

German Motorised Infantry Battalion

KStN 115, 138 and 161

Reconstruction of the above tables, all dated 1st October 1937

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Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	5 Officers, 12 men
Communication Detachment	(22 men)
Battle Train	(7 men)
Repair Group	(2 Officers, 13 men)
Rations Train	(5 men)
Baggage Train	(1 Officer, 5 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	4 Officers, 199 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 11 men)
MG Group	(18 men) - (two heavy machine guns)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 51 men) - (one 5-cm mortar)
Company Trains	(17 men)
Machine Gun Company	4 Officers, 179 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 22 men)
Two MG Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 35 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 69 men) - (six 8-cm mortars)
Company Trains	(18 men)
Total strength	864 all ranks (24 Officers and 840 men)

Summary Table, German Motorised Infantry Battalion, October 1937 (Reconstruction)

Detail	Battalion Headquarters				Three Rifle Companies, each				Total, Rifle Company	Machine Gun Company					Total, MG Company	Total, Battalion
	Headquarters	Communication Detachment	Battalion Trains	Total, Headquarters	Company HQ	Three Rifle Platoons (each)	Heavy MG Group	Company Trains		Company HQ	Communication Detachment	Two MG Platoons (each)	Heavy Mortar Platoon (8-cm)	Company Trains		
i). Personnel																
Officers	5	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	4	21
<i>Beamte</i> (Officials)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
NCOs ('O' group)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
NCOs ('G' group)	1	5	6	12	2	7	3	4	30	2	1	6	10	4	29	131
Privates ('M' group)	11	17	23	51	9	44	15	12	168	7	12	29	59	13	149	704
Total, all ranks	17	22	33	72	12	52	18	17	203	10	13	36	70	18	183	864
ii). Transport																
Kfz.2 light personnel cars	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kfz.11 medium personnel cars	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	5
Kfz.15 medium personnel cars	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	5	9
Light personnel cars	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Medium personnel cars	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	7
Light trucks	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	23
Medium trucks	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	13	0	1	2	6	0	11	51
Kfz.31 ambulance	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Motorcycles, solo	5	0	3	8	2	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	1	4	21
Motorcycles, with sidecar	3	0	1	4	2	1	1	1	7	1	0	1	1	1	5	30
iii). Weapons																
Pistols	6	1	11	18	2	11	8	5	48	2	1	17	32	6	75	237
Rifles	11	21	22	54	10	41	10	12	155	8	12	19	38	12	108	627
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	8	14
5-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
8-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6	6

Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 12 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Officer - B	1	Pistol	1
Battalion Adjutant	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Orderly officer	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Battalion physician	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Assistant physician	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Messenger leader (also bugler)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Motorcycle	4
Motorcycle messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle with sidecar	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
* also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	17		

Communication Detachment (22 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Detachment leader (also radio operator and telephonist)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Radio operator (for special use)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.2 light car (3-seater)	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Medium truck	1
Two Telephone Troops, type 'a', each				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd'				
<i>1st Troop</i>				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
<i>2nd Troop</i>				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd', motorised				
<i>1st Troop</i>				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
<i>2nd Troop</i>				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.2 light car (3-seater)	1
			Kfz.2 light car (3-seater)	1
Total, all ranks		22		

Battle Train (7 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battle Train leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Stretcher-bearer*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck (field kitchen)	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Kfz.31 ambulance	1
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	7		

Repair Group (2 Officers, 13 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Works Foreman	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Mechanic	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Senior armourer	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Light truck	3
			(one each for; Tools and pioneer equipment Repair equipment Fuel)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	15		

Rations Train (5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rations NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Rations distribution*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Light truck	2
*also vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	5		

Baggage Train (1 Officer, 5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Paymaster	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
Battalion clerk	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	6		

Three Rifle Companies (4 Officers, 199 men), each**Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 11 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Company (HQ) Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Company transport leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Motorcycle	3
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
	Total, all ranks	12		

Three Rifle Platoons (1 Officer, 51 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Medium truck	4
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Mortar Troop				
Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Mortar gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			5-cm mortar	1
Mortar gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Troop leader (assistant squad leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Rifleman	Soldier - M	7	Rifle	7
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Total, all ranks		52		

