

German Infantry Battalion 'a'

KStN 111(R), 131a(R) and 151a

All tables dated 1st October 1937

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Composed of;

Battalion Headquarters	5 Officers, 15 men
Communication Detachment	(19 men)
Battle Train	(2 Officers, 17 men)
Rations Train	(8 men)
Baggage Train	(7 men)
Three Rifle Companies, each	4 Officers, 161 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 11 men)
Three Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 42 men)
Company Trains	(24 men)
Machine Gun Company	4 Officers, 143 men
Company Headquarters	(1 Officer, 20 men)
Two MG Platoons, each	(1 Officer, 36 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
MG Platoon	(1 Officer, 38 men) - (four heavy machine guns)
Company Trains	(13 men)
Total strength	715 all ranks (23 Officers and 692 men)

Summary Table, German Infantry Battalion 'a', October 1937

Detail	Battalion Headquarters			Total, Headquarters	Three Rifle Companies, each			Total, Rifle Company	Machine Gun Company					Total, MG Company	Total, Battalion
	Headquarters	Communication Detachment	Battalion Trains		Company HQ	Three Rifle Platoons (each)	Company Trains		Company HQ	Communication Detachment	Two Heavy MG Platoons (each)	Heavy Machine Gun Platoon	Company Trains		
i). Personnel															
Officers	4	0	1	5	1	1	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	4	21
<i>Beamte</i> (Officials)	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
NCOs ('O' group)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
NCOs ('G' group)	1	5	8	14	1	6	2	21	2	1	6	6	4	25	102
Privates ('M' group)	14	14	23	51	10	36	21	139	7	10	30	32	8	117	585
Total, all ranks	20	19	34	73	12	43	24	165	10	11	37	39	13	147	715
ii). Transport															
Riding horses	8	0	2	10	1	0	0	1	6	0	7	11	2	33	46
Draught horses	0	2	12	14	0	0	10	10	0	2	8	16	4	38	82
Horse-drawn wagons	0	1	5	6	0	0	4	4	0	1	4	4	1	14	32
Kitchens (horse-drawn)	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Bicycles	8	1	3	12	4	0	3	7	2	1	0	0	3	6	39
Motorcycles, solo	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Motorcycle combinations	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Light truck	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Medium truck	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
iii). Weapons															
Pistols	6	1	9	16	1	10	7	38	3	1	17	17	6	61	191
Rifles	14	18	25	57	11	33	17	127	7	10	20	22	7	86	524
Light machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Heavy machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	12	12

Battalion Headquarters (5 Officers, 15 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion commander	Officer - B	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	2
Battalion Adjutant	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	2
Orderly officer	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Battalion physician	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Paymaster	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Messenger leader (also bugler)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Mounted messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Mounted messenger	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Riding horse	1
Bicycle messenger	Soldier - M	6	Rifle	6
			Bicycle	6
Motorcycle messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Motorcycle	2
Mounted horse holder	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			<i>Rides officer's spare horse</i>	
Horse holder	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
*also carries scissor scope	Total, all ranks	20		

Communication Detachment (19 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Detachment leader (also radio operator and telephonist)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
General Duty (for special use)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon, Hf.1/1 (signal eqpt)	1
			Draught horse	2
<i>Two Telephone Troops, type 'a', each</i>				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd', each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Two Pack Radio Troops, type 'd', each				
Radio operator, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Radio operator	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Total, all ranks		19		

Battle Train (2 Officers, 17 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Assistant doctor	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Senior armourer	Official - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Battle Train leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Riding horse	1
Gas protection	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Senior blacksmith	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Motorcycle & sidecar	1
Assistant armourer*	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Blacksmith*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Cartwright (wheelwright)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Horse holder (Officer's horse)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	5	Rifle	5
			Army wagon, Hf.1	2
			Draught horse	4
			<i>one for entrenching tools</i>	
			<i>one for medical equipment</i>	
			Smiths' wagon, Hf.1/13	1
			Draught horse	2
			Armourers' wagon, Hf.1/14	1
			Draught horse	2
			Field kitchen, small, Hf.12 or Hf.14	1
			Draught horse	2
Total, all ranks		19		

*is, or includes 1, wagon escort

Rations Train (8 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Echelon I</i>				
Rations NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Wagon escort	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Horse-drawn wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
<i>Echelon II</i>				
Rations NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Vehicle escort *	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Light truck	2
*1 also a mechanic	Total, all ranks	8		

Baggage Train (7 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Battalion clerk	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
Leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Motorcycle	1
Clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Saddler (for MG Company)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker (for MG Company)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Tailor (for MG Company)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Medium truck	1
*1 of these also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	7		

