

## British Motor Battalion

**War Establishment reference II/231/3**

**Notified 9<sup>th</sup> February 1944, effective 19<sup>th</sup> January 1944**

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Composed of;

<b>Battalion Headquarters</b>	<b>5 Officers, 27 men</b>
<b>Headquarter Company</b>	<b>5 Officers, 94 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 8 men)
Signal Platoon	(1 Officer, 16 men)
Administrative Platoon	(3 Officers, 70 men)
<b>Support Company</b>	<b>7 Officers, 191 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 24 men)
Three Anti-tank Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 37 men) - (four 6-pdr guns)
Two MMG Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 28 men) – (four MMGs)
<b>Three Motor Companies, each</b>	<b>7 Officers, 168 men</b>
Company Headquarters	(2 Officers, 37 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 30 men)
Scout Platoon	(2 Officers, 41 men) – (11 Carriers)
<b>Total strength</b>	<b>854 all ranks (38 Officers and 816 men)</b>

Please see the comments at the end of this document regarding the issue of individual weapons, which is not provided in the original document has been derived from a number of others sources.

Personnel seating for vehicles is shown as given in organization table for the W.E. except for the Administrative Platoon.

### Summary Table, British Motor Battalion, January 1944

Detail	HQ Company				Total, HQ Company	Support Company			Total, Support Company	Three Motor Companies, each			Total, Motor Company	Total, Battalion
	Battalion HQ	Company HQ	Signal Platoon	Administrative Platoon		Company HQ	Three Anti-tank Platoons (each)	Two MMG Platoons (each)		Company HQ	Three Motor Platoons (each)	Scout Platoon		
<b>i). Personnel</b>														
Officers	5	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	7	2	1	2	7	<b>38</b>
Warrant officers	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
Staff-serjeants	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>6</b>
Serjeants	4	0	1	4	5	1	3	3	16	1	1	4	8	<b>49</b>
Corporals	3	0	1	5	6	3	4	4	23	6	3	4	19	<b>89</b>
Privates	20	6	14	59	79	17	30	21	149	28	26	33	139	<b>665</b>
Total, all ranks (including attached)	33	9	17	73	99	25	38	29	197	39	31	43	175	<b>854</b>
<b>ii). Transport</b>														
Motorcycles	0	1	5	2	8	3	3	1	14	4	1	2	9	<b>49</b>
Cars (4-seater)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Cars, 5-cwt, 4x4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	<b>8</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt, personnel ( <i>see Note 7</i> )	3	1	1	3	5	3	0	0	3	2	4	0	14	<b>53</b>
Trucks, 15-cwt	1	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	6	1	0	1	2	<b>16</b>
Lorries, 3-ton	0	0	0	12	12	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	3	<b>23</b>
Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gallons)	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
Carriers, Loyd	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	24	0	0	0	0	<b>24</b>
Carriers, Universal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	19	0	0	11	11	<b>52</b>
Carriers, Universal, 3-inch mortar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	<b>6</b>
Scout cars	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	<b>6</b>
<b>iii). Weapons</b>														
Pistols	5	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	7	2	1	2	7	<b>38</b>
Rifles	14	6	8	35	49	15	24	25	137	24	18	28	106	<b>518</b>
Machine carbines	13	2	8	35	45	9	13	3	54	13	9	4	44	<b>244</b>
Light machine guns	2	0	2	4	6	1	4	0	13	1	3	12	22	<b>87</b>
Projectors, infantry, anti-tank	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	8	<b>30</b>
2-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	1	3	6	<b>30</b>
3-inch mortars	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	<b>6</b>
6-pdr anti-tank guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	0	0	0	<b>12</b>
Signal pistols ( <i>see comments</i> )	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	24	1	1	4	8	<b>50</b>

#### Notes

Attached personnel consist of 1 Officer, 2 Serjeants, 10 Corporals and 22 Privates (included in above).

Of the total Corporals (excluding attached) 12 may be Lance-serjeants.

Of the total Privates (excluding attached) 66 may be Lance-corporals.

See notes re allocation of Corporal and Lance-corporal ranks (excluding attached).

**Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 27 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Lieutenant-colonel	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 4-seater	1
Regimental serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class I	1	Machine carbine	
Serjeant clerk	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, office	1
Intelligence officer	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Adjutant	Captain	1	Pistol	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Technical officer	Captain	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Scout car	1
			Light machine gun <i>seat for officer commanding</i>	1
Second-in-command	Major	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Machine carbine Scout car	1
			Light machine gun	1
			No.19 set	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Intelligence serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Intelligence personnel	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt*	1
Regimental Police	Private	1	Rifle	
Intelligence personnel	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt*	1
Provost-serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Regimental Police	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt*	1
Intelligence personnel	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Intelligence personnel	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt*	1
Fitter (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Vehicle mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>32</b>	*see notes	

\*Headquarters includes posts for 3 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 1 is confirmed

### Headquarter Company (5 Officers, 94 men)

#### Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 8 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel No.19 set	1 1
Orderly (also for duty as batman)	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<i>Carried in Admin Platoon transport</i>				
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>9</b>		

**Signal Platoon (1 Officer, 16 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
			No.18 set (spare)	1
Signal serjeant	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Signaller-orderly	Private	4	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	4
Signaller	Private	4	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			<i>4 Cable layers</i>	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			<i>Signal stores</i>	
			20-mm gun (on trailer)*	2
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>17</b>	*see notes	

\*Platoon includes 1 Corporal post, which is not confirmed

**Administrative Platoon (3 Officers, 70 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Transport	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>rations</i>	
			<i>reserve small arms amm</i>	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Medical officer (RAMC)	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Medical officer's orderly	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Serjeant i/c stretcher bearers	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
Stretcher bearer	Corporal	2	Machine carbine	
Stretcher bearer	Private	15	Machine carbine	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	2
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>Medical stores</i>	
Quarter-master	<i>not stated</i>	1	Pistol	
Regimental quarter-master-serjeant	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Company quarter-master-serjeant (Technical)	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Pioneer serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Butchery dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Carpenter and joiner	Private	3	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	3	Rifle	
Equipment repairer	Private	2	Rifle	
Vehicle mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
Postman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Sanitary dutyman	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	2	Rifle	
Technical storeman	Private	2	Rifle	
Water dutyman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	2
			Light machine gun	2
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	2
			<i>MT stores</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	2
			<i>Petrol</i>	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
			<i>QM stores</i>	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS Light machine gun Projector, infantry, anti-tank <i>pioneer tools</i> <i>anti-gas stores</i>	1 1 1
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>reserve rations</i>	1
Driver, I.C.	Private	3	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>reserve ammunition</i> <i>(one each for MMG amn,</i> <i>2-inch mortar bombs and</i> <i>3-inch mortar bombs)</i>	3
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker <i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i> Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal)	1 1
			20-mm gun (on trailer)*	4
<b><i>Attached personnel</i></b>				
Shoemaker (RAOC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Armourer (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Electrician (vehicle & plant) (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Vehicle mechanic (REME)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Vehicle mechanic (REME)	Private	2	Rifle	
Officers' mess cook (ACC)	Private	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
	<b>Total, all ranks</b>	<b>73</b>	*see notes	

\*Platoon includes posts for 3 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 2 are confirmed

**Support Company (7 Officers, 191 men)****Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 24 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Major	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.18 set	1
			No.19 set	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Vehicle mechanic (REME)	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
Vehicle mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Scout car	1
			No.19 set	1
			Light machine gun*	1
Transport	Serjeant	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	2
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, GS	1
			<i>Company stores, MT stores</i>	
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker	1
			<i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i>	
			Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal)	1
	<b>Total, all ranks</b>	<b>26</b>	*see notes	

\*Headquarters includes 1 Corporal post, which is not confirmed



**Three Anti-tank Platoons (1 Officer, 37 men), each**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b><i>Headquarters</i></b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			No.18 set	1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>ammunition &amp; stores</i>	
Fitter (REME)	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>ammunition</i>	
<b><i>Two Sections, each</i></b>				
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b><i>Detachment</i></b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			6-pdr anti-tank gun	1
			2-inch mortar	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			Light machine gun	1
<b><i>Detachment</i></b>				
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			6-pdr anti-tank gun	1
			2-inch mortar	1
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Gun number	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Loyd	1
			Light machine gun	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>38</b>		

**Two MMG Platoons (1 Officer, 28 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			No.18 set	1
			No.19 set*	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Two Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Rangetaker	Private	1	Machine carbine	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Medium machine gun	1
Gun number	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Gun number	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Medium machine gun	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>29</b>	*added from July 1944	

