

Red Army Guards Rifle Battalion

Shtat reference 05/41

Dated 18th December 1944

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Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	7 Officers, 2 men
Communication Platoon	(19 men)
Medical Platoon	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Supply Platoon	(1 Officer, 11 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	5 Officers, 99 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Medical Squad	(4 men)
Machine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 10 men) - (two heavy machine guns)
Two Rifle Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 27 men)
Submachine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 27 men)
Machine Gun Company	4 Officers, 67 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 22 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
Anti-tank Rifle Platoon	1 Officer, 22 men
Mortar Company	4 Officers, 62 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 8 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 18 men) - (three 82-mm mortars)
45-mm Gun Battery	3 Officers, 35 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 3 men)
Two Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 16 men) - (two 45-mm guns)
Total strength	555 all ranks (36 Officers and 519 men)

Battalion Headquarters includes 2 Political Officers

Summary Table, Red Army Guards Rifle Battalion, December 1944

Detail	Battalion Headquarters	Communication Platoon	Supply Platoon	Medical Platoon	45-mm Gun Battery	Anti-tank Rifle Platoon	Three Rifle Companies (each)			Total, Rifle Company	Machine Gun Company		Total, Machine Gun Company	Mortar Company		Total, Mortar Company	Total, Guards Rifle Battalion
							Company HQ & Medical	Machine Gun Platoon	Three Rifle Platoons (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		
i). Personnel																	
Command ranks	5	0	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	4	1	1	4	34
Political ranks	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Junior command ranks	2	5	2	1	13	6	3	4	9	34	1	8	25	2	6	20	176
Other ranks	0	14	9	3	22	16	5	6	18	65	0	14	42	6	12	42	343
Total, all ranks	9	19	12	5	38	23	9	11	28	104	2	23	71	9	19	66	555
ii). Transport																	
Draught horses	0	2	14	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	4	12	0	3	9	46
Artillery horses	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Carts (one-horse)	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	12
Wagons (two-horse)	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	14
Field kitchens	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
iii). Weapons																	
Pistols	6	0	1	1	3	1	0	3	0	3	1	5	16	1	4	13	50
Rifles	2	18	11	1	9	0	5	8	13	39	1	18	55	8	15	53	266
Sniper rifles	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Submachine guns	1	1	0	0	26	13	1	0	9	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	164
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	36
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	12	0	0	0	18
82-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	9
Anti-tank rifles	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
45-mm guns	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

Notes

One Platoon of each Rifle Company equipped as a Submachine Gun Platoon. Delete 13 rifles and increase submachine guns from 9 to 22; other weapons remain the same.

The following is taken from a copy of an original *Shtat*, the quality of which is affected by a combination of age, print quality, heavy watermarking and an effort to repair damage by using adhesive tape. This has made the details of individual weapons very difficult to read which means a degree of guesswork is required to fill in the blanks. There is another source that gives a total of 164 submachine guns and it is possible to identify all but about a half dozen of these with certainty. Such is not the case with regards to rifles and pistols, and in the case of rifles there is no obvious reference to the issue of the SVT-40 found in other tables.

Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 2 Political Officers, 2 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Major	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy Battalion commander for political affairs	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	1
Deputy Battalion commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	1
Senior adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	1
Communication Chief*	Senior Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Chemical warfare instructor	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior clerk	Sergeant (Admin)	1	Rifle	1
Party Apparatus				
Battalion Party organiser		1	Pistol	1
<i>Komsomol</i>		1	Pistol	1
*commands Communication Platoon	Total, all ranks	9		

Communication Platoon (1 Officer, 9 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander (on Battalion Staff)	Senior Lieutenant	-		
Deputy Platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Telephone Exchange				
Head of Station	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy Head of Station	Junior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Private	4	Rifle	4
Wagon driver (telephonist)	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Cart	1
			Draught horse	1
Telephone Squad				
Section commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	3	Rifle	3
Telephonist	Private	3	Rifle	3
Wagon driver (telephonist)	Private	1	Rifle	1
Radio Squad				
Senior operator	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
	Total, all ranks	19		

Medical Platoon (1 Medical Service Officer, 4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Platoon commander	Senior Medic	1	Pistol	1
Sanitary instructor	Senior Sergeant (Medical)	1		
Medical orderly	Private	2		
Wagon driver	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Medical wagon	1
			Draught horse	1
	Total, all ranks	5		

Supply Platoon (1 Officer, 11 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Ammunition				
Section commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior wagon driver	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
Wagon driver	Private	3	Rifle	3
			Wagon	3
			Draught horse	6
Administration				
Senior cook	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Cook	Private	2	Rifle	2
Senior wagon driver	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
			Kitchen	1
			Draught horse	2
Wagon driver	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Kitchen	1
			Draught horse	2
Blacksmith (also wagon driver)	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Kitchen	1
			Draught horse	2
	Total, all ranks	12		

Three Rifle Companies (5 Officers, 99 men), each

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Submachine gun	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Rifle	1
Company clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		5		

Medical Squad (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Sanitary instructor	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Medical orderly	Private	3	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		4		

Machine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 10 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<i>Machine gunner/wagon driver*</i>			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
<i>Two Squads, each</i>				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner*	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		11		

*One man from a Machine Gun Squad also acts as driver for the wagon

Two Rifle Platoons, each (1 Officer, 27 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Submachine gun	1
Assistant platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
<i>Messenger*</i>				
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
Four Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Light machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle	1
Rifleman	Private	2	Rifle	2
Rifleman	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		28		

*messenger found by taking a rifleman from one of the four Squads

Submachine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 27 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
<i>Messenger*</i>				
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
Four Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Light machine gun	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Rifleman	Private	3	Submachine gun	6
Total, all ranks		28		

*messenger found by taking a rifleman from one of the four Squads

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 67 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 1 man)

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

Three Machine Gun Platoons, each (1 Officer, 22 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner (and wagon driver)	Private	2	Rifle	2
			Wagon	2
			Draught horse	4
<i>Four Squads, each</i>				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		23		

Anti-tank Rifle Platoon (1 Officer, 22 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Wagon driver	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
<i>Three Squads, each</i>				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Anti-tank rifle	1
Number	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	2	Anti-tank rifle	2
Number	Private	2	Submachine gun	2
Total, all ranks		23		

Mortar Company (4 Officers, 62 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 1 man)

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

Headquarters Squad (7 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Private	3	Rifle	3
Scouts	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		7		

Three Mortar Platoons, each (1 Officer, 18 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<i>Three Squads, each</i>				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Pistol	1
			82-mm mortar	1
Mortar number	Private	3	Rifle	3
Wagon driver	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	1
Total, all ranks		19		

45-mm Gun Battery (3 Officers, 35 men)

Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 1 Political Officer, 1 man)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battery commander	Captain	1	Pistol	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Submachine gun	1
Observer	Private	1	Rifle	1
Scout	Lance-corporal	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		4		

Two 45-mm Gun Platoons, each (1 Officer, 16 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<i>Two Squads, each</i>				
Gun commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy - Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Number	Private	3	Submachine gun	3
Driver	Private	2	Rifle	2
			45-mm gun	1
			Caisson (ammunition)	1
			Artillery horse	4
Total, all ranks		17		