

**His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal
grandson of King Abdullah bin Hussein
of the Hashemite Branch
of the family of the Prophet Mohammed
born 1935 - died 1999
King of Jordan 1952 - 1999
may his soul rest in peace**



His Majesty, King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

...

**His Majesty was a young man when his father - King Talal -
passed the throne to him in 1952.**

**The year before, young sixteen year-old Hussein was accompanying his grandfather
King Abdullah to prayers at the Jerusalem mosque known as the "Dome of the Rock"
when his grandfather was assassinated in cold blood.**

**His father Talal reigned for a year before his health failed,
and he abdicated in Hussein's favour.**



His Majesty as a young man, from a postcard of the time.

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King Hussein was highly regarded by people of many races and beliefs, and it is universally felt that his efforts in leading the Middle-East towards a peaceful resolution of many of their conflicts was his stamp of greatness. It is our privilege to share with you a few photographs of his more personal life



King Hussein's grandfather, the Emir Abdullah bin Hussein proclaimed King of Transjordan in 1920



**His Majesty enjoyed "being at the helm"
not just of his country, but also of a military aircraft (on the right)
and of his own boat (on the left) with one of his younger sons**



**His Majesty was a soldier at heart,
spending a considerable amount of his time with his troops,
whether in the Army (as shown) or in the Air Force..**



While the previous photograph was in field uniform, he was just as much at home in ceremonial attire.



or in plain clothes, as we see here presenting his eldest son, Prince Abdullah (named after the king's grandfather) with his paratrooper's "wings" on his son's graduation. Prince Abdullah was appointed Crown Prince on his father's return to Amman, and succeeded to his father's throne.

Thank you for visiting my short tribute to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal. My Jordanian connection is through my late uncle, Brigadier J.O.M. ("Teal") Ashton who commanded 3rd Brigade of the Arab Legion based at Ramallah from 1948 to 1954 under the well known and respected General Sir John Bagot Glubb ("Glubb Pasha").

Ashton Pasha died in September 1998.

The name of the Royal Jordanian Army and the Royal Jordanian Air Force was "The Arab Legion" from its foundation during World War I until the 1970s.

In a brief visit to Palestine in 1990, I was privileged to make the acquaintance of a Jordanian military associate of my uncle from 35 years before, and I have been able to piece together some of my family history as a result.

My thanks also go to the Jordanian ambassador in Australia at the time of King Hussein's 40th anniversary of his succession, for his warm friendship, particularly as that was also the 40th anniversary of the Qibya massacre for which my uncle personally took full responsibility.

The illustrations on this web page, apart from the black-and-white postcard (from my uncle's effects) and the portion of a portrait of King Abdullah (also from my late uncle's treasures), all come from a book "King and Country" which was a photographic tribute to King Hussein by Amman photographer Zohrab Markarian to celebrate His Majesty's fiftieth birthday, and this web page has been put together hurriedly without any opportunity for copyright permission from the photographer.

The morning after this site was created, opportunity was taken to seek the verbal approval of the Ambassador to Australia of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to post this tribute.

Richard Ashton

you may contact me at eagles@chatministries.org

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