

**United States Parachute Infantry Battalion**

**Tables of Organization reference 7-36 and 7-37**

**All dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 1942**

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Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>4 Officers</b>
<b>Headquarters Company</b>	<b>7 Officers, 138 men</b>
Headquarters Platoon	(3 Officers, 61 men)
Light Machine Gun Platoon	(2 Officers, 40 men) (eight light machine guns)
81-mm Mortar Platoon	(2 Officers, 37 men) (four 81-mm mortars)
<b>Three Rifle Companies, each</b>	<b>8 Officers, 119 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 14 men)
Three Platoons, each	(2 Officers, 35 men) (one 60-mm mortar)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>530 all ranks (35 Officers and 495 men)</b>

**Summary Table, United States Parachute Infantry Battalion, February 1942**

Detail	HQ & HQ Company							Total, HQ & HQ Company	Three Rifle Companies, each		Total, Rifle Company	Total, Battalion
	Battalion Headquarters	Company HQ	Staff Section	Mess Section	Communication Section	Light Machine Gun Platoon	81-mm Mortar Platoon		Company HQ	Three Rifle Platoons (each)		
<b>i). Personnel</b>												
Officers	4	2	0	0	1	2	2	11	2	2	8	<b>35</b>
Enlisted Men	0	7	7	25	22	40	37	138	14	35	119	<b>495</b>
Total, all ranks	4	9	7	25	23	42	39	149	16	37	127	<b>530</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>												
...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>iii). Weapons</b>												
Pistols, .45-cal	4	9	7	0	23	42	39	124	16	37	127	<b>505</b>
Submachine guns, .45-cal	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	6	1	4	13	<b>45</b>
Carbines	2	5	5	0	19	23	23	77	2	2	8	<b>101</b>
Rifles, M1	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25	13	29	100	<b>325</b>
Rifles, M1903 (grenade launcher)	0	3	0	0	2	3	7	15	0	0	0	<b>15</b>
Light machine guns, M1914A4	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	4	12	<b>44</b>
60-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	<b>9</b>
81-mm mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>

**Notes**

Change No.1 of 31<sup>st</sup> July 1942 reduced the number of M1 rifles per Rifle Platoon to 27 and added 2 M1903 rifles (for M1 grenade launcher). Battalion totals changed from 325 M1 rifles to 307, and M1903 rifles from 15 to 33.

**Battalion Headquarters (4 Officers)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Lieutenant colonel	1	Pistol	1
Executive officer	Major	1	Pistol	1
Operations & Intelligence, S3 & S2	Captain	1	Carbine	1
Adjutant, S-1	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>4</b>		

**Headquarters Company (7 Officers, 138 men)****Headquarters Platoon (3 Officers, 61 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Company Headquarters Section</b>				
Company commander <i>(also Battalion communications officer)</i>	Captain	1	Carbine	1
Battalion mess officer	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
First Sergeant	First Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Orderly	Private or PFC	3	Rifle, M1903	3
Basic	Private or PFC	3	Carbine	3
<b>Staff Section</b>				
Operations	Staff Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Sergeant Major	Staff Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Gas	Corporal	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Clerk, Headquarters	Technician, grade 5	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Draftsman, topographical	Technician, grade 4	1	Carbine	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	2	Carbine	2
<b>Mess Section</b>				
Mess	Staff Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1	1
Mess	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1	1
Cook	Technician, grade 4	7	Rifle, M1	7
Cook	Technician, grade 5	6	Rifle, M1	6
Cook's helper	Private or PFC	10	Rifle, M1	10
<b>Communication Section</b>				
Section commander	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Section leader	Staff Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Message center chief	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Clerk, record	Technician, grade 5	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Clerk, record	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1903	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	4	Carbine	4
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Wire chief	Corporal	1	Carbine	1
Lineman, telephone	Private or PFC	2	Carbine	2
Radio and visual	Sergeant	1	Carbine	1
Operator, radio	Technician, grade 4	2	Carbine	2
Operator, radio	Technician, grade 5	3	Carbine	3
Operator, radio	Private or PFC	3	Carbine	3
Visual signaler and pigeonier	Technician, grade 5	1	Carbine	1
Visual signaler and pigeonier	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1903	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>64</b>		

