

German Volks Grenadier Fusilier Company (Bicycle)

KStN 149 V dated 1st September 1944

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Composed of;

Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 18 men)
Two MP Platoons, each	(1 Officer*, 31 men)
One Rifle Platoon	(32 men)*
Heavy Platoon	(37 men)* (two heavy machine guns and two 8-cm mortars)
Infantry Gun Platoon	(1 Officer, 27 men) - (two 7.5-cm guns)
Company Trains	(20 men)
Total strength	200 all ranks (3 Officers and 197 men)

*One MP (Machine Pistol) Platoon, the Rifle Platoon and the Heavy Platoon are commanded by Senior NCOs from *Stellengruppe 'O'*.

Summary Table, German Volks Grenadier Fusilier Company (Bicycle), September 1944

Detail	Fusilier Company						Total, Fusilier Company
	Company HQ	Two MP Platoons (each)*	Rifle Platoon	Heavy Platoon	7.5-cm Infantry Gun Platoon	Company Trains	
i). Personnel							
Officers*	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
NCOs ('O' group)*	0	0	1	1	0	2	5
NCOs ('G' group)	2	3	3	6	4	3	24
Privates ('M' group)	16	28	28	30	23	15	168
Total, all ranks	19	32	32	37	28	20	200
ii). Transport							
Draught horses	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
Horse-drawn wagons	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Bicycles	19	32	32	35	12	4	166
Medium trucks	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Raupenschlepper Ost</i>	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
iii). Weapons							
Pistols	1	2	4	12	3	2	26
Machine pistols	8	26	9	9	5	1	84
Rifles	10	4	19	16	20	17	90
Light machine guns	0	1	3	0	1	3	9
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
8-cm mortars	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
7.5-cm light infantry guns	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

*one MP Platoon, the Rifle Platoon and the Heavy Platoon are commanded by NCOs from *Stellengruppe "O"*

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 18 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Company (HQ) Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	6	Machine pistol	6
			Bicycle	6
Radio operator	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Bicycle	4
Sharpshooter	Soldier - M	6	Rifle	6
			Bicycle	6
Total, all ranks		19		

Two MP (Machine Pistol) Platoons (1 Officer or Senior NCO, 31 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z <u>or</u> Non-commissioned - O	1	Machine pistol*	1
			Bicycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Machine pistol*	2
			Bicycle	2
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Two MP Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol*	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman	Soldier - M	8	Machine pistol*	8
			Bicycle	8
Rifle Squad				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol*	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifle grenadier	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Bicycle	3
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	3	Machine pistol*	3
			Bicycle	3
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Machine pistol*	1
			Bicycle	1
*also Bicycle mechanic	Total, all ranks	32	*assumed to denote an MP44	

Note

The original KStN table does not distinguish between the MP40 and the MP44, merely giving an overall total of 84 machine pistols for the Fusilier Company. A summary of weapons for the Volks Grenadier Division does indicate 55 MP44s (assault rifles) and 29 MP40s for the Fusilier Company. In the above where a machine pistol is marked * this is to denote that it was likely to be an MP44 but it is only my *estimation* and not derived from a contemporary document. The same applies to the Rifle Platoon following.

Rifle Platoon (1 Senior NCO, 31 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Non-commissioned - O	1	Machine pistol*	1
			Bicycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Machine pistol*	2
			Bicycle	2
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Two Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Bicycle	4
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Bicycle	2
One Squad				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rifle grenadier	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Bicycle	3
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
			Bicycle	2
Rifleman & machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Bicycle	2
*also Bicycle mechanic	Total, all ranks	32	*assumed to denote an MP44	

Heavy Platoon (37 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Non-commissioned - O	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Machine pistol	2
			Bicycle	2
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Assistant vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			<i>Raupenschlepper Ost</i>	1
			<i>for ammunition, equipment</i>	
			<i>and packs</i>	
Heavy Machine Gun Group				
Group leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Two Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
			Bicycle	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol Bicycle	1 1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle Bicycle	3 3
8-cm Mortar Group				
Group leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol Bicycle	1 1
Aiming circle NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol Bicycle	1 1
Position NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol Bicycle	1 1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	2	Rifle Bicycle	2 2
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle Bicycle	1 1
<i>Two Mortars, each</i>				
Mortar leader	Soldier - M	1	Pistol Bicycle	1 1
Mortar gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol 8-cm mortar Bicycle	1 1 1
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol Bicycle	1 1
Mortar crewman	Soldier - M	2	Rifle Bicycle	2 2
*also Bicycle mechanic	Total, all ranks	37		

Light Infantry Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 27 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Machine pistol Bicycle	1 1
Aiming circle NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol Bicycle	1 1
Radio operator (also messenger)	Soldier - M	2	Rifle Bicycle	2 2
			Light machine gun**	1
Light Field Cable Troop '3'				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Machine pistol Bicycle	1 1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Bicycle	3
(with Guns)				
Position NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Aiming circle II	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
<i>Two Guns, each</i>				
Gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Gun crewman	Soldier - M	6	Rifle**	6
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			<i>Raupenschlepper Ost</i>	1
			<i>for ammunition and packs</i>	
			7.5-cm light infantry gun	1
*also assistant RSO driver	Total, all ranks	28		

**2 crewmen also serve the LMG; 1 of these armed with pistol instead of rifle

Train (20 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Train				
Senior NCO	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Armourer NCO	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Equipment NCO (Train leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Machine pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Pay clerk (also for rations)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Field cook NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Clerk*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Bicycle	1
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Bicycle mechanic*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Tailor*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	6	Rifle	6
			Horse-drawn wagon, Hf.1	6
			Draught horse	12
			<i>Ammunition (3) Equipment, spare parts and packs (3)</i>	
			Light machine gun (reserve)	3
Field cook (also assistant driver)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			3-ton truck <i>for field kitchen</i>	1
*also, or includes, a wagon escort	Total, all ranks	20		

Additional notes on weapons

Weapon	No.	Notes
<i>The 90 rifles in the Company may include the following</i>		
Self-loading rifle	3	
Rifle with x4 telescopic sight	3	for Sharpshooters
Rifle grenade launcher	9*	No figure found; assume a minimum of 3 per Platoon

Notes

1. Includes 10 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
2. Of the Position Group "G" NCOs, 3 are *Oberfeldwebel* and 5 *Feldwebel*.
3. Forms a Gas Warning Troop of 1 Leader and 3 men, and a Disinfection Troop of 1 Leader and 6 men (among which is a Medic or a stretcher-bearer).
4. 1 NCO in the Company is detailed as Gas warfare NCO.
5. Of the 168 men in Position Group "M", 4 may be Hiwis. The posts occupied by Hiwis to be determined by the Unit commander.