

## **Notes on the format used for the Organizational Tables**

British Army War Establishment tables (W.E.s) underwent a number of revisions in their formatting during the period 1938 to 1945. The files available for download in this series are derived from copies of the original documentation but are not reproduced in identical form.

A British W.E. table contained the following information;

Personnel - total number of personnel authorised on the Unit establishment, divided into Officers, Warrant Officers, Serjeants and Rank and File (Corporals and Privates), and where applicable any attached personnel as per their parent Corps.

Trades & Duties - particular to Rank and File only this gave the specialism for each man, divided into those considered as Tradesmen and non-Tradesmen. Tradesmen were entitled to additional pay based on their skill.

Transport - this showed all vehicles authorised for the Unit.

Weapons - initially this showed all rifles and pistols as well as support weapons and until around mid-1942 gave the ammunition allocation for weapons. During 1943 the information was scaled back to weapons only and by late 1943 the detail of pistols, machine carbines and rifles was no longer shown.

### **Notes on abbreviations**

I have deliberately tried to avoid the use of abbreviations throughout, however a couple do appear constantly and need some explanation.

G.S. - a transport term used in relation to trucks, lorries and trailers. G.S. stood for general service and referred to a vehicle or trailer which was not outfitted for a particular purpose.

Driver, IC - now this one is very British. My earliest acquisition in terms of W.E. tables was a revised version for the Motor Battalion of 1940. This does not use the term Driver, IC as found in the original W.E. but shows Driver in charge instead. I have also been advised however that Driver, IC was short for Driver, internal combustion, and was a carryover from the use of horse transport. To differentiate between drivers of wagons and drivers of motor vehicles IC was added to the latter.

Each seems equally as plausible as the other, so I will simply go with Driver, IC.

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