

German *Kradschützen* Battalion (motorised)

KStN 1108, 1111, 1116*, 1122

All dated 1st October 1937

***Table 1116 is a reconstruction**

A www.bayonetstrength.uk PDF

Based on the Gliederung charts dated January 1940 and April 1940 for;

6th Panzer Division (6th *Kradschützen* Battalion)

8th Panzer Division (8th *Kradschützen* Battalion)

Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	5 Officers, 12 men
Communication Detachment	(25 men)
Battle Train	(7 men)
Repair Group	(2 Officers, 14 men)
Rations Train	(5 men)
Baggage Train	(1 Officer, 5 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	4 Officers, 173 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 11 men)
MG Group	(25 men) - (two heavy machine guns)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 38 men) - (one 5-cm mortar)
Company Trains	(23 men)
Machine Gun Company	4 Officers, 186 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 23 men)
Two MG Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 37 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 69 men) - (six 8-cm mortars)
Company Trains	(20 men)
Anti-tank Platoon	(1 Officer, 29 men) - (three 3.7-cm guns)
Total strength	827 all ranks (25 Officers and 802 men)

Summary Table, German *Kradschützen* Battalion, October 1937 (Partial reconstruction)

Detail	Battalion Headquarters			Total, Headquarters	Total, Rifle Company (Motorcycle)	Total, MG Company (Motorised)	Anti-tank Platoon	Total, Battalion
	Headquarters	Communication Detachment	Battalion Trains					
i). Personnel								
Officers	5	0	0	5	4	4	1	22
<i>Beamte</i> (Officials)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3
NCOs ('O' group)	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
NCOs ('G' group)	1	7	6	14	22	29	5	114
Privates ('M' group)	11	18	24	53	150	156	24	683
Total, all ranks	17	25	34	76	177	190	30	827
ii). Transport								
Kfz.2 light personnel cars	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Kfz.11 medium personnel cars	1	0	0	1	4	1	0	14
Kfz.15 medium personnel cars	1	3	0	4	1	5	0	12
Kfz.18 medium personnel cars	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	12
Light personnel cars	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	3
Sd.Kfz 261 armoured cars	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Kfz.69 light trucks	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Kfz.70 personnel trucks	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	19
Light trucks	0	0	8	8	7	5	0	34
Kfz.31 ambulance	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Motorcycles, solo	5	0	3	8	10	4	1	43
Motorcycles, with sidecar	3	0	1	4	46	6	1	149
iii). Weapons								
Pistols	6	9	11	26	41	75	15	239
Machine pistols	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rifles	11	16	23	50	136	115	15	588
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	18	0	1	55
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	2	8	0	14
5-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
8-cm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
3.7-cm anti-tank guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

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 (also Gas 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 (25 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.15/2 radio car	1
<i>Two Telephone Troops, type 'c', each</i>				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Telephonist (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15/1 signal vehicle	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd', motorised, each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.2/2 radio car (3-seater)	1
Two Panzer Radio Troops, type 'd' each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Radio operator (also driver)	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Sd.Kfz 261 (radio vehicle)*	1
			MP40	1
Total, all ranks		25		

* the Sd.Kfz 261 did not enter production until the end of 1940. Later war KStN tables identify the Kfz.17 radio car as the substitute vehicle but this is not shown on the 1937 tables.

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
Ambulance escort (presumably also 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
*includes 1 vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	7		

Repair Group (2 Officers, 14 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	4	Rifle	4
			Light truck	4
			(one each for; Armourer & medical eqpt. Tools and pioneer equipment Repair equipment Fuel)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	16		

Rations Train (5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rations NCO (leader)	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 (also Leader of all the Baggage Trains of the Battalion)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle Motorcycle	1 1
Clerk*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Light personnel car	1 1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Light truck	1 1
*also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	6		

Three Motorcycle Rifle Companies (4 Officers, 173 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 Motorcycle	1 1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle Motorcycle	2 2
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Motorcycle with sidecar	1 1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Kfz.11 personnel car	1 1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Kfz.18 equipment car	1 1
*also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	12		

Three Rifle Platoons (1 Officer, 38 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Messenger (also bugler)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.11 personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.18 equipment car	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle	2
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
Motorcyclist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle with sidecar	2
Three Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Rifleman	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Motorcyclist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Motorcycle with sidecar	3
Total, all ranks		39		

