





GUIDE TO MILITARY TIMEPIECE MARKINGS

GREAT BRITAIN

	The broad arrow British government property mark, found in various forms on watch dials, cases and movements.	H ↑ S 8	Fleet Air Arm pilot's wristwatch.
C ↑ W	Chronometer Watch mark found on deck watch transit cases.	H ↑ S 9	Chronograph wristwatch.
A ↑ D	Admiralty Department issue pocket watch mark, c.1914.	H ↑ S 10	Diver's wristwatch.
A ↑ S	Royal Naval Air Service issue pocket watch mark, c.1914.	H ↑ S 11	Standard issue wristwatch.
ADMIRALTY MARK II ATD	Mark II Royal Naval Air Service aviator's eight-day pocket watch, c.1914.	0652 -	Stores prefix for Royal Navy NATO issue watch.
H. S.	Hydrographic Service mark found on the cases of Royal Navy issue watches, 1914-1918.		British Army issue pocket watch in India, c.1900.
	Numbered Hydrographic Service codes used by Royal Navy, 1939-1946, to identify the grade or use of timepieces:	W ↑ D	War Department issue pocket watch, c.1914.
H ↑ S 1	Chronometer watch with detent escapement.	 51714F	Broad arrow and serial number of H. Williamson issue pocket watch, c.1914.
H ↑ S 2	Chronometer watch adjusted for isochronism in five positions.	81731C RA	Royal Artillery issue pocket watch with contract number, c.1914.
H ↑ S 3	Deck watch adjusted for isochronism in a minimum of two positions.	P ↑ W	Pocket watch mark, Royal Navy issue, c.1914.
H ↑ S 4	Fleet Air Arm instrument panel watch.	↑ TW	"Tank Watch" mark found on economy grade Ingersol issue pocket watch, c.1920
H ↑ S 5	Survey boat pocket watch.	6645-	NATO stores code for military wristwatch.
H ↑ S 6	Ship's chronometer with gimballed movement.	P	Phosphorous painted watch dial mark.
H ↑ S 7	Watch calibrated for sidereal time.	T	Tritium painted watch dial mark.
			Aviation issue mark – Royal Flying Corps pocket watch, 1914-1917.
		MARK IV.A	Mark IV.A pattern mark on aviator's issue eight-day pocket watch, c.1914.

8 DAY
NON LUMINOUS
MARK V

Mark V pattern mark on aviator's issue eight-day pocket watch, c.1916.

W10-

Army prefix to wristwatch serial number, post-1950.

30 HOUR
NON LUMINOUS
MARK V

Mark V pattern mark on aviator's issue standard pocket watch, c.1916.



Air Ministry property stamp found in various forms on watches, clocks and their movements, 1918-c.1953.

30 HOUR
LUMINOUS
MARK V

Mark V pattern mark on aviator's issue pocket watch, c.1916.

A.M.
6B/107

Air Ministry flying equipment code for split chronograph watch, c.1937.

R.A.E. REPAIR

Royal Aircraft Establishment repair mark to watch, pre-1917.

A.M.
6B/117

Air Ministry issue code for stop watch, c.1940.

R.A.F. REPAIR

Royal Air Force repair mark to watch, post-1918

A.M.
6B/159
G & S Co. Ltd.
8438/40

Air Ministry issue code for a pilot's/navigator's watch, in this case supplied by the Goldsmith's & Silversmith's Company Limited, bearing issue number and dated 1940.

MU 23

Maintenance Unit repair mark hand-painted on clock dial, c.1939.



Royal Air Force crest found on clock dials, c.1937-1945.

90260 C
↑

Contract number on Army issue wristwatch, c.1918.

A.M.
6B/221

Air Ministry issue code for substitute standard stop watch, c.1942.

W.9019.S

Wristwatch, Service pattern mark flanking issue number, c.1918.

A.M.
6B/234

Air Ministry issue code for substitute standard pilot's wristwatch. Mark also follows repair/reissue 1939-1945.

↑
94455M
→*

Service cancellation mark added in the 1930s to a military issue wristwatch of c.1918.

A.M.
14.A/1102
21867

Air Ministry issue code found on wristwatch used for reconnaissance/ground operations duty, c.1940.

Mk I
↑

Highest grade Army issue pocket watch mark, c.1925.

A.M.
6E/ 50

Air Ministry issue code for observer's pocket watch, 1939-1945.

8 1/2

Service wristwatch mark, Indian Army, c.1930.