**Three Motor Companies (7 Officers, 168 men), each**

**Company Headquarters (2 Officers, 37 men)**

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Rank*</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weapon/Vehicle/Other</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b><i>Fighting</i></b>				
Company commander	Major	1	Pistol	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Clerk	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.18 set	1
			No.19 set	1
Second-in-command	Captain	1	Pistol	
Company serjeant-major	Warrant officer, class II	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
			No.19 set	1
Orderly	Private	3	Machine carbine	
			Motorcycle, solo	3
<b><i>3-inch Mortar Detachment</i></b>				
Mortarman (3-inch)	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
Detachment commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal (3-in mortar)	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (3-inch)	Private	3	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Carrier, Universal (3-in mortar)	1
			3-inch mortar	1
			<i>3-inch ammunition</i>	
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Administrative</b>				
Transport	Corporal	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
Vehicle mechanic (REME) Driver, I.C.	Corporal Private	1 1	Rifle Machine carbine Car, 5-cwt	1
Vehicle mechanic Driver, I.C.	Private Private	1 1	Rifle Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS <i>petrol and stores</i>	1
Technical storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Storeman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, GS Light machine gun Projector, infantry, anti-tank <i>reserve small arms amn</i>	1 1 1
Company quarter-master-serjeant	Staff-serjeant	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Corporal	1	Rifle	
Other ranks' cook (ACC)	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Lorry, 3-ton, mobile cooker <i>cooking sets, rations &amp; water tins</i> Trailer, 15-cwt, water (180-gal)	1 1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>39</b>		

\*Headquarters includes posts for 4 Corporals (excluding attached), of which 2 are confirmed

**Three Motor Platoons (1 Officer, 30 men), each**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Signaller	Private	1	Rifle	
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Machine carbine 2-inch mortar	1
Mortarman (2-inch)	Private	1	Rifle	
Batman-driver	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel Projector, infantry, anti-tank No.18 set	1 1 1
Orderly	Private	1	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Corporal	1	Machine carbine	
<i>Rifle Group</i>				
LMG number and rifleman	Private	3	Rifle	
<i>Bren Group</i>				
LMG number and rifleman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine Truck, 15-cwt, personnel	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>31</b>		

\* Section organization extrapolated from Infantry Training, Part VIII, of March 1944.

**Scout Platoon (2 Officers, 41 men)**

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<b>Headquarters</b>				
Platoon commander	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Driver-operator	Private	2	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle Carrier, Universal Light machine gun No.19 set	1 1 1
Orderly	Private	2	Machine carbine Motorcycle, solo	2
<b>Continued...</b>				

Detail	Rank*	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Second-in-command ( <i>see Notes</i> )	Subaltern	1	Pistol	
Batman ( <i>see Notes</i> )	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Light machine gun	1
Batman	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Scout car	1
			Light machine gun	1
Platoon serjeant	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver, I.C.	Private	1	Machine carbine	
			Truck, 15-cwt, GS	1
<b>Three Sections, each</b>				
Section commander	Serjeant	1	Rifle	
Driver-operator	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-operator	Private	1	Rifle	
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			Projector, infantry, anti-tank	1
			No.19 set	1
LMG number and rifleman	Corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
			2-inch mortar	1
LMG number and rifleman	Lance-corporal	1	Rifle	
LMG number and rifleman	Private	1	Light machine gun	1
Driver-mechanic	Private	1	Rifle	
			Carrier, Universal	1
<b>Total, all ranks</b>		<b>43</b>		

\*Platoon includes posts for 4 Corporals, of which 3 are confirmed

### Notes

1. No rank is given for either the Battalion Quarter-master or the attached Medical Officer (RAMC).
2. The second officer and attendant batman in each Scout Platoon was only allowed when specially authorized by the War Office.
3. The Battalion was authorized 79 Corporals and 66 Lance-corporals (excluding attached personnel). Of these posts, 65 Corporals and 14 Lance-corporals are positively identified in the War Establishment and are shown in the foregoing. I have also assumed there was one Lance-corporal in each Motor Section. I would expect there was also one in each Section of the Anti-tank Platoons, as found in the standard Infantry Battalion, plus others in the MMG Platoons.
4. NCO ranks for REME personnel are given in the War Establishment but their distribution across the Battalion is not shown. The position of REME NCOs is therefore assumed in the foregoing.
5. At least 1 officer and 12 men will be trained in anti-gas duties and decontamination work.
6. All officers in the motor companies will be trained in the use of the 3-inch mortar.
7. All trucks, 15-cwt, personnel, in the Motor Battalions of 21 Army Group were replaced on a one-for-one basis by US supplied halftracks during early 1944. The WE was not amended.
8. The four 5-cwt cars in Battalion Headquarters, allocated to the Intelligence Section and Regimental Police, could be replaced by eight solo motorcycles if cars were not available. Presumably this would see all eight men armed with Sten guns rather than four with rifles and four with Stens.

