourer (RAOC)	<i>not stated</i>	2	Rifle	
Electrician (RAOC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Rifle	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Rifle	
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS <i>petrol reserve, HQ Company</i>	1
Water dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, water tank	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS <i>MT stores and fitters' tools</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Corporal	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle <i>QM stores and baggage</i>	1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle <i>Pioneer stores</i>	1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle	1 1 1
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle <i>Officers' mess eqpt & baggage</i>	1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS <i>cooking set</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS <i>ammunition reserve</i>	2
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Rifle Lorry, 30-cwt, GS <i>anti-gas capes</i> <i>reserve clothing & web eqpt</i>	2
Total, all ranks		87	<i>*fitted with AA LMG mount</i>	

Four Motor Companies (4 Officers, 158 men), each

Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 28 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Fighting</i>				
Company commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 8-cwt	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 8-cwt	1
			No.11 set (LP)	1
Signaller	Private	1	Pistol	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Scout car	1
			Light machine gun	1
Orderly	Private	3	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	3
<i>Administrative</i>				
Transport	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Fitter, MV (RAOC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>Company petrol reserve</i>	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>QM stores & company reserve of small arms & mortar amm</i>	
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS*	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
			<i>packs, etc, of Company HQ</i>	
			<i>packs of Scout Platoon</i>	
Cook	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle	
			Lorry, 30-cwt, GS	1
			<i>cooking set</i>	
			<i>water in tins</i>	
Total, all ranks		30	*fitted with AA LMG mount	

Scout Platoon (1 Officer, 41 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator (gun number)	Private	1	Pistol	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
			No.11 set (HP)	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
			No.11 set (HP)	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Pistol	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Rifle	
			Scout car	2
			Light machine gun	2
Orderly <i>(1 also acts as officer's batman)</i>	Private	2	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Three Sections, each				
Orderly	Private	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Section commander	Serjeant*	1	Rifle	
Rifleman (gun number)	Private	1	Pistol	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman (gun number)	Private	1	Pistol	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
Rifleman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman (gun number)	Private	1	Pistol	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Anti-tank rifle	1
* Lance-sergeant in one Section	Total, all ranks	42		

One Motor Platoon (1 Officer, 29 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			2-inch mortar	1
			<i>packs, blankets & greatcoats</i>	
Orderly	Private	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Three Sections, each				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	6	Rifle	
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle <i>packs, blankets & greatcoats</i> <i>tools</i>	1 1 1
Total, all ranks		30		

Two Motor Platoons, each (30 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class III	1	Pistol	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS 2-inch mortar <i>packs, blankets & greatcoats</i>	1 1
Orderly	Private	1	Pistol Motorcycle, solo	1
Three Sections, each				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Rifleman	Private	6	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Rifle Truck, 15-cwt, GS Light machine gun Anti-tank rifle <i>packs, blankets & greatcoats</i> <i>tools</i>	1 1 1
Total, all ranks		30		

Notes

1. One Motor Company is commanded by a Captain.
2. At least one officer and 12 men in the Battalion will be trained in anti-gas duties and decontamination work.
3. The Liaison officer could ride the motorcycle listed for the Intelligence Serjeant, in which case the latter travelled in the 15-cwt truck.
4. 11 personnel are positively identified as Lance-corporals. With 45 allowed across the whole Battalion there would be sufficient for at least two per Motor Platoon but this is not stated.
5. No rank is stated for either the Battalion Quarter-master or the attached Medical Officer (RAMC).

6. A batman was provided for each Officer, the Regimental Serjeant-major and the Medical Officer.
7. Six 15-cwt trucks each fitted with a Motley AA mount (central) for light machine gun.