# Iranian Armed Forces

## October 1940 Airforce: 1 Hurricane (unservicable) 24 Furies 63 Audax 34 Hinds 3 Oxfords 9 Curtis P40 (Tomahawks) in crates at Ahwaz 25 Rearward Cloudstar Trainers <u>Iranian</u> <u>Army</u> Ahwaz-Abadan-Khurramshahr Area 1st Infantry Regiment (1st Division) 2nd Infantry Regiment (1st Division) 11th Infantry Regiment (15th Division) 8 Light Tanks (armed with machineguns) 8 Medium Tanks (armed with 37mm & LMGs) 10 Armored Cars (armed with 37mm & 1 LMG) Susangard Det/1st Infantry Regiment Det/2nd Infantry Regiment Det/11th Infantry Regiment Osar 4 Aircraft 10 Armored Cars 70 Motor Cars 60 Requisitioned Trucks 600 Horses 10 Guns 30th Infantry Regiment (6th Division) Dizful: 19th Infantry Regiment (6th Division) Shush 9th Cavarly Regiment (6th Division) 30 Miles West of Hawizeh: Unknown detachment, probably 2,000 men of 6th Division Osbat: 1 Infantry Company (6th Division) 2 Artillery Batteries (6th Division) Transport (6th Division) <u>Abadan</u> 11th Infantry Regiment (6th Division) 13th Infantry Regiment (6th Division) Gendarmerie (6th Division) Khurramshahr 1 Infantry Company (less 60 men at Manyohi) <u>Khosroabad</u> 1 Pack Battery Between Kurramshahr and Abadan:

Sloop Palang Sloop Babr Gunboat Karkas Gunboat Simorg Gunboat Shahrukh

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About to Arrive in Area:
     1/2 Artillery Regiment (2nd Division)
     105mm Skoda guns (short)
Senneh-Kermanshah Area
Senneh
     Headquartersw, 5th Kurdistan Division
     6th Artillery Regiment (Mixed)
     22nd Muzaffar Infantry Regiment
     8th (I) Battalion Gendarmerie
     W/T Section
<u>Sakriz</u>
     14th Cavarly Regiment
     6th (I) Battalion Gendarmerie
<u>Baneh</u>
     24th Infantry Regiment
Merivan:
     23rd Infantry Regiment
<u>Nausud</u>
     7th (I) Battalion Gendarmerie
Kermanshah:
     Headquarters, 12th (Kermanshah) Division
     23rd Cavalry Regiment
     38th Infantry Regiment
<u>Qasr-i-Shirin</u> & <u>Naft-i-Shah</u>
14th Artillery Regiment (mixed)
     39th Infantry Regiment (1 bn detached)
5th Gendarmerie Regiment
<u>Throughtout</u> <u>Area:</u>
     8th Engineer Battalion
Reinforcements en route from Isfahan:
     37th Infantry Regiment (13th Division)
     38th Artillery General Purpose
Reinforcements enroute from Teheran:
     from 1st Division:
           20th Infantry Regiment
1st Artillery Regiment (105mm short Skoda)
Mountain Artillery Batteries
     from 2nd Division:
           6th Infantry Regiment
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21st Infantry Regiment 1st Artillery Regiment (105mm short Skoda) Mountain Artillery Batteries

## Organization of Iranian Infantry Regiment:

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<u>Headquarters:</u>
     Headquarter's Company
           Pioneers
           Artificiers
           Clerks
           Stretcher Bearers
     Signal & Close Support Company
           1 Anti-tank Platoon (6-37mm AT guns)
           1 Signal Platoon
           1 Mortar Platoon (3 sections, each with 2 Mortars)
                (81 men)
     3 Battalions
           3 Infantry Companies, each with
                3 Platoons, each with
                      1st Section
                           8 (ORs)
                            2 Rifle Bombers
                            5 Riflemen
                      2nd Section
                           Light Machine Guns
                      3rd Section
                           Rifles
                      4th Section
                           Light Machine Guns
                      5th Section
                           Rifles
           1 Machine Gun Company
                3 Platoons, each with
                      2 Brno Machine Guns
Total Strength 68 officers, 2,070 men, 18 HMGs, 54 LMGs, 6
                mortars, 6 37mm AT guns.
Organization of Iranian Cavalry Regiment:
Army had a total of 22 regiments of horse and 3 of camels. The total strength was 720 of all ranks.
Headquarters
Signal Troop
1st Saber Squadron, with
     4 Troops, with
           2 Saber Sections
           1 Light Automatic Weapon Section (4 automatics)
2nd Saber Squadron, with
     4 Troops, with
           2 Saber Sections
           1 Light Automatic Weapon Section (4 automatics)
3rd Saber Squadron, with
     4 Troops, with
           2 Saber Sections
           1 Light Automatic Weapon Section (4 automatics)
4th Saber Squadron, with
     4 Troops, with
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2 Saber Sections

1 Light Automatic Weapon Section (4 automatics)

Machine Gun Squadron (8 Machine Guns)

### <u>Iranian Artillery:</u>

- 12 Batteries 105mm Skoda (short) 18 Batteries 105mm Skoda (long)
- 39 Batteries Bofors 75mm Mountain guns
- 6 1/2 Batteries Schneider 75mm guns
- 4 Batteries Schneider 75mm guns 2 Batteries Aboukoff 75mm guns
- 1 Battery British guns
- 11 1/2 Batteries 75mm Bofors AA guns

Each regiment had 3 mountain batteries and 1 field battery.

- 6 AA batteries were part of the mechanized brigade
- 3 AA batteries were part of the 6th Khuzistan Division (2 were in storage, not in use)

Mountain guns were carried on pack-mules, while those of the mechanized brigade were drawn by Harrington tractors. The remainder were horse drawn.

#### Mechanized Brigade:

Headquarters

- 4 staff cars
- 1 motorcycle section (16 motorcycles)
- 1st Regiment (Anti-Aircraft)

  - 1 Battery (16 15mm Besa MGs on trucks) 6 Batteries (75mm Bofors drawn by Marmon-Harrington Tractors)
- 2nd Regiment (armored fighting vehicles)
  - 1 Light Tank Batalion (50 Czecho-Moravska 3 1/2 ton tanks armed with 1 HMG & 1 LMG
  - 1 Medium Tank Battalion (50 Czecho-Moravska 7 1/2 ton tanks armed with 1 37mm AT gun & 2 HMGs)
  - 1 Armored Car Battalion (19 Marmon Harrington (4 wheel drive) & 14 Marmon Harrington (6 wheel drive) armored cars, each with 1-37mm gun & 2 HMGs
  - 4 Rolls Royce Armored Cars
- 3rd Regiment (mechanized Infantry)
  - 50 armored trucks, each with a commander, 2 drivers & 20 infantry
- 50 Belgian Motorcycles to with 1 Brno machine gun each Artillery Regiment
  - 6 Batteries (4-105mm Skoda (long) guns)

Note: A British intelligence of 8/12/41 states: "the morale amongst officers and men is being very bad, the maintance of tank units poor, and the foreign mechanics employed fully capable of deliberate sabotage. A shortage of ammunition for the field guns was also reported, and that the supply then in hand was old and not of good quality."

Pol, Dharm, <u>Campaign in Western Asia</u>, Combined Inter-Service Historical Section, 1957 (Official Indian History of WWII) Copyright GFN 1992