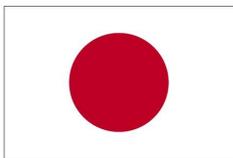


## JAPAN



**Flag description:** white with a large red disk (representing the sun without rays) in the center.



**Background:** In 1603, a Tokugawa shogunate (military dictatorship) ushered in a long period of isolation from foreign influence in order to secure its power. For 250 years this policy enabled Japan to enjoy stability and a flowering of its indigenous culture. Following the Treaty of Kanagawa with the US in 1854, Japan opened its ports and began to intensively modernize and industrialize. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Japan became a regional power that was able to defeat the forces of both China and Russia. It occupied Korea, Formosa (Taiwan), and the southern Sakhalin Islands. In 1931-32 Japan occupied Manchuria, and in 1937 it launched a full-scale invasion of China. Japan attacked US forces in 1941 - triggering America's entry into World War II - and soon occupied much of East and Southeast Asia. After its defeat in World War II, Japan recovered to become an economic power and a ally of the US. While the emperor retains his throne as a symbol of national unity, actual power rests in networks of powerful politicians, bureaucrats, and business executives. In 2005, Japan began a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

**Geography Japan:** Location: Eastern Asia, island chain between the North Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan, east of the Korean Peninsula. Area: total: 377,835 sq km., note: includes Bonin Islands (Ogasawara-gunto), Daito-shoto, Minami-jima, Okino-tori-shima, Ryukyu Islands (Nansei-shoto), and Volcano Islands (Kazan-retto). Area - comparative: slightly smaller than California. Land boundaries: 0 km. Coastline: 29,751 km. Climate: varies from tropical in south to cool temperate in north. Terrain: mostly rugged and mountainous. Natural resources: negligible mineral resources, fish. Natural hazards: many dormant and some active volcanoes; about 1,500 seismic occurrences (mostly tremors) every year; plus tsunamis and typhoons. Environment - current issues: air pollution from power plants; acidification of lakes and reservoirs degrading water quality. Geography - note: strategic location in northeast Asia. (CIA Factbook 2006)

**Military notes:** Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) started to participate in emergency aid, peacekeeping and foreign operations in 2005.

### 1920 Car, Armd, 4x2. Austin Armored Car.



Japanese Imperial Army Austin Armored Car in Shanghai, China, pre-WWII. (Photo: Author's collection)

**Remarks:** At the end of World War I, Japan obtained some Austin Series 2 armored cars which were kept in service until at least the early

1930s (see UK for vehicle details).

### 1925 Car, Armd, 4x2. Crossley (Model 25).



Above: Two of six Japanese Crossley armored cars photographed in Shanghai, China.

**Remarks:** Approximately a dozen Crossley Model 25's were purchased (see UK for vehicle details).

1927 Car, Armd, 4x2. Type 87.

1928 Car, Armd, 4x2. Sumida Type 88

1928 Car, Armd, 4x4. Amph, Type 1 (Trial Type 1) Remarks: Convertible, wheel and track design, vehicle could be run forward or backward with equal ease. Boat type hull with turret in center. Armament was one light machine gun.

1929 Car, Armd, Amph, 4x4. Type 2 (Trial Type 2) Remarks: This was the Trial Type 1 Amphibious Armored Car rebuilt with a larger turret. Development of the design was dropped with the Type 2.

1930 Car, Armd, 6x4, Sumida Type 90.

1931 Car, Armd, 6x6. Sumida Type 91.

1932 Car, Armd, 4x2. Osaka Type 92.

**1932 Car, Armd, 6x4. Type 92 (Naval pattern 2592 KoKuSan).**



Above: Naval Type 92 photographed in China.

**Data:** Weight of vehicle loaded, 13,600 lbs. (6,174 kgs). Armor, riveted steel plate. Suspension, Semi-elliptical spring. Transmission, manual. Drive, 6x4. **Armament:** (5) light machine guns and crew small arms. Crew, 5-6.

**1933 Car, Armd, 6x6. Sumida Type 93.** Large six wheel armored car, typically used in pairs, connected back to back, as a rail vehicle in China. **Data:** Weight loaded, 15,400 lbs. (6,992 kgs). Length, 258 in. (6553 mm). Width, 75 in. (1905 mm). Height, 116 in. (2946 mm). Drive, 6x4. Crew: 6. **Armor:** Rivet steel plate. **Armament:** (1) 7.7mm Machine Gun and crew small arms. **Performance:** Speed, 25 mph (40 km/h) on road, 36 mph (58 km/h) on rail. **Usage:** Besides Japan, a few cars were used post-WWII by China. **Manufacturer:** Sumida.

