

The Field Park Company, Royal Engineers

The Field Park Company provided the workshop and stores elements of the engineer provision for an infantry division during the Second World War, with its equivalent in an armoured division being a field park squadron. Each infantry division had one Royal Engineers field park company on its establishment, which provided the heavy equipment, workshop and stores provision for the division as a whole.

War Establishment II/195/2, issued in January 1944, determined the structure and personnel within a field park company during the campaign in North West Europe in 1944 and 1945. It remained consistent throughout the campaign.

A Major commanded each field company, with a Captain as his second-in-command. There was a small company headquarters, including the company serjeant major and company quarter-master-serjeant. Each company or squadron comprised three platoons; each platoon consisting of a headquarters and four sections commanded by a subaltern. Each section had a corporal or lance serjeant as the commander, and eleven other sappers.

The nature of the trades held by the sappers within each section was variable and determined according to the tasks to which they were allocated. Each section was issued with one Bren gun, one Sten gun (usually carried by the section commander), and ten Lee-Enfield rifles.

FIELD PARK COMPANY OR SQUADRON – PERSONNEL

- Major;
- Captain;
- 2 x Subalterns.

- Company Serjeant Major;
- Company Quarter-Master Serjeant;
- Staff Serjeant, Military Machanist;
- Transport Serjeant;
- 2 x Serjeants.

- Lance Serjeant, Sapper class;
- 4 x Corporals, Sapper class;
- 2 x Corporals, Driver class;
- 6 x Lance Corporals, Sapper class;
- 4 x Lance Corporals, Driver class;
- 48 x Sappers;
- 36 x Drivers.

Total = 111

Attached Personnel

- 4 x Cooks A.C.C..

Total = 4

Personnel by Trades

- 2 x Blacksmiths;
- Bricklayer;
- 4 x Carpenters and Joiners;
- 4 x Clerks;
- Draughtsman, Mechanical;
- 4 x Driver Mechanics, driver class;
- 3 x Electricians, maintenance;
- 3 x Engine Fitters, IC and pumps;
- Engine Fitter, Mechanical Equipment;
- 2 x Engine Hands, IC;
- Equipment Repairer;
- 2 x Fitters;
- 8 x Operator Excavators;
- 2 x Painters and Decorators;
- 2 x General Dutymen;
- 4 x Motorcyclists;
- 10 x Storesmen;
- 2 x Plumbers and Pipe Fitters;
- Surveyor, Engineering;
- 2 x Sawyers;
- 2 x Sheet Metal Workers;
- Turner;
- 2 x Vehicle Mechanics, Driver class;
- Welder Acetylene;
- Welder Electric.

Total = 65

Non Tradesmen

- 4 x Batmen;
- 29 x Drivers of vehicles;
- Sanitary Dutyman;
- 2 x Transport non-commissioned officers;
- Water Dutyman.

Total = 37

Vehicles

- Bicycle;
- 9 x Motorcycles;
- 2 x Cars, 4 seater 4 x 4 Humber F.W.D. Heavy Utility;
- 2 x cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 Jeeps;
- 2 x Light Recce Cars;
- 8 x Trucks 15 cwt General Service;
- 2 x 15cwt Compressor;
- 1 x Machinery, K.L.;
- 10 x 3ton 4 x 4 General Service;
- 1 x 3 ton 4 x 4 Winch;
- 1 x 3 ton 4 x 4 Machinery, R.E.;
- 1 x 3 ton 6 x 4 Crane;
- 3 x 4 x 4 Tractors;
- 3 x 18 ton Trailer;
- 1 x Water Trailer.

Mechanical Equipment

- 2 x Crawler Tractor Class II, Caterpillar D4 Angledozer;
- 1 x Crawler Tractor Class IV, Caterpillar D7 Angledozer.

COMPANY HEADQUARTERS

Personnel

- Major;
- Captain;
- Subaltern;
- Company Serjeant Major;
- Company Quarter-Master Serjeant;
- Transport Serjeant;
- Lance Serjeant;
- Corporal Sapper class;
- Corporal Driver class;
- Lance Corporal Sapper class;
- Lance Corporal Driver class;
- 9 x Sappers;
- 13 x Drivers.

Total = 33

Attached

- 4 x Cooks, A.C.C..

Personnel by Trades

- 4 x Clerks;
- Draughtsman Mechanical;
- Driver Mechanic, Driver class;
- 3 x Motorcyclists;
- 3 x Storesmen;
- Surveyor, Engineering;
- Vehicle Mechanics, Driver class.

Total = 26

Non-Tradesmen

- 3 x Batmen;
- 7 x Drivers of vehicles;
- Sanitary Dutyman;
- Transport non-commissioned officer;
- Water Dutyman.

Total = 13

Vehicles

- 7 x Motorcycles;
- 2 x Light Recce Cars;
- 1 x Truck 15 cwt G.S.;
- 1 x 15 cwt water;
- 1 x 15 cwt personnel 4 x 4;
- 5 x 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S.;
- 1 x 3 ton 4 x 4 winch.