Heavy Machine Gun half-Platoon (18 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
half-Platoon leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Medium truck	1
Two Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Total, all ranks		18		

Battle Train (13 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Senior NCO	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Train leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Light truck	3
			(one each for; Field kitchen Ammunition and equipment Fuel and equipment)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	13		

Baggage Train (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk (leader)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light or medium truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 179 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 9 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
Leader (ranging & weather)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Company transport leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Messenger *	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle	2
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
*also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	10		

Communication Detachment (13 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Medium truck	1
Three Telephone Troops, type 'a'				
<i>1st Troop</i>				
Detachment (also Troop) leader*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
<i>2nd and 3rd Troops, each</i>				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
*also telephonist	Total, all ranks	13		

Two Heavy Machine Gun Platoons (1 Officer, 35 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Aiming circle NCO (1 also half-Platoon Leader)	Non-commissioned - G	2	Pistol	2
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.15 personnel car	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Medium truck	2
Four Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Total, all ranks		36		

Heavy (8-cm) Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 69 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
General Duty (for special use)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Three Groups, each				
Group leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Two Troops, each				
Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Mortar leader	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			8-cm mortar	1
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Medium truck	1
Total, all ranks		70		

Battle Train (14 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Train leader	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Technician (vehicle)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Light truck	3
			(one each for; Field kitchen Ammunition Fuel and equipment)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	14		

Baggage Train (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk (leader)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light or medium truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

Notes

1. Battalion Headquarters includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
2. Each Rifle Company includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
3. The MG Company includes 8 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.

Notes on reconstruction

Unfortunately, none of the KStN tables published for the Motorised Infantry Battalion in October 1937 remain for study. The forgoing has therefore been put together using several contemporary sources, along with some hopefully sound deduction and an undeniable element of guesswork.

Contemporary sources

Primarily, the Special Appendices to the German Army Mobilisation Plan, for the period March 1939 to March 1940. One of these gives information on the vehicles authorised under each of the three governing KStN tables, and includes the vehicle type and which subunit it was to be used by, and sometimes its intended load. There is though no information on the vehicles of the various Baggage Trains within the Battalion.

There are also a series of summaries for a Motorised Infantry Division, each of which includes a single line entry for the Motorised Infantry Battalion. These give a total figure for personnel (broken down into rank groups), vehicles (divided into motorcycles, cars and trucks) and weapons (by type). There are no summaries for the various elements of the Battalion.

Deductions

I have used KStN 1108, Headquarters of a *Schützen* Battalion (motorised), 1st October 1937, in lieu of KStN 115, and made several adjustments for vehicles.

The Rifle Company (KStN 138) is largely derived from a separate reconstruction project for the *Schützen* Company (KStN 1114 of 1st October 1937). The same applies for the Machine Gun Company (KStN 161), which is based on a reconstruction of the *Schützen* MG Company (KStN 1118 of 1st October 1937). In both cases transport has been amended in line with that given in the Mobilisation Plan figures for 1939.

I have worked on the basis that the Motorised Infantry Battalions (like the *Schützen* Battalions of the Panzer Divisions) were only slightly modified versions of the Battalions found in the normal Infantry Regiment, and all shared the same subunit organization for Rifle Platoons, MG Platoons and half-Platoons and 8-cm Mortar Platoons.

Guesswork

Company Trains are mostly reversed engineered from later incarnations. I've assumed that posts for personnel such as armourers, clerks, cooks, tailors and shoemakers remained constant.

My thanks to Massimo Baroffi for providing the Mobilisation Plan information, which gave me some actual figures to work with. We disagree slightly on the detailed interpretation (Max favours a missing truck as being in the Battalion Baggage Train, and keeps the Battalion Headquarters clerk as the driver of one motorcycle combination, as noted in the Mobilisation Plan. I've used the details for Headquarters personnel as given in KStN 1108, and think the missing truck was for fuel transportation, so have placed it in the Battalion Headquarters Repair Group, as in 1108).

If anyone happens to have any contemporary information on the actual organization of the Battalion then please drop me an email via the home page, which can be reached at the below link.