**Light Machine Gun Platoon (2 Officers, 40 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Assistant Platoon commander	Second Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Platoon Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1903	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	2	Carbine	2
Basic	Private or PFC	3	Carbine	3
<b><i>Two Sections, each</i></b>				
Section leader	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1903	1
<b><i>Four Squads, each</i></b>				
Gunner, light machine gun	Corporal	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun, .30-cal	1
Gunner, assistant	Private or PFC	1	Pistol	1
Ammunition bearer	Private or PFC	2	Carbine	2
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>42</b>		

**81-mm Mortar Platoon (2 Officers, 37 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	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Assistant Platoon commander	Second Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Platoon Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Agent and Instrument	Corporal	1	Rifle, M1903	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	2	Carbine	2
Basic	Private or PFC	3	Carbine	3
<b><i>Two Sections, each</i></b>				
Section leader	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1903	1
<b><i>Two Squads, each</i></b>				
Squad leader	Corporal	1	Rifle, M1903	1
Gunner	Private or PFC	1	Pistol	1
			Mortar, 81-mm	1
Gunner, assistant	Private or PFC	1	Pistol	1
Ammunition bearer	Private or PFC	4	Carbine	4
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>39</b>		

**Notes**

1. All Rifles, M1903, are provided for antitank defense. They are fitted with the grenade launcher, M1, and used to fire the antitank rifle grenade, M9.
2. Each man in the Company shown armed with a rifle, carbine or submachine gun is in addition armed with a pistol, excepting the 25 men in the Mess Section, who are armed only with rifles.

**Three Rifle Companies (8 Officers, 119 men), each**

**Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 14 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Carbine	1
Second in command	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
First Sergeant	First Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Communication	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1	1
Operations (Intelligence)	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	3	Rifle, M1	3
Operator, radio	Private or PFC*	3	Rifle, M1	3
Rifleman	Private or PFC	5	Rifle, M1	5
*see notes	<b>Total, all ranks</b>	<b>16</b>		

**Three Rifle Platoons (2 Officers, 35 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	First Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Assistant Platoon commander	Second Lieutenant	1	Carbine	1
Platoon Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Signal, radio and code	Corporal	1	Rifle, M1	1
Operator, radio	Private or PFC*	1	Rifle, M1	1
Messenger	Private or PFC	2	Rifle, M1	2
			<i>(unallocated weapons)</i>	
			Light machine gun, .30-cal	2
<b>60-mm Mortar Squad</b>				
Squad leader	Sergeant	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Gunner, mortar	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1	1
			Mortar, 60-mm	1
Gunner, mortar, assistant	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1	1
Ammunition bearer	Private or PFC	3	Rifle, M1	3
<b>Two Squads, each</b>				
Squad leader	Sergeant	1	Rifle, M1	1
Squad leader, assistant**	Corporal	1	Submachine gun, .45-cal	1
Rifleman	Private or PFC	7	Rifle, M1	7
Gunner, light machine gun	Private or PFC	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun, .30-cal	1
Gunner, light machine gun assistant	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1	1
Ammunition bearer	Private or PFC	1	Rifle, M1	1
*see notes	<b>Total, all ranks</b>	<b>37</b>		

\*\*also demolition NCO

### Notes

1. All Rifles, M1903, are provided for antitank defense. They are fitted with the grenade launcher, M1, and used to fire the antitank rifle grenade, M9 (see note 2).
2. Change No.1 of 31<sup>st</sup> July 1942 allowed for one man in each Rifle Squad to be armed with the M1903 (for antitank defense, as above) instead of the Rifle, M1.
3. Each man in the Company shown armed with a rifle, carbine or submachine gun is in addition armed with a pistol.
4. The two unallocated light machine guns per Rifle Platoon are shown as '2 for optional use as directed' in the Table of Organization.
5. Of the total 6 operators, radio, in each Rifle Company, 2 are Technician, grade 5, rank, 2 are Technician, grade 4, rank, and 2 are Private or PFC.