

Red Army Motorised Rifle Battalion

Shtat reference 010/421

Reconstruction of Table issued February 1943, amended to June 1943

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Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	15 Officers, 4 men
Communication Platoon	(22 men)
Submachine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 29 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	5 Officers, 118 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 9 men)
Machine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 10 men) - (two heavy machine guns)
Three Rifle Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 33 men)
Machine Gun Company	4 Officers, 52 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 17 men) - (three heavy machine guns)
Anti-tank Rifle Company	3 Officers, 43 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Two Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 21 men) - (nine anti-tank rifles)
Anti-tank Battery	3 Officers, 28 men
Battery Headquarters	(1 Officer)
Two Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 14 men) - (two 45-mm guns)
Mortar Battery	3 Officers, 38 men
Battery Headquarters	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Two Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 17 men) - (three 82-mm mortars)
Service Platoon	2 Officers, 27 men
Medical Detachment	2 Officers, 4 men
Total strength	649 all ranks (48 Officers and 601 men)

Total for Officers includes 3 Political Officers and 9 Officers from specialist branches

Summary Table, Red Army Motorised Rifle Battalion, mid-1943 (Reconstruction)

Detail	Battalion Headquarters	Communication Platoon	Submachine Gun Platoon	Three Rifle Companies (each)			Total, Rifle Company	Total, Machine Gun Company	Total, Anti-tank Rifle Company	Total, Anti-tank Battery	Total, Mortar Battery	Total, Service Platoon & Medical	Total, Motorised Rifle Battalion
				Company HQ	Machine Gun Platoon	Three Rifle Platoons (each)							
i). Personnel													
Command ranks	12	0	1	1	1	1	5	4	3	3	3	4	45
Political ranks	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Junior command ranks	3	4	7	4	4	12	44	19	13	8	13	13	212
Other ranks	1	18	22	4	7	21	74	33	30	20	25	18	389
Total, all ranks	19	22	30	9	12	34	123	56	46	31	41	35	649
ii). Transport													
Passenger car	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1.5-ton trucks	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	4	2	15
2.5-ton trucks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5	9
Workshop truck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ambulance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kitchen trailers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Motorcycle & sidecar	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
iii). Weapons													
Pistols	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	18
Rifles	1	22	0	3	7	16	42	33	18	4	25	15	244
Sniper rifles	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	12
Submachine guns	0	0	30	2	3	13	60	14	10	23	10	0	267
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	36
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	15
82-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	6
Anti-tank rifles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	18
45-mm guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4

Notes

1. All the above figures are extrapolated from the original *Shtat* for the Motorised Rifle Battalion issued in March 1942, with subsequent amendments being estimates only.
2. One Platoon of each Rifle Company was equipped as a Submachine Gun Platoon. For each Rifle Company delete 16 rifles and increase submachine guns from 13 to 29; other weapons remain the same.
3. See comments at the end of the piece regarding how the figures were arrived at.

Battalion Headquarters (7 Officers, 3 Political Officers, 5 Service Officers and 4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Command</i>				
Battalion commander	Major	1	Pistol	1
Military commissioner	Battalion commissioner	1	Pistol	1
Deputy Battalion commander	Captain	1	Pistol	1
Assistant Battalion commander (for Technical Duties)	Military Technician (3 rd Grade)	1	Pistol	1
Assistant Battalion commander (for Administrative Duties)	Quartermaster (3 rd Grade)	1	Pistol	1
<i>Staff</i>				
Senior Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	1
Adjutant	Senior Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Communication Chief (<i>commands Communication Platoon</i>)	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Chief of Chemical Services	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Chief of Engineering Services	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Senior Clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1		
Motorcyclist	Private	1	Carbine Motorcycle and sidecar	1 1
<i>Party Political Apparatus</i>				
Secretary of the Party	<i>By special provision</i>	1	Pistol	1
Secretary <i>Komsomol</i>	<i>By special provision</i>	1	Pistol	1
<i>Technical Duties</i>				
Head of Ammunition	Military Technician (Grade 2)	1	Pistol	1
Senior Clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1		
<i>Administration and Supply</i>				
Assistant Head of Supply	Technician Quartermaster (Grade 1)	1	Pistol	1
Head of Finances	Technician Quartermaster (Grade 1)	1	Pistol	1
Senior Clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1		
Total, all ranks		19		

