



## ESTONIA

**Flag description:** pre-1940 flag restored by Supreme Soviet in May 1990 - three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), black, and white.



**Background:** After centuries of Danish, Swedish, German, and Russian rule, Estonia attained independence in 1918. Forcibly incorporated into the USSR in 1940, it regained its freedom in 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Since the last Russian troops left in 1994, Estonia has been free to promote economic and political ties with Western Europe. It joined both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004.

**Geography:** Location: Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland, between Latvia and Russia. Area: total: 45,226 sq km. note: includes 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea. Area - comparative: slightly smaller than New Hampshire and Vermont combined. Land boundaries: total: 681.6 km. Border countries: Latvia 343 km, Russia 338.6 km. Coastline: 3,794 km. Climate: maritime, wet, moderate winters, cool summers. Terrain: marshy, lowlands; flat in the north, hilly in the south. Natural resources: oil shale, peat, phos-

phorite, clay, limestone, sand, dolomite, arable land, sea mud. Natural hazards: sometimes flooding occurs in the spring. Geography - note: the mainland terrain is flat, boggy, and partly wooded; offshore lie more than 1,500 islands.

### 1919 Car, Armd, 4x2. Austin-Daimler.

**Remarks:** Cars created from hulls, turrets, etc., from Austin-Pitovlov armored cars, matched to German Daimler 5-ton truck chassis.

### 1919 Car, Armd, 4x2. AEC Local Pattern.



Above: AEC local pattern car. (Photo: Author's collection)

**Remarks:** Car was probably produced locally in Estonia.

### 1927 Car, Armd, 4x2. Vickers-Crossley Mod 1925 (India Pattern).

(see UK for vehicle details).

### 1930 Car, Armored, 4x2. Swedish Landsverk.



Above: Parade prior to WWII.

### 2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-60PB.

**Remarks:** As of 2003 Estonia still held two BTR-60 vehicles, probably left behind by Russia (see Russia for vehicle details).

**2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-70.**

**Remarks:** As of 2003, Estonia held three BTR-70s in their inventory, these machines probably came from Germany (East German stocks), (see Russia for vehicle details).

**2003 Carr, Pers, Armd, 8x8. BTR-80.**

**Remarks:** As of 2003, Estonia held 20 BTR-80s in their inventory (see Russia for vehicle details).

**2004 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. Vickers Mamba.**

**Remarks:** In 2004 seven Mambas were supplied from the UK to support Estonian UN operations.

**2005 Carr, Pers, Armd, 4x4. MB Unimog 435.**



**Remarks:** Armored MB Unimog 435s have been used by Estonian units in Iraq, Afghanistan and Quick Reaction Forces assigned to NATO. Like most non-purpose built vehicles, the 435 doesn't provide any real protection from landmines or roadside explosive devices.