



## ARGENTINA



**Background:** Following independence from Spain in 1816, Argentina experienced periods of internal political conflict between conservatives and liberals and between civilian and military factions. After World War II, a long period of Peronist authoritarian rule and interference in subsequent governments was followed by a military junta that took power in 1976. Democracy returned in 1983, and has persisted despite numerous challenges, the most formidable of which was a severe economic crisis in 2001-02 that led to violent public protests and the resignation of several interim presidents.

**Geography:** Location: Southern South America, bordering the South Atlantic Ocean, between Chile and Uruguay. Area: total: 2,766,890 sq km. Area - comparative: slightly less than three-tenths the size of the US. Land boundaries: total: 9,665 km. Border countries: Bolivia 832 km, Brazil 1,224 km, Chile 5,150 km, Paraguay 1,880 km, Uruguay 579 km. Coastline: 4,989 km. Climate: mostly temperate; arid in southeast; subantarctic in southwest. Terrain: rich plains of the Pampas in northern half, flat to rolling plateau of Patagonia in south, rugged Andes along western border. Natural resources: fertile plains of the pampas, lead, zinc, tin, copper, iron, manganese, petroleum, uranium. Natural hazards: areas in the Andes subject to earthquakes; pamperos are violent windstorms that can strike the pampas and northeast; heavy flooding. Environment - current issues: environmental problems (urban and rural) typical of an industrializing economy such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, air pollution, and water pollution. Geography - note: second-largest country in South America (after Brazil); strategic location relative to sea-lanes between the South Atlantic and the South Pacific Oceans (Strait of Magellan, etc.). (CIA World Fact Handbook 2006).

**Military Notes:** The Argentine military and public took a serious setback as a result of the invasion and then fighting between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland (Malvenas) Islands. While both sides landed vehicles, most of the fighting was between light infantry units and didn't include armored vehicles.

### 1926 Car, Armd, 4x2. Crossley.

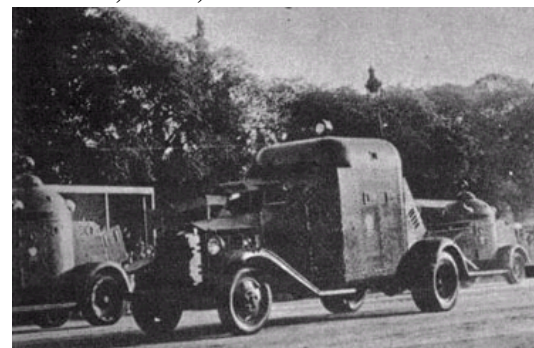


Above: Argentine Crossley bought in 1926.  
(Photo: Author's Collection)

**Remarks:** Argentina bought half-a-dozen Crossley armored cars from England in 1926 (see UK for vehicle details).

### 1938 Car, Armd, 4x2. International Harvester

### 1938 Car, Armd, 4x4. Creole AC.



Above: Creole armored car in a parade during 1938.  
The two cars in the background are British Crossley armored cars.

**Remarks:** An unknown number of armored cars were built by the Creole Motor Company for the

Argentine military in the mid to late 1930s. Chassis was a 4x4 design driven by a diesel engine.

**Physical Data:** Weight loaded (est), 8,000 lbs (3632 kg). Drive, 4x4. Armor, unk. NBC Protection, n/a. *Armament:* unk. *Capacity:* Fuel, diesel. Crew/Passengers, 2/?. *Engine:* Diesel. HP at Rev/Min, 95 hp (70 kW). Model, D2. Mfr, Creole. No. of Cyls, 6 in-line. Location, front. Cooling, liquid. *Transmission:* Manual. *Suspension System:* Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4 (duals at rear). *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 6V. *Performance:* Speed (est), 50 mph (80 km/h). *Usage:* Only used by Argentina. *Manufacturer:* Creole Motor Company, Argentina.

#### 1943 Veh, Util. Car, Utility, Nandu.



**Remarks:** In 1943 the Argentine military decided to proceed with the development of their own nationally designed military vehicles. One of the projects was the Ñandú 4x4 utility vehicle. Of the same general size and layout as the then current US 1/4-ton truck (Jeep), Martin Reuter, a reserve officer and engineer, developed the Ñandú. While the Arsenal Esteban De Luca in Buenos Aires carried out the actual construction of the four prototypes completed. Trying to minimize foreign components the engine, gear-box and transmission were designed and constructed in Argentina. The first prototype was approved in September of 1945, while in 1946 a request for authorization to produce the Ñandú was forwarded to the Ministry of Economy. Unhappily for the project, WWII had ended and surplus vehicles were on the open market. Series production was not authorized because the unit cost would be much more than the surplus jeeps being offered by Belgium at a very reasonable price. Of the four prototypes completed, none were taken into service.

**Physical Data:** Drive, 4x4. Armor, n/a. NBC Protection, n/a. *Armament:* No permanent armament was fitted. *Capacity:* Fuel, gasoline. Crew/Passengers, 1/3. *Engine:* (1) Gasoline. No.

of Cyls, 6. Location, front. Cooling, liquid. *Transmission:* Manual. Speeds Fwd/Rev, 3/1 w/2-spd transfer. *Suspension System:* Leaf spring. Wheels Steerable, front pair. No of wheels, 4. *General Data:* Elec Voltage, 6. *Usage:* Four prototypes only, these were tested but not accepted by the Argentine Ejercito (Army). *Manufacturer:* Designed and built by the Arsenal Esteban De Luca, Buenos Aires with the engine castings completed by the Santini Foundry.

#### 1970 Car, Armd, 4x4, Shorland Mk 2.

**Remarks:** (see UK for vehicle details).

#### 198x Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Fiat 6614.



**Remarks:** An unknown number of vehicles were acquired from Italy (see Italy for vehicle details).

#### 1997 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. GKN Tactica.

Nine vehicles were delivered from the UK in 1997 to support Argentine UN operations on Cyprus (see UK for vehicle details).

#### 2000 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Mamba Mk 2.

Unknown number probably for UN support missions. (see South Africa for vehicle details). Argentina transferred at least one Mamba Mk 2 to Belgium in 2001.

#### 2000 Car, Armd, 4x4. Panhard AML-90.

**Remarks:** Circa 2000, forty-eight of these cars were reported to be in service (see France for vehicle details).

#### 2000 Car, Armd, 6x6. Panhard ERC-90 F1 Lynx.



Above: ERC-90 F1 in the field. (Photo:  
Argentine Ejercito)

**Remarks:** Circa 2000, twelve of these cars were reported to be in service (see France for vehicle details).

**2000 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Panhard VCR-TT.** Circa 2000, seventeen of these carriers were reported to be in service (see France for vehicle details).

**2000 Carr, Wpns. Panhard VCR-AT.**

**Remarks:** As of the year 2000, two of these vehicles were reported to be in service with the Argentine Army (see France for vehicle details).