6A/1072
Mk.IIB

Mark IIB eight-day aircraft clock with Royal Air Force issue code, c.1943.

C.S.(1)

Civil Service (India) mark on military issue wristwatch, c.1939.

6bb -

Royal Air Force prefix to NATO issue wristwatch.

↑
G.S. M.K.II

General Service Mark II pocket watch mark, Army issue, c.1935

GERMANY

↑
GS/TP

General Service Timepiece/Temporary Pattern mark, Army issue, 1939-1945.



Deutsche Reichsmarine issue watch mark, first used by the German Navy in 1848 although the RM title was not officially accepted until 1871. The mark continued in use until 1933.

↑
G.S.T.P.

Variation on above.

↑
M
1031

Traditional German Navy issue watch mark, 1871-1918.

↑
ATP

Army Time Piece mark found on wristwatches, 1939-1945.



German Navy watch mark, c.1932.

C.O.S.D

Company Ordnance Supply Depot mark found on Airborne Forces issue wristwatch, c.1944.

M
K.M.

Kriegsmarine property mark, 1933-1945.

W.W.W.

Wrist Watch, Waterproof mark used on military contract watches, c.1943-1958.



Kriegsmarine second class chronometer watch mark with naval issue number.

FL23883

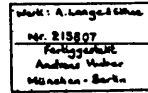
As above; a navigator's watch is identified by the first two digits (23) of the code.



Kriegsmarine issue watch mark with naval number and manufacturer's code number.

FL25883

As above; a pilot's watch is identified by the first two digits (25) of the code.



Typical manufacturer's and maker's details, 1933-1945.



Kriegsmarine issue chronograph watch mark.

RLM
NAV B - UHR

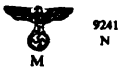
Reichs Luftfahrt Ministerium, Navigation Beobachtung Uhr - Reich Air Ministry issue navigation/observation watch, 1933-1945.



Kriegsmarine issue watch mark with Naval Artillery code.

D601214

Dienst number - service number found on standard Swiss-made Luftwaffe wristwatches, 1939-1945.



Marks on Kriegsmarine issue U-boat clock, coded for service with the North Sea fleet.

BUND
6645 - 12 - 194

Bundeswehr issue pilot's wristwatch with NATO stores code.



Kriegsmarine issue clock mark.

D. 93512 H.

Deutsches Heer - German Army property mark with serial number, found only found on Swiss-made watches, 1939-1940.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

United States Shipping Board merchant navy property watch mark, 1914-1940.

D.I. . . . H.

Deutsches Heer property mark found on non-waterproof wristwatches with sweeping centre seconds used for surveillance purposes, c.1943.

U.S. MARITIME
COMMISSION

Official title of the US Shipping Board; mark found on watch dials from 1940.

U.S. NAVY
No. 9687

US Navy issue watch mark and serial number, c.1920.

BOEMTUM
DER FLIEGERTRUPPEN

"Property of the Flying Corps" mark found on watches between 1914 and 1918.

BUREAU OF SHIPS
U.S. NAVY

Bureau of Ships property mark, used on US Navy issue watches since 1920.



German Flying Corps mark found on pocket watches, pre-1918, with Zeppelin airship code.

U.S. NAVY
BU. SHIPS

US Navy Bureau of Ships, abbreviated form of above mark.

Ⓜ 384 - 1941

US Naval Observatory mark bearing 1941 date, found on inspected chronometer watches.



German Flying Corps mark, pre-1918.

NAVIGATION
MASTERWATCH

US Navy issue high grade deck watch.

FL.22883

Mark on Luftwaffe watch with Flieger number, 1939-45. The first two digits (22) of the code identify an observer's watch.

MTD.
CHRONOMETER
WATCH

Mounted Chronometer Watch mark found on US Navy issue gimbaled chronometer.

COMPARING WATCH

US Navy issue high grade watch with hacking device.

U.S.M.C.

United States Marine Corps issue watch.

U.S.C.G. No. 87

US Coast Guard mark on issue watch.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U . S . A .
No. 1186

Corps of Engineers issue mark on chronograph watch, c.1917.

SIGNAL CORPS
U.S.A.

Signal Corps issue watch mark, c.1917.

U.S. ARMY

US Army contract mark on Hamilton Mod.22 chronometer, c.1942.

U.S. ARMY

US Army property mark applied over US Navy issue stamps. The original markings have been milled away prior to reissue of the Hamilton Mod.22 to a different branch of the armed forces, probably post-1945.