1935 Veh, Recce, Car, Scout, Mod 95, 4x2.

**1938 Car, Armd, 6x4. Captured Cantonese AC.**



Above: Two Cantonese armored cars captured near Shanghai, circa 1938. (Photo: Author's Collection)

**Remarks:** The Shanghai Volunteers had similar cars (see China for car details).

1942 Car, Armd, 4x2. Imp AC (sedan chassis).

**1942 Veh, Recce. SA Reconnaissance Car, Mk 3 ME.**



Above: Captured M-H Mk 3 cars in the Netherlands East Indies. (Photo: AWM)

**Remarks:** With the invasion of Malaya and later Indonesia and Singapore the Japanese came across a large number of South African Marmon-Herrington armored cars many of which they were able to put back in service. With the Japanese surrender and pullout of Indonesia most of these cars were left for the Indonesian separatists. (See South Africa for vehicle details).

1944 Car, Armd, 4x2. Imp AC.  
(concrete & steel body)

1944 Car, Armd, 4x2. Imp AC Ford (trk chassis).

1954 Truck, Utility, 1/4-Ton, 4x4, M38A1.  
**Remarks:** (see US for vehicle details).

1961 Veh, Util, Trk, Util, 1 1/2-ton, 4x4 Nissan 4W73.

1966 Veh, Util, Trk, Cgo, 2 ½-ton, 6x6. 2DW15L.

1973 Carr, Wpns Trk, Util, ¼-ton, 4x4, Type 73.

1973 Veh, Util, Trk, Util, ½-ton, 4x4, Type 73.

1975 Carr, Pers, Armd, 6x6. Mitsubishi Type B.

1976 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Komatsu Type A.

1982 Veh, Cmd. Veh, C&C, 6x6, Type 82.

**Remarks:** After lengthy development period, the first ten vehicles were delivered in 1982, by 1999 a total of 230 Type 82 were in service with the JGSDF with 231 available in 2003.

**Physical Data:** Length, 225 in. (5720 mm). Width, 97.5 in. (2480 mm). Height, 93 in. (2370 mm). Ground clearance, 17.5 in. (450 mm). Fording depth, 39.5 in. (1000 mm). Weight of vehicle: Crew and equipment, 29,736 lbs. (13,500 kgs). Armor: Welded aluminum. Suspension: Independent, coil spring, with six wheel drive. *Engine:* Isuzu Type 10, water-cooled, diesel. Max horsepower, 305 @ 2700rpm. *Performance:* Max. grade, 60%. Max. speed, 62 mph (100 km/h). Cruising range (average), 300 mi. (500 km). Vertical obstacle, 23.5 in. (600 mm). Trench, 59 in. (1500 mm). *Armament:* (1) 7.62mm Machine Gun and (1) .50 Caliber Machine Gun, HB. Crew: 8. *Manufacturer:* Mitsubishi (Japan).

#### **1987 Car, Recce. Type 87.**

**Remarks:** Two prototypes were completed in 1985 with a total of 90 Type 87 reconnaissance cars completed by the end of 1999 the 2003 inventory showed four additional vehicles for 94 Type 87s. **Physical Data:** Dimensions: Length, 236 in. (5990 mm). Width, 97.5 in. (2480 mm). Height, 110 in. (2800 mm). Ground clearance, 17.5 in. (450 mm). Weight of vehicle: Crew and equipment, 33,040 lbs. (15,000 kgs). Armor: Welded aluminum. Suspension: Independent, coil spring, with six wheel drive. *Engine:* Isuzu Type 10, water-cooled, diesel. Max horsepower, 305 @ 2700rpm. *Performance:* Max. grade, 60%. Max. speed, 62 mph (100 km/h). Cruising range (average), 300 mi. (500 km). Vertical obstacle, 23.5 in. (600 mm). Trench, 59 in. (1500 mm). *Armament:* (1) 25mm Oerlikon KBA cannon, (1) 7.62mm Machine Gun (coax). Crew: 5. Driver at the front right. *Manufacturer:* Komatsu (Japan).

1989 Car, Recce. Recon & Patrol Veh 6x6 Type 89. Sixty Type 89 reconnaissance vehicles were in service by the end of 1999.

1994 Veh, Util. High-Mobility Veh, JGSDF, 4x4.