

ANCIENT AMMAN SPRAWLS OVER ROCKY HILLSIDES

KING ABDULLAH

His Legion's victory at Jerusalem makes Amman center of Arab world

On May 27 a small, bearded Hashimite named Abdullah Ibn-Hussein entered Jerusalem's rubbled Old City as a conqueror. The victory of Abdullah's British-trained, British-equipped, British-officered Arab Legion over the Old City's Israeli defenders established the little king of Trans-Jordan as the strong man of the Arab world. It also made his sunburned capital of Amman the political Mecca of the Middle East.

In Amman, King Abdullah is a supreme ruler who maintains three wives, indulges an epicurean taste in food and takes advice only from such British aides as Major General John Bagot Glubb (opposite), commander of his Legion. Outside Trans-Jordan, in Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Abdullah is viewed with marked suspicion. His victory at Jerusalem has increased the alarm of Arab rivals who have no well-trained armies and who fear that he may someday dominate the entire Arab world.



