

## British Motor Battalion

**War Establishment reference II/231/2**

**Notified 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1943, effective 4<sup>th</sup> June 1943**

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Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>5 Officers, 28 men</b>
<b>Headquarter Company</b>	<b>5 Officers, 94 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 8 men)
Signal Platoon	(1 Officer, 16 men)
Administrative Platoon	(3 Officers, 70 men)
<b>Support Company</b>	<b>7 Officers, 190 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 23 men)
Three Anti-tank Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 37 men) - (four 6-pdr guns)
Two MMG Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 28 men) – (four MMGs)
<b>Three Motor Companies, each</b>	<b>7 Officers, 168 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 37 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 30 men)
Scout Platoon	(2 Officers, 41 men) – (11 Carriers)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>854 all ranks (38 Officers and 816 men)</b>

Please see the comments at the end of this document regarding the issue of individual weapons, which while provided in the original document has been amended to that given in an alternative source.

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

Summary Table, British Motor Battalion, June 1943

Detail	Battalion HQ	HQ Company			Total, HQ Company	Support Company			Total, Support Company	Three Motor Companies, each			Total, Motor Company	Total, Battalion
		Company HQ	Signal Platoon	Administrative Platoon		Company HQ	Three Anti-tank Platoons (each)	Two MMG Platoons (each)		Company HQ	Three Motor Platoons (each)	Scout Platoon		
<b>i). Personnel</b>														
Officers	5	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	7	2	1	2	7	<b>38</b>
Warrant officers	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
Staff-serjeants	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>6</b>
Serjeants	4	0	1	4	5	1	3	3	16	1	1	4	8	<b>49</b>
Corporals	3	0	1	5	6	3	4	4	23	6	3	4	19	<b>89</b>
Privates	20	6	14	59	79	17	30	21	149	28	26	33	139	<b>665</b>
Total, all ranks (including attached)	33	9	17	73	99	25	38	29	197	39	31	43	175	<b>854</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>														
Motorcycles	8	1	5	2	8	3	3	1	14	4	1	2	9	<b>57</b>
Cars (4-seater)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Cars, 5-cwt, 4x4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt, personnel	3	1	1	3	5	3	0	0	3	2	4	0	14	<b>53</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt, GS	0	0	2	2	4	0	2	0	6	1	0	1	2	<b>16</b>
Lorries, 3-ton	0	0	0	12	12	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3	<b>23</b>
Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gallons)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	<b>4</b>
Carriers, Loyd	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	24	0	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
Carriers, Universal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	19	0	0	11	11	<b>53</b>
Carriers, Universal, 3-inch mortar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	<b>6</b>
Scout cars	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	<b>4</b>
<b>iii). Weapons</b>														
Pistols	5	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	7	2	1	2	7	<b>38</b>
Rifles	13	6	8	34	48	14	24	25	136	24	18	28	106	<b>515</b>
Machine carbines	15	2	8	36	46	9	13	3	54	13	9	4	44	<b>247</b>
Light machine guns	2	0	2	4	6	0	4	0	12	1	3	12	22	<b>86</b>
Projectors, infantry, anti-tank	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	8	<b>30</b>
2-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	1	3	6	<b>30</b>
3-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	<b>6</b>
6-pdr anti-tank guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
Signal pistols (see comments)	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	1	1	4	8	<b>38</b>

**Notes**

Attached personnel consist of 1 Officer, 2 Serjeants, 10 Corporals and 22 Privates (included in above).

Of the total Corporals (excluding attached) 12 may be Lance-serjeants.

Of the total Privates (excluding attached) 66 may be Lance-corporals.

See notes re allocation of Corporal and Lance-corporal ranks (excluding attached).

**Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 28 men)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank*</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
Battalion commander	Lieutenant-colonel	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 4-seater	1
Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel No.19 set	1 1
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Regimental serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class I	1	Machine carbine	
Serjeant clerk	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel No.19 set	1 1
Technical officer	Captain	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel No.19 set	1 1
Intelligence officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Scout car Light machine gun	1 1
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun No.19 set	1 1 1
Intelligence serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Intelligence personnel	Corporal	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Intelligence personnel	Private	3	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	3
Provost-serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Regimental Police	Private	2	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	2
Fitter (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>33</b>		

\*Headquarters includes posts for 3 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 1 is confirmed

### Headquarter Company (5 Officers, 94 men)

#### Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 8 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Orderly (also for duty as batman)	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<i>Carried in Admin Platoon transport</i>				
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>9</b>		

**Signal Platoon (1 Officer, 16 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
			No.18 set (spare)	1
Signal serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Signaller-orderly	Private	4	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	4
Signaller	Private	4	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			4 Cable layers	
			20-mm gun (on trailer)	1
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Signal stores	
			20-mm gun (on trailer)	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>17</b>		