Heavy Machine Gun half-Platoon (25 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
Motorcyclist	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Two Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
<i>Continued...</i>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
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
Motorcyclist	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Motorcycle with sidecar	4
Total, all ranks		25		

Battle Train (19 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Senior NCO	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
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
Motor Vehicle NCO*	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Assistant armourer**	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Clerk*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.15 personnel car	1
Vehicle driver**	Soldier - M	6	Rifle	6
			Light truck**	6
			(one each for;	
			Field kitchen	
			Armourer's eqpt/men's packs	
			Fuel and equipment	
			Fuel	
			Ammunition and pioneer eqpt	
			Light machine guns**)	
			Light machine gun**	9
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	19	**see comments	

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 truck (baggage)	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 186 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 (1 also bugler)	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 (14 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	2
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	14		

Two Heavy Machine Gun Platoons (1 Officer, 37 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
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.15 personnel car	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
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
Total, all ranks		38		

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.70 personnel carrier	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Two Troops, each</i>				
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
			Kfz.70 personnel carrier	1
Total, all ranks		70		

Battle Train (16 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
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Motor mechanic*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light personnel car	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Light truck	4
			(one each for; Field kitchen Ammunition Fuel Fuel and equipment)	
*is, or includes 1, vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	16		

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 truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

Anti-tank Platoon (1 Officer, 29 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Observation NCO (HQ leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle with sidecar	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Kfz.69 light truck	2
LMG Troop				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
			Light machine gun	1
Three Guns, each				
Gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			3.7-cm anti-tank gun	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Gunner	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Kfz.69 light truck	1
Total, all ranks		30		

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 & Anti-tank Platoon include 10 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.

Comments

The summary for this model of Battalion, as shown in the 1939 Mobilisation Plan, shows an excess of 6 men (all Rank Group M), 3 pistols, 3 rifles and 3 trucks than would be expected. I have not found a confirmed reason for this. My assumption is therefore that each Motorcycle Rifle Company was provided with an additional light truck as a means to carry its 9 extra light machine guns, plus ammunition, as these could not be readily accommodated in the Motorcycle Platoons. The additional personnel I have interpreted as being a driver, with rifle, and an assistant armourer, with pistol, the latter for the increased MG allocation. This is just guesswork on my part.

Notes on reconstruction

Unfortunately, the KStN table Motorcycle MG Company of the *KradSchützen* Battalion, ref 1118 dated 1st October 1937, appears to be lost. The description of this in the forgoing has therefore been reconstructed using alternative contemporary sources, plus some guesswork.

Contemporary sources

Primarily, an undated document included in the holdings of the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), seemingly in file NARA T78 R659 H36/161. This is a 'pictograph' rather than a full KStN table, and omits full details of ranks, vehicle types and weapons. Also, it does not appear to be based on the 1937 KStN tables, nor the succeeding February 1941 versions. My personal guess is they were an initial draft of the February 1941 *Schützen* Regiment tables, and they do match the overall organization for the Panzer Division as shown in the Gliederung charts for November 1940.

Secondly are 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 all of the governing KStN tables for the *Schützen* Battalion, 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. There are also a series of summaries for the various types of Panzer Division and *Leichte* Division of the pre-war period, which include a single line entry for their particular model of *Schützen* Battalion and, where applicable, the *KradSchützen* Battalion.

Supplementing these are summaries for the various elements of the Battalion given in the Handbook for the General Staff in War, dated August 1939. These give summaries for each KStN, showing the breakdown of personnel by rank groups (O, B, G and M), the number of rifles and support weapons, and the number of motor vehicles. The latter is subdivided into cars and trucks, which are then further shown as light, medium and heavy, and also motorcycles, both solo and with sidecars.

Deductions

The MG Company is largely based on the undated pictograph.

Company Trains offers the greatest margin for error. I've assumed that posts for personnel such as armourers, clerks, cooks, tailors and shoemakers remained constant across Company types.

My thanks to Massimo Baroffi for providing the Mobilisation Plan and Staff Handbook information, which gave me some actual figures to work with and eliminated a great deal of the guesswork.

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.