

## Red Army Guards Rifle Battalion

*Shtat* reference 04/501

Dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 1942 (with amendments to early 1944)

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Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>6 Officers, 1 man</b>
Communication Platoon	(1 Officer, 9 men)
Medical Platoon	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Supply Platoon	(1 Officer, 11 men)
<b>Three Rifle Companies, each</b>	<b>6 Officers, 142 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 4 men)
Medical Squad	(5 men)
Mortar Platoon	(1 Officer, 6 men) - (two 50-mm mortars)
Machine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 10 men) - (two heavy machine guns)
Two Rifle Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 39 men)
Submachine Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 39 men)
<b>Machine Gun Company</b>	<b>4 Officers, 67 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 22 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
<b>Anti-tank Rifle Company</b>	<b>3 Officers, 41 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Two Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 20 men) - (eight anti-tank rifles)
<b>Mortar Company</b>	<b>4 Officers, 55 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 1 man)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 18 men) - (three 82-mm mortars)
<b>45-mm Gun Platoon</b>	(1 Officer, 16 men) - (two 45-mm guns)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>669 all ranks</b> (39 Officers and 630 men)

Battalion Headquarters includes 3 Political Officers

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

Detail	Battalion Headquarters	Communication Platoon	Medical Platoon	Supply Platoon	45-mm Gun Platoon	Anti-tank Rifle Company	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	50-mm Mortar Platoon	Machine Gun Platoon	Three Rifle Platoons (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		Company HQ	Three Platoons, (each)		
<b>i). Personnel</b>																		
Command ranks	3	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	4	1	1	4	<b>36</b>
Political ranks	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Junior command ranks	1	2	1	2	6	17	3	4	4	11	44	1	8	25	1	6	19	<b>205</b>
Other ranks	0	7	3	9	10	24	6	2	6	28	98	0	14	42	0	12	36	<b>425</b>
Total, all ranks	7	10	5	12	17	44	10	7	11	40	148	2	23	71	2	19	59	<b>669</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>																		
Draught horses	0	1	1	14	0	4	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	12	0	3	9	<b>47</b>
Artillery horses	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
Carts (one-horse)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	<b>11</b>
Wagons (two-horse)	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Field kitchens	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Bicycles	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>iii). Weapons</b>																		
Pistols	6	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	4	1	1	4	<b>39</b>
Rifles	1	9	3	9	2	19	7	4	8	27	77	1	18	55	1	15	46	<b>375</b>
Sniper rifles	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
Submachine guns	1	0	0	0	12	6	1	0	0	9	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>172</b>
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>54</b>
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	12	0	0	0	<b>18</b>
50-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
82-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	<b>9</b>
Anti-tank rifles	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>16</b>
45-mm guns	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>

**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	Carbine	1
<b>Party Apparatus</b>				
Battalion Party organiser		1	Pistol	1
<i>Komsomol</i>		1	Pistol	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>7</b>		

### Communication Platoon (1 Officer, 9 men)

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

### 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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>5</b>		

**Supply Platoon (1 Officer, 11 men)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<b><i>Ammunition</i></b>				
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
<b><i>Administration</i></b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>12</b>		

### Three Rifle Companies (6 Officers, 142 men), each

#### Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 4 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
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>5</b>	*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	4
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>5</b>		

#### Mortar Platoon (1 Officer, 6 men)

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

#### Machine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 10 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<i>Machine gunner/wagon driver*</i>			Wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>11</b>		

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

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

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol & SMG	1
Assistant platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Rifle*	1
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>40</b>	*authorised an SVT-40 rifle	

**Submachine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 39 men)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol & SMG	1
Assistant platoon commander	Senior Sergeant	1	Submachine gun	1
Sniper	Lance-corporal	2	Rifle	2
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>40</b>		

## 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	Carbine	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>2</b>		

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

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner (and wagon driver)	Private	2	Rifle	2
			Wagon	2
			Draught horse	4
<b><i>Four Squads, each</i></b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>23</b>		

### Anti-tank Rifle Company (3 Officers, 41 men)

#### Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 1 Political 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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>2</b>		

#### Two Anti-tank Rifle Platoons, each (1 Officer, 20 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<i>Number/wagon driver*</i>			Wagon	2
			Draught horse	4
<b>Four Squads, each</b>				
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	1	Anti-tank rifle	1
Number*	Private	1	Rifle	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>21</b>		

\*Two men from the total four Anti-tank Rifle Squads also act as drivers for the two wagons.

\*\*Six of the total eight Squad commanders in the Anti-tank Rifle Company have submachine guns, the other two have rifles.



**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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>2</b>		

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

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<b>Three Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>19</b>		

**45-mm Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 16 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Lieutenant	1	Pistol	1
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
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
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>17</b>		