\*Platoon includes 1 Corporal post, which is not confirmed

**Administrative Platoon (3 Officers, 70 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Transport	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			rations	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			reserve small arms amn	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Medical officer (RAMC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Medical officer's orderly	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Serjeant i/c stretcher bearers	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
Stretcher bearer	Corporal	2	Machine carbine	
Stretcher bearer	Private	15	Machine carbine	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	2
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>Medical stores</i>	
Quarter-master	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant (Technical)	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Pioneer serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Butchery dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Carpenter and joiner	Private	3	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	3	Rifle	
Equipment repairer	Private	2	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
Postman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Sanitary dutyman	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	2	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Private	2	Rifle	
Water dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	2
			<i>Petrol</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	2
			Light machine gun	2
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	2
			20-mm gun (on trailer)	2
			<i>MT stores</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
			20-mm gun (on trailer)	1
			<i>QM stores</i>	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS Light machine gun Projector, infantry, anti-tank 20-mm gun (on trailer) <i>pioneer tools</i> <i>anti-gas stores</i>	1 1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>reserve rations</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	3	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>reserve ammunition</i> <i>(one each for MMG amn,</i> <i>2-inch mortar bombs and</i> <i>3-inch mortar bombs)</i>	3
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker <i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i>	1
			Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal)	1
<b><i>Attached personnel</i></b>				
Shoemaker (RAOC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	3	Rifle	
Officers' mess cook (ACC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>73</b>		

\*Platoon includes posts for 3 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 2 are confirmed

**Support Company (7 Officers, 190 men)****Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 23 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.18 set	1
			No.19 set	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Car, 5-cwt	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>Company stores, MT stores</i>	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker	1
			<i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i>	
	<b>Total, all ranks</b>	<b>25</b>		

\*Headquarters includes 1 Corporal post, which is not confirmed

**Three Anti-tank Platoons (1 Officer, 37 men), each**

<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	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			No.18 set	1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>ammunition &amp; stores</i>	
Fitter (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>ammunition</i>	
<b><i>Two Sections, each</i></b>				
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b><i>Detachment</i></b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			6-pdr anti-tank gun	1
			2-inch mortar	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			Light machine gun	1
<b><i>Detachment</i></b>				
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			6-pdr anti-tank gun	1
			2-inch mortar	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Gun number	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			Light machine gun	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>38</b>		

**Two MMG Platoons (1 Officer, 28 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			No.18 set	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Two Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Rangetaker	Private	1	Machine carbine	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Medium machine gun	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Medium machine gun	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>29</b>		

**Three Motor Companies (7 Officers, 168 men), each**

**Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 37 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b><i>Fighting</i></b>				
Company commander	Major	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.18 set	1
			No.19 set	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Orderly	Private	3	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	3
<b><i>3-inch Mortar Detachment</i></b>				
Mortarman (3-inch)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Detachment commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal, 3-in mortar	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Administrative</b>				
Transport	Corporal	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Fitter (MV) (REME)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
Motor mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>petrol and stores</i>	1
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS Light machine gun Projector, infantry, anti-tank <i>reserve small arms amn</i>	1 1 1
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker <i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i> Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal)	1 1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>39</b>		

\*Headquarters includes posts for 4 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 2 are confirmed

**Three Motor Platoons (1 Officer, 30 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Machine carbine 2-inch mortar	1
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel Projector, infantry, anti-tank No.18 set	1 1 1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Machine carbine	
<i>Rifle Group</i>				
LMG number and rifleman	Private	3	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	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>31</b>		

\* Section organization extrapolated from Infantry Training, Part VIII, of March 1944.

**Scout Platoon (2 Officers, 41 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun No.19 set	1 1 1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	2
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Second-in-command ( <i>see Notes</i> )	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman ( <i>see Notes</i> )	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Scout car	1
			Light machine gun	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
			No.19 set	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			2-inch mortar	1
LMG number and rifleman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>43</b>		

\*Platoon includes posts for 4 Corporals, of which 3 are confirmed

### Notes

1. No rank is given for either the Battalion Quarter-master or the attached Medical Officer (RAMC).
2. The second officer and attendant batman in each Scout Platoon was only allowed when specially authorized by the War Office.
3. The Battalion was authorized 79 Corporals and 66 Lance-corporals (excluding attached personnel). Of these posts, 65 Corporals and 11 Lance-corporals are positively identified in the War Establishment and are shown in the foregoing. I have also assumed there was one Lance-corporal in each Motor Section. I would expect there was also one in each Section of the Anti-tank Platoons, as found in the standard Infantry Battalion, plus others in both the MMG Platoons and 3-inch Mortar Detachments.
4. NCO ranks for REME personnel are given in the War Establishment but their distribution across the Battalion is not shown. The position of REME NCOs is therefore assumed in the foregoing.
5. At least 1 officer and 12 men will be trained in anti-gas duties and decontamination work.
6. All officers in the motor companies will be trained in the use of the 3-inch mortar.

### 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. Despite this, the W.E. issued for the Motor Battalion in June 1943 did include individual weapons issue. Unfortunately, the entries for the Motor Platoon and Motor Company Headquarters include errors, which were corrected in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.6 of January 1944, and these latter figures have been used in the foregoing.

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 Motor Battalion this is given as;

Pistols	All Officers
Machine carbines	Warrant Officers, class I Drivers of motorcycles Drivers of all vehicles (except Carriers Universal) Section commanders in Motor Platoon Number 1 of 2-inch mortar in Motor Platoon Rangetakers Stretcher Bearers
Rifles	Remaining personnel
No personal weapon	Firers of single LMGs not in possession of personal weapon (total 54)

Under the June 1943 establishment, the Motor Battalion was authorised six sniper rifles with telescopic sights, which appear to have been held as a pool for issue as required.

The total of 38 signal pistols is given in a contemporary source. The distribution of signal pistols within the Battalion is not given and the line in the above summary table is my *suggestion* only.