Below personnel and transport attached from Regimental Light Infantry Column to Battalion Headquarters (not counted on Battalion strength)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Equipment issuer	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Horse-drawn wagon	2
			Draught horse	4

Three Rifle Companies (4 Officers, 161 men), each**Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 11 men)**

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Company (HQ) Troop leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	5	Rifle	5
Bicyclist	Soldier - M	4	Rifle	4
			Bicycle	4
Horse holder	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Total, all ranks		12		

Three Rifle Platoons (1 Officer, 42 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
Messenger (1 also bugler)	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Three Squads, each				
Squad leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Troop leader (assistant squad leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Rifleman	Soldier - M	7	Rifle	7
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Light machine gun	1
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
Light machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Total, all ranks		43		

Battle Train (18 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Train leader	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Rifleman (also wagon escort)	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
Bicyclist	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Stretcher-bearer	Soldier - M	4	Pistol	4
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
			Wagon, Hf.7/11 (equipment)	3
			Draught horse	6
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Field kitchen, large, Hf.11 or 13	1
			Draught horse	2
*1 also a wagon escort	Total, all ranks	18		

Rations Train (2 men)

(Echelon II of Rations Train provided by Battalion Headquarters)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Echelon I				
Rations issue (leader)*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Horse-drawn wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
*also a wagon escort	Total, all ranks	2		

Baggage Train (4 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk (leader)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Tailor	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Shoemaker*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Vehicle driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Light truck	1
*also a vehicle escort	Total, all ranks	4		

Machine Gun Company (4 Officers, 143 men)

Company Headquarters (1 Officer, 9 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Company commander	Officer - K	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	2
Leader (ranging & weather)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Riding horse	1
Fodder master (vehicle leader)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Mounted messenger (also bugler)	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Riding horse	1
Mounted messenger*	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Bicyclist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Bicycle	2
Mounted horse holder	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			<i>Rides officer's spare horse</i>	
Total, all ranks		10		

*also carries scissor scope

Communication Detachment (11 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Detachment leader (telephonist)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Wagon, Hf.1/1 (signal eqpt)	1
			Draught horse	2
<i>Three Telephone Troops, type 'a', each</i>				
Telephonist, Troop leader	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Telephonist	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Total, all ranks		11		

Two Heavy Machine Gun Platoons (1 Officer, 36 men), each

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
<i>Headquarters</i>				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Aiming circle NCO <i>(1 also half-Platoon Leader)</i>	Non-commissioned - G	2	Pistol	2
			Riding horse	2
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
			Riding horse	2
Mounted messenger*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Riding horse	2
Messenger	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Machine gun wagon, Jf.3/Jf.5	2
			Draught horse	4
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Ammunition wagon, Hf.1	2
			Draught horse	4
Four Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
*1 also Officer's horse holder	Total, all ranks	37		

Heavy Machine Gun Platoon (1 Officer, 38 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Headquarters				
Platoon commander	Officer - Z	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Aiming circle NCO (1 also half-Platoon Leader)	Non-commissioned - G	2	Pistol	2
			Riding horse	2
Rangetaker	Soldier - M	2	Pistol	2
			Riding horse	2
Mounted messenger*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
			Riding horse	2
Driver from saddle	Soldier - M	8	Rifle	8
			Machine gun wagon, Jf.4	4
			Draught horse	16
Four Guns, each				
Machine gun leader	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Machine gunner	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
			Heavy machine gun	1
Continued...				

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Machine gun crewman	Soldier - M	3	Rifle	3
*1 also Officer's horse holder	Total, all ranks	39		

Battle Train (10 men)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Train leader	Non-commissioned - O	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Equipment (and gas) NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Rifle	1
			Bicycle	1
Armament NCO (armourer)	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Senior blacksmith	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Riding horse	1
Medical NCO	Non-commissioned - G	1	Pistol	1
			Bicycle	1
Assistant armourer	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Blacksmith	Soldier - M	1	Pistol	1
Cook*	Soldier - M	2	Rifle	2
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Field kitchen, large, Hf.11 or 13	1
			Draught horse	2
*1 also a wagon escort	Total, all ranks	10		

Rations Train (3 men)

(Echelon II of Rations Train provided by Battalion Headquarters)

Detail	Rank	No.	Weapon/Vehicle/Other	No.
Pay clerk	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Rations leader*	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
Wagon driver	Soldier - M	1	Rifle	1
			Horse-drawn wagon	1
			Draught horse	2
*also a wagon escort	Total, all ranks	3		

Notes

1. Battalion Headquarters includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
2. Each Rifle Company includes 3 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
3. The MG Company includes 6 men trained as assistant stretcher-bearers.
4. Unless otherwise stated, all horse-drawn wagons are noted as being a replacement (of the 'traditional' type) for the Hf.1 wagon.