Communication Platoon (22 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Radio Squad				
Squad commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Senior radio operator	Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Radio operator	Lance-corporal	5	Carbine	5
Two Telephone Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	1	Carbine	1
Telephonist	Private	4	Carbine	4
Transport*				
Driver	Private	3	Carbine	3
			1.5-ton truck	3
Total, all ranks		22		

*See end notes

Submachine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 29 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Assistant Platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Messenger	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy Squad commander	Junior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Submachine gunner	Lance-corporal	7	Submachine gun	7
Total, all ranks		30		

Medical Detachment (2 Officers, 4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion Doctor	Medical officer, 3 rd Grade	1	Pistol	1
Medic	Medical Assistant	1		
Sanitary instructor	Senior Sergeant (Medical)	1		
Medical orderly	Private	2		
Driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			Ambulance	1
Total, all ranks		6		

Three Rifle Companies (5 Officers, 118 men), each

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 8 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Senior Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Submachine gun	1
Company clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1		
Observer (sniper)	Private	1	Rifle	1
Messenger	Private	1	Rifle	1
Sanitary instructor	Senior Sergeant	1		
Medical orderly	Private	2	Carbine	2
Armourer	Technical Sergeant	1		
Total, all ranks		9		

Machine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 11 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			1.5-ton truck	1
Two Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	3	Rifle	3
Total, all ranks		12		

Two Rifle Platoons, each (1 Officer, 33 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Observer (sniper)	Private	1	Rifle	1
Four Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy Squad commander	Junior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Machine gunner (No.1)	Junior Sergeant	1	Light machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle*	1
Rifleman	Private	3	Rifle*	3
Rifleman	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		34	*authorised an SVT-40 rifle	

Submachine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 33 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Observer (sniper)	Private	1	Rifle	1
Four Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy Squad commander	Junior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Machine gunner (No.1)	Junior Sergeant	1	Light machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Rifleman	Private	4	Submachine gun	4
Total, all ranks		34		

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 52 men)**Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 1 man)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Submachine gun	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		2		

Three Machine Gun Platoons, each (1 Officer, 17 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle	1
Driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			1.5-ton truck (weapons & ammunition)	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	3	Rifle	3
Total, all ranks		18		

Anti-tank Rifle Company (3 Officers, 43 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 1 man)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Senior Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		2		

Two Anti-tank Rifle Platoons, each (1 Officer, 21 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Anti-tank rifle	1
Number	Private	1	Rifle	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	2	Anti-tank rifle	2
Number	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		22		

Anti-tank Battery (3 Officers, 28 men)

Battery Headquarters (1 Officer)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battery commander	Senior Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		1		

Two Gun Platoons, each (1 Officer, 14 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Two Squads, each				
Gun commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1		
Gun number	Private	4	Submachine gun	4
Driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			45-mm gun	1
			2.5-ton truck	1
Total, all ranks		15		

Mortar Battery (3 Officers, 38 men)**Battery Headquarters (1 Officer, 4 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battery commander	Senior Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Submachine gun	1
Scout	Private	1	Carbine	1
Telephonist	Private	2	Carbine	2
Total, all ranks		5		

Two Mortar Platoons, each (1 Officer, 17 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Driver	Private	2	Carbine	2
			1.5-ton truck <i>(crews, weapons, ammunition)</i>	2
<i>Three Squads, each</i>				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	82-mm mortar	1
Mortar number	Private	3	Carbine	3
Total, all ranks		18		