### Amendments

No.1 – not actually located. I would suggest this simply changed the nomenclature of the carriers in the MMG Platoons from carriers, Universal to carriers, MMG. This change was made to the Machine Gun Battalion WE via its amendment No.1 of 26th May 1944.

No.2 of 9<sup>th</sup> June 1944 – a correction to the actual WE, which noted the 5-cwt car still shown in the total of vehicles for Support Company was a printing error.

No.3 of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1944 – two changes of importance were made here. Firstly, another correction, this time regarding light machine guns. The original WE had included an LMG for each scout car in Battalion Headquarters, but omitted that for the scout car in Support Company Headquarters. The amendment added this LMG for a new total of 87 in the Motor Battalion. It also corrected the associated errors in the Organization table of the WE, by adding these weapons to the appropriate scout cars.

Also noted in amendment No.3 was the deletion of the six 20-mm light anti-aircraft guns. These had been shown as two in the Signal Platoon and four in the Administrative Platoon under WE II/231/3, with a footnote that they were to be held as a pool and issued as required. During 1944 the 20-mm guns dotted about many British WEs were being deleted, and this was another such change.

No.4 of 27<sup>th</sup> August 1944 – upgraded one 3-ton lorry in the Administrative Platoon to be equipped with a winch. This was one of the two vehicles detailed in the foregoing as carrying MT stores.

No.5 of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1944 – added four 10-cwt trailers, one to Battalion Headquarters and one to each Motor Company Headquarters, to be towed by the Jeep carrying REME personnel.

No.6 of 12<sup>th</sup> December 1944 – stated that, while no snipers ‘as such’ were included on the WE;

*“Six privates will be trained and armed as snipers and will include the following additional ranks and appointments – Corporal (1), Lance-corporal (1)”*

No.7 of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945 – added the trade of driver-mechanic to the Transport Serjeant and each Transport Corporal, and that of driver-operator to the Signal Serjeant.

No.8 of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1945 – replaced the three 15-cwt trucks of the stretcher-bearers in the Administrative Platoon with three armoured ambulances.

### Author’s comments

British War Establishment tables had ceased to include details of individual weapons (pistols, rifles and machine carbines) by 1944. This information had graduated to the AFG.1098 war equipment table for the unit. A table showing the distribution of individual weapons for the Motor Battalion was included in Progress Bulletin (Infantry) No.9 of April 1944, and has been used in the foregoing.

The scale of issue of pistols, machine carbines and rifles is given in Appendix A to War Office letter No.57/SA/2139 (Inf.1) dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 1943. For the Motor Battalion this is given as;

Pistols	All Officers
Machine carbines	Warrant Officers, class I Drivers of motorcycles Drivers of all vehicles (except Carriers Universal) Section commanders in Motor Platoon Number 1 of 2-inch mortar in Motor Platoon Rangetakers Stretcher Bearers
Rifles	Remaining personnel
No personal weapon	Firers of single LMGs not in possession of personal weapon (total 54)

Under the January 1944 establishment, the Motor Battalion was authorised six sniper rifles with telescopic sights. No personnel were designated as snipers on the WE (see above Amendment No.8). These weapons may have initially been held as a pool for issue as required, but they were counted as the personal weapons for six men within the Battalion by 1945 at least.

The total of signal pistols is given as 38 in a contemporary source from 1943, which increased to 50 by April 1945. The additional 12 were a result of six signal pistols being added to each MMG Platoon, putting them on a par with an MMG Platoon in an MG Battalion. By July 1945 the total of signal pistols was 56, the extra six being one in each scout car (I assume these were an existing item but counted as vehicle rather than unit equipment in previous documentation).

The distribution of signal pistols within the Battalion is not given and the line in the above summary table is my *suggestion* only, using the allocation within the Infantry Battalion of 1944 as a guideline.