The 15 cwt 4 x 4 will be fitted with a wireless set and one of the 3ton 4 x 4 lorries will be for use as an office. The company headquarters were issued with four Bren guns, two PIAT anti-tank weapons and one 20mm anti-aircraft guns.

Organisation

All transport was at platoon headquarters

- Motorcycle 1;
 - Transport Serjeant;
- Motorcycle 2;
 - Motorcyclist;
- Motorcycle 3;
 - Motorcyclist;
- Motorcycle 4
 - Motorcyclist;
- Car 4 seater
 - Major, Batman, Driver I.C.;
- Car 5 cwt 4 x 4 (Jeep);
 - Captain, Batman;
- Car 5 cwt 4 x 4 (Jeep);
 - Subaltern, Driver I.C.;
- Truck 15 cwt G.S. 1;
 - 2 x Batmen, Cook, A.C.C., Driver I.C.;
 - Carries Officers' Mess equipment and baggage;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 1;
 - 3 x Cooks, A.C.C., Water Dutyman, Driver I.C.;
 - Carries cooking sets and rations, tows water trailer;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 2;
 - 4 x Clerks, Driver I.C.;
 - For use as office;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 3;
 - Driver I.C.;
 - Carries Quarter-Master's stores and anti-gas stores;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 4;
 - Driver I.C.;
 - Carries petrol and M.T. stores.

WORKSHOP PLATOON or TROOP

Personnel

- Subaltern;
- Staff Serjeant, Military Mechanist;
- Serjeant;
- 2 x Corporals Sapper class;
- 3 x Lance Corporals Sapper class;
- Lance Corporal Driver class;
- 25 x Sappers;
- 6 x Drivers.

Total = 40

Personnel by Trades

- 2 x Blacksmiths;
- Bricklayer;
- 4 x Carpenters and Joiners;
- Driver Mechanic, Driver class;
- 3 x Electricians, Maintenance;
- 3 x Engine Fitters, I.C. and pumps;
- Engine Fitter, Mechanical equipment;
- 2 x Engine Hands I.C.;
- Equipment Repairer;
- 2 x Fitters;
- 2 x Painter and Decorators;
- Storeman;
- 2 x Plumber and Pipe Fitter;
- 2 x Sawyers;
- Sheet Metal Worker;
- Turner;
- Welder Acetylene;
- Welder Electric.

Total = 30

Non-Tradesmen

- Batman;
- 5 x Drivers of vehicles.

Total = 6

Organisation

All transport was at platoon headquarters

- Motorcycle 1;
 - Subaltern;
- Motorcycle 2;
 - Serjeant;
- Truck 15 cwt Machinery K.L.;
 - 2 x Welders, Driver I.C.;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 1;
 - Electrician, Driver I.C.;
 - Carries electric light sets;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 2;
 - Driver I.C.;
 - Carries all personnel not otherwise assigned;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. 3;
 - Storeman, Driver I.C.;
 - Carries technical stores;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 Winch;
 - Driver mechanic;
- 3 ton 4 x 4 Machinery;
 - Driver I.C.;

STORES PLATOON or TROOPPersonnel

- Serjeant;
- Corporal Sapper class;
- Corporal, Driver class;
- 2 x Lance Corporals, Sapper class;
- 2 x Lance Corporals, Driver class;
- 14 x Sappers;
- 17 x Drivers.

Total = 38

Personnel by Trades

- 2 x Drivers Mechanic, Driver class;
- 8 x Operators, Excavator;
- 2 x General Dutymen;
- Motorcyclist;
- 6 x Storesmen.

Total = 19

Non-Tradesmen

- Transport non-commissioned officer;
- 17 x Drivers of vehicles.

Total = 18

Vehicles

- 2 x Motorcycles;
- 7 x Truck 15 cwt G.S.;
- 2 x 15 cwt compressor;
- 3 x 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S.;
- 1 x 3 ton 4 x 4 machinery;
- 1 x 3 ton 6 x 4 crane;
- 3 x 4 x 4 tractors.
- 3 x 18 ton trailers'

Mechanical Equipment

2 x Crawlers Tractor Class II Caterpillar D4 Angledozer;
1 x Crawler Tractor Class IV, Caterpillar D7 Andledozer.

The Stores Platoon/Troop held 48 x no.75 mines and 24 x mine detectors. The divisional troops company in the divisional R.A.S.C. held four 3 ton lorries that carried a total of 2,100 x No 75 mines and 1,320 x Mk V mines. The field park company held the divisional reserve of tools for use by all units other than the Royal Engineers, and this included:

- 38 x felling axes;
- 38 x hand axes;
- 515 x pick axes;
- 12 x reaping hooks;
- 12 x mauls;
- 50 x shovels, R.E.;
- 860 x shovels G.S.;
- 2 x spades.

This would equate to two, 3 ton lorry loads.

If a field park company was serving as G.H.Q., Army or Corps Engineers, an additional Caterpillar Auto Patrol grader was added to the establishment. To convey this, an additional Tractor, 4 x 4 Medium and 18 ton, 8 wheeled low loading trailer were added; and one engine fitter (mechanical equipment), one fitter, one operator excavator, and two drivers.