Administrative Platoon (2 Officers, 27 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Military Technician (2 nd Grade)	1	Pistol	1
Driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			Motor car	1
Machine Repair Squad				
Foreman	Senior Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1	Carbine	1
Electrician	Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1		
Mechanic (fitter)	Private	2		
Driver-mechanic	Junior Sergeant	1	Mobile workshop Type "A"	1
Driver	Private	1	1.5-ton truck <i>(spare parts)</i>	1
Weapon Repair Squad				
Artillery Technician	Military Technician (2 nd Grade)	1	Pistol	1
Master Artillery Technician	Senior Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1		
Master Armourer (machine gun)	Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1		
Master Chemist	Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1		
Radio Master	Sergeant <i>(Technical Service)</i>	1		
Driver	Private	1	1.5-ton truck <i>(equipment and personnel)</i>	1
Driver	Private	2	Carbine	2
			2.5-ton truck <i>(ammunition)</i>	2
Administrative Squad				
Starshina	Starshina	1	Carbine	1
Chief storeman	Sergeant <i>(Administrative Service)</i>	1		
Senior cook	Sergeant <i>(Administrative Service)</i>	3		
Cook	Private	3		
Shoemaker	Private	2		
Driver	Private	3	2.5-ton truck <i>(kitchen)</i>	3
			Kitchen trailer	3
			Carbines* (estimated)	9
Total, all ranks		29	*holders not specified	

Comments

The foregoing is an attempt to reconstruct the missing *Shtat* ref 010/421, which was issued for the Motorised Rifle Battalion in early 1943. It is based on the earlier *Shtat* 010/371 of 31st March 1942, which was itself amended (see other entries in this series).

The overall look of the Battalion and the strength of the various subunits are given here;

<https://pamyat-naroda.ru/documents/view/?id=451530405>

Organization scheme of a motorized rifle brigade (May 28th 1943) - this is a wire diagram of the Brigade that I think shows the February 1943 figures for personnel.

A summary can also be found here from the Nafziger Collection, which appears to incorporate subsequent amendments, up until at least mid-1943.

<https://usacac.army.mil/sites/default/files/documents/carl/nafziger/944RBXA.pdf>

To reach the splits for Officers, NCOs and other ranks given in the above more detailed summary, the following changes have been made from the amended version of 010/371.

1. Radio operators ranked as Junior Sergeants reduced to Lance-corporals.
2. NCOs in the Submachine Gun Platoon reduced by one rank. This results in the previous 28 Sergeants becoming 7 Sergeants and 21 Lance-corporals.
3. In the Service Platoon, the promotion of the Driver-mechanic to Junior Sergeant and the replacement of the Technical Service officer in the Administrative Squad by a *Starshina*.
4. Deletion of all Deputy commanders and Political officers in each Company/Battery HQ.

All these changes are reflected in developments in the Motor Submachine Gun Battalion of the Tank Brigade, at least as of November 1943.

The two most problematic areas are the Service Platoon, for which there is practically zero information to be found, and the allocation of vehicles. The above reconstruction represents my 'best guesses' for both. In terms of vehicles I've stayed within the figure of 24 trucks quoted in the Nafziger document, and allocated them based largely on where they were found previously. For those subunits where extra personnel appear (the Communication Platoon, the Machine Gun Platoons of Rifle Companies and the Weapons Repair Squad), I have assumed these represent additional drivers and vehicles.

Finally there is the question of submachine issue, which was massively increased during 1943, primarily by replacing the standard rifles of one Platoon in each Rifle Company with submachine guns. The above Nafziger Collection summary shows the Motorised Rifle Battalion with over 270 submachine guns, which would require a far greater number than would be found by simply converting a dozen Rifle Squads. The above figures then are simply estimates on my own part, assuming SMGs went to practically all NCOs and also to Platoon and Company commanders.

If anyone has more solid information then please feel free to send me an email via the Homepage.