

Red Army Rifle Battalion

Shtat reference 04/551

Dated 10th December 1942 (with amendments to early 1944)

A www.bayonetstrength.uk PDF

Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	6 Officers, 1 man
Communication Platoon	(1 Officer, 9 men)
Medical Platoon	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Supply Platoon	(1 Officer, 11 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	5 Officers, 136 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 2 men)
Medical Squad	(5 men)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 6 men) - (two 50-mm mortars)
Machine Gun Squad	(6 men) - (one heavy machine gun)
Two Rifle Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 39 men)
Submachine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 39 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 Platoon	(1 Officer, 22 men) - (nine anti-tank rifles)
Mortar Company	4 Officers, 55 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 18 men) - (three 82-mm mortars)
45-mm Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 16 men) - (two 45-mm guns)
Total strength	612 all ranks (34 Officers and 578 men)

Battalion Headquarters includes 3 Political Officers

Summary Table, Red Army Rifle Battalion, early 1944 (as amended)

Detail	Battalion Headquarters	Communication Platoon	Medical Platoon	Supply Platoon	45-mm Gun Platoon	Anti-tank Rifle Platoon	Three Rifle Companies (each)				Total, Rifle Company	Machine Gun Company		Total, Machine Gun Company	Mortar Company		Total, Mortar Company	Total, Rifle Battalion
							Company HQ & Medical	50-mm Mortar Platoon	Machine Gun Squad	Three Rifle Platoons (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		
i). Personnel																		
Command ranks	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	1	1	4	1	1	4	31
Political ranks	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Junior command ranks	1	2	1	2	6	6	3	4	2	11	42	1	6	19	1	6	19	182
Other ranks	0	7	3	9	10	16	4	2	4	28	94	0	11	33	0	12	36	396
Total, all ranks	7	10	5	12	17	23	8	7	6	40	141	2	18	56	2	19	59	612
ii). Transport																		
Draught horses	0	1	1	14	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	9	0	3	9	39
Artillery horses	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Carts (one-horse)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	9	17
Wagons (two-horse)	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	8
Field kitchens	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bicycles	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
iii). Weapons																		
Pistols	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	5	1	1	4	1	1	4	34
Rifles	1	9	3	9	4	13	5	6	5	23	62	1	14	43	1	15	46	314
Sniper rifles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Submachine guns	1	0	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	9	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	166
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	54
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	9	0	0	0	12
50-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
82-mm mortars	0	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	0	9
45-mm guns	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Notes

One Platoon of each Rifle Company equipped as a Submachine Gun Platoon. For each Rifle Company delete 23 rifles and increase submachine guns from 9 to 32; other weapons remain the same.

Battalion Headquarters (3 Officers, 3 Political Officers, 1 man)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Major	1	Pistol & SMG	1
Deputy Battalion commander for political affairs		1	Pistol	1
Deputy Battalion commander	Major or Captain	1	Pistol	1
Senior adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	1
Chemical warfare instructor	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Party Apparatus				
Battalion Party organiser		1	Pistol	1
<i>Komsomol</i>		1	Pistol	1
Total, all ranks		7		

Communication Platoon (1 Officer, 9 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Wagon driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			Cart	1
			Draught horse	1
Telephone Exchange				
Head of Station	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Private	1	Rifle	1
Telephone Squad				
Section commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Senior telephonist	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Private	3	Rifle	3
Total, all ranks		10		

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	Carbine	1
Medical orderly	Private	2	Carbine	1
Wagon driver	Private	1	Carbine	1
			Medical wagon	1
			Draught horse	1
Total, all ranks		5		

Supply Platoon (1 Officer, 11 men)

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

Three Rifle Companies (5 Officers, 136 men), each

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 2 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Pistol & SMG	1
<i>Starshina</i>	<i>Starshina</i>	1	Rifle*	1
Company clerk	Administrative Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Total, all ranks		3	*authorised an SVT-40 rifle	

Medical Squad (5 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Sanitary instructor	Senior Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Medical orderly	Private	4	Carbine	2
Total, all ranks		5		

Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 6 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Two Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
			50-mm mortar	1
Mortar number	Private	1	Rifle	1
Total, all ranks		7		

Machine Gun Squad (6 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Heavy machine gun	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		6		

Two Rifle Platoons, each (1 Officer, 39 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol & SMG	1
Assistant platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle*	1
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
Two Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	2	Light machine gun	2
Machine gunner	Private	2	Rifle*	2
Rifleman	Private	3	Rifle*	3
Rifleman	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Two 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	5	Rifle*	5
Rifleman	Private	1	Submachine gun	1
Total, all ranks		40	*authorised an SVT-40 rifle	

Submachine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 39 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol & SMG	1
Assistant platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
Two Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	2	Light machine gun	2
Machine gunner	Private	2	Submachine gun	2
Rifleman	Private	4	Submachine gun	4
Two 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	6	Submachine gun	6
Total, all ranks		40		

Comments

Some other drafts of the Rifle Company tables show the following variations from the above;

1. The gunners for the two 50-mm mortars without rifles.
2. The commander of the 50-mm Mortar Platoon as a *Starshina* rather than an officer.
3. All five members of the Medical Squad armed with carbines.
4. Officers' pistols deleted when issued with submachine guns.

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 52 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	Carbine	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	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
Machine gunner	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	1	Heavy machine gun	1
Gunner	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	1
Machine gunner	Private	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		18		

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

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Wagon driver	Private	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Carbine	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		23		

Mortar Company (4 Officers, 55 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	Carbine	1
Total, all ranks		2		

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

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Three Squads, each				
Squad commander	Sergeant	1	Rifle	1
Deputy commander – Gunner	Junior Sergeant	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 Platoon (1 Officer, 16 men)

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