

Jordanian Army 1967

In 1967 the Jordanian Armed Forces totalled some 55,000 troops and equipped with over 400 modern Western tanks. The Jordanian Army was a long-term-service, professional army, relatively well-equipped and well-trained. The small Royal Jordanian Air Force combat arm comprised 24 British-made Hawker Hunter fighters.

In 1956 British officers training the Jordanian forces were ordered out of Jordan. At this stage the Jordanian army was equipped with a number of Marmon-Herrington Armoured Cars, some 40 Charioteers tanks armed with 17pdrs and 24 Archer self-propelled anti-tank guns. A re-equipment program followed.

Firstly, some fifty British Centurion Mk 1, 3 and 5 tanks, purchased between 1954 and 1956, began to enter service. This was supplemented by tank purchases from the United States beginning in 1964.

By 1967 Jordan had a generally modern Western equipped army drawing on a mixture of British and American equipment. The tanks in service by 1967 comprised 90 Centurions; 49 M47; 197 M48 and 100 M48A1s. These were supplemented by self-propelled artillery in the form of 36 SP M52 155mm guns, as well as 210 M113 APCs.



In 1967 the 10th Independent Tank Regiment, equipped with Centurions, was deployed on East Bank. Some sources indicate this formation was moved to the West Bank and was involved in the fighting. It is worth noting that the 40th Armoured Brigade, the Jordanian elite armoured formation, was re-equipped with Centurions by 1970 but was using M48s during 1967. By 1970 the number of Centurions had risen to 150 in service.

The Jordanians lost 179 tanks and many M113s and M52 SP guns in the fighting. Interestingly a number of M113s were captured by Israel during the war and as a result were the first M113s to enter service with the IDF.

Order of Battle & Dispositions:

The following outlines the Order of Battle of the Jordanian army at the time of the 1967 with their dispositions on where known.

4th "King Talal" Infantry Brigade (Hazzaa): - Deployed in Jerusalem

- 2nd "Hussein" Battalion (Kreishan)
- 4th Battalion.
- 8th Battalion.

9th Field Artillery Regiment (Salah) - Deployed in support of "King Talal" Brigade and other forces in Jerusalem area.

- 1st Battery - 25pdr
- 2nd Battery - 25pdr
- 3rd Battery - 25pdr

Imam Ali Infantry Brigade (Shihadeh)

- Ussamah Bin Zeid Battalion (Badi Awad) - Deployed in Jerusalem.
- Other battalions in General Reserve

60th Armoured Brigade (Col. Sherif Zeid bin Shaker): - Deployed North of Jerusalem.

- 3rd Armoured Regiment (Lt Col. Alawi Jarrad). - M48 Patton.
- 5th Armoured Regiment – (Maj. Kalef Awwad) - M48 Patton.

40th Armoured Brigade (Col. Rakan Anad Jazy): - Deployed in Hebron area.

- 2nd Armoured Regiment (Lt. Col. Saleh Abdullah Suhair) - M48 Patton.
- 4th Armoured Regiment (Maj. Merzouk Aashwi) - M48 Patton.
- 8th SP Artillery - M52 SP 155mm.

1st Emira Anya Infantry Brigade - Deployed Nablus area.

2nd Hashemite" Infantry Brigade - Deployed Ramallah

"Hussein Iben Ali" Infatry Brigade - Deployed Allenby Bridge.

12th "Jarmouk" Infantry Brigade - Damya Bridge.

25th "Khaled al Walid" elite Infantry Brigade - Deployed Jenin.

29th "Hittin" Infantry Brigade - Deployed Hebron.

36th "El Kadasia" Infantry Brigade - Deployed Jordan Valley.

Independent Tank Regiments: - Used to support infantry formations

- 12th Tank Regiment (Lt. Col. Saleh Aliyaan) - M47 Patton
- 10th Tank Regiment – Centurion

Royal Guards Brigade – Deployment Unknown

- Armoured Regiment - Centurion

Notes:

Some sources indicate the Saracen's were used to equip Police and Border units only.

Prior to the fighting towed 155mm guns had arrived to replace the 9th Field Artillery Regiments 25pdrs though sources indicate ammunition was limited. As a result 25pdrs were used by the 9th Field Artillery Regiment in 1967.

Tables of Organisation & Equipment:

The following TO&E is designed for use with Modern Spearhead rules.

Jordanian forces should be rated as WARPAC2. In 1967 they may conduct radio jamming and radio location electronic warfare missions.

Jordanian Armoured Brigade	Morale: Regular
<p>Brigade Headquarters: HQ: 1 HQ Stand in Jeep</p> <p>2 - Armoured Regiments each with: <u>Regimental Headquarters:</u> HQ: 1 - M48 4 - Tank Squadrons each with: 3 - M48</p> <p>1 - Mechanised Battalion with: <u>Battalion Headquarters:</u> 1 - HQ Stand in M113 3 - Mechanised Companies each with: 3 - Combat teams in M113 <u>Heavy Weapons Company:</u> 1 - Jeep with 106mm Recoilless Rifle 1 - 3" Mortar & Truck</p> <p>1 - Artillery Battalion with: 3 - M52 155mm self-propelled guns</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>1. In 1967 there were two armoured brigades, the 40th and 60th. Both brigades at this time were equipped with M48 and M48A1 Pattons armed with 90mm guns.</p> <p>2. The Royal Guards Brigade had one regiment equipped with Centurions. I have not been able to determine if it had an additional armoured battalion, or other troops, allocated to it to bring it up to full brigade strength. Refer also to Independent Tank Regiment TO&E.</p>

Jordanian Independent Tank Regiment	Morale: Regular
<p>Regiment Headquarters: HQ: 1 HQ Stand in MBT 4 - Tank Squadrons each with: 3 - MBTs</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>1. At least two independent tank regiments existed. They were designated for support of infantry formations.</p> <p>2. The 12th Tank Regiment was equipped with M47s.</p> <p>3. The 10th Tank Regiment was equipped with Centurions. Centurions at this time were armed with 20pdrs not 105mm guns. They were not re-equipped with 105mm guns until 1972.</p>

Jordanian Infantry Brigade	Morale: Regular
<p>Brigade Headquarters: HQ: 1 HQ Stand in Jeep <u>1 - Anti Tank Company:</u> 1 to 3 - 17pdr Anti-Tank Guns & Truck <u>1 - Artillery Regiment:</u> 3 - 25pdr Guns & Truck</p> <p><u>3 - Infantry Battalions each with:</u> <u>Battalion Headquarters:</u> 1 - HQ Stand <u>3 - Infantry Companies each with:</u> 3 - Rifle stands <u>Heavy Weapons Company:</u> 1 - Jeep with 106mm Recoilless Rifle 1 - 3"mm Mortar</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There seems to be some nine infantry brigades available to Jordan at the time of the 1967 War. No divisional structure seems to have existed. 2. Some Archers may have still been in service, therefore use Archers instead of towed 17pdrs in limited numbers. 3. Some towed 155mm guns had arrived to replace the 9th Field Artillery Regiment's 25pdrs attached to the 4th "King Talal" Infantry Brigade. However, due to lack of ammunition they deployed with 25pdrs.

Sources:

Dunstan, Simon, Modern Combat Vehicles: 2 Centurion, London: Ian Allan Ltd., 1980.

Zaloga, Steven, Armour of the Midde East Wars 1948-78, London: Ospey Publishing, 1981.

Zaloga, Steven, The M47 and M48 Patton Tanks, London: Ospey Publishing, 1999.