U.S. GOVT.

US Government property mark found on the movement of high grade issue watches, 1939-1945.

A.N. 5740

Mark found on Army/Navy issue high grade pocket watches, including those issued to the Army Air Forces pre-1945.

ORD. DEPT.
U.S.A.

US Army Ordnance Department issue watch, pre-1945.

ORD CORPS
USA

US Army Ordnance Corps issue watch, post-1945.

US Ordnance Department codes used after 12 November 1940 to identify watch grades:

OA

7-9 jewel pocket watch.

OB

15-17 jewel pocket watch.

OC

7-9 jewel wristwatch.

OD

15-17 jewel wristwatch.

OE

21-jewel railroad grade pocket watch.

OF

15-17 jewel wristwatch with waterproof case.

OFA

15-16 jewel wristwatch in waterproof case; used as a Type A-11 substitute by the Army Air Corps/Air Forces (whose designation changed after June 1941).

OG

7-9 jewel wristwatch with waterproof case.

OS

Stop watch.

In the event of any overhaul, uncoded watches made prior to 12 November 1940 were marked at the time of repair with the following codes:

OW

7-9 jewel pocket watch.

OX

15-17 jewel pocket watch.

OY

7-9 jewel wristwatch.

OZ

15-17 jewel wristwatch.

BU. AERO U.S. NAVY

Issue watch mark, Bureau of Aeronautics (under the auspices of the US Navy), 1921-1959.

BU. AERO SER
No.196 - 32

Bureau of Aeronautics issue watch bearing serial number and 1932 date.

U.S. ARMY A.C.

US Army Air Corps issue watch mark, 1926-1941.

AVIGATION WATCH

Abbreviated mark for "Aviation Navigation Watch", also designated as Type A-4, c.1934.

AIRCRAFT
NAVIGATIONAL
CHRONOGRAPH
WATCH

US Army Air Corps pilot's/navigator's issue hacking watch designated as Type A-7, 1934-1940.

TYPE A - 1

The first watch to be standardised for US Army Air Corps use in 1926, designed for use in conjunction with the ground speed drift indicator.

TYPE A - 2

Master timepiece adopted in 1932, consisting of two watches housed in a wooden box, one calibrated to indicate solar time, the other sidereal time.

TYPE A - 3

Longines Wittnauer Weems patent watch adopted in 1932.

TYPE A - 4

Waltham "Avigation Watch" adopted in 1934, consisting of two pocket watches as in Type A-2.

TYPE A - 5

George H.Adamson-designed watch with a Waltham movement, incorporating a 24 hour dial. Tested in 1934 but not adopted for service until 1937.

TYPE A - 6

Similar watch to Type A-4, procured in limited numbers in 1934.

TYPE A - 7 "Aircraft Navigational Chronograph Watch" adopted in 1934, made from a pocket chronograph watch converted for use as a wristwatch.

TYPE A - 8 Pocket stop watch with ten second dial used for timing ground speed.

TYPE A - 9 Reworked Type A-5, adopted in 1940.

TYPE A - 10 This watch never passed the experimental stage.

TYPE A - 11 The standard US Air Corps/Air Forces wristwatch adopted in 1940, and manufactured in large numbers by several companies, 1940-1945.

TYPE A - 12 Elgin-made hacking wristwatch with 24 hour dial, adopted in 1940 but only issued in small numbers.

TYPE A - 13 Similar to the Type A-9, this master watch adopted in 1941 also features a hacking function.

TYPE A - 14 Never issued.

TYPE A - 15 Tested but never adopted.


TYPE A - 16 Similar to the Type A-11 but improved to be more tolerant of temperature changes; adopted in 1945 for US Army Air Forces use.

TYPE A - 17 Improved version of Type A-16, issued c.1950.

MILITARY TYPE III CLASS A US Air Force digital quartz wristwatch, c.1980.

FRANCE

DÉPÔT DE LA MARINE French Navy stores mark, c.1910.


MONTRÉ TORPILLEUR Torpedo Watch marking used on a French Navy chronometer watch, c.1900-1918.


SERVICE HYDROGRAPHIQUE DE LA MARINE Hydrographic Service chronometer watch of the French Navy, c.1920-1940.

MARINE SERVICE HYDROGRAPHIQUE French Navy issue chronometer watch.

MARINE NATIONALE French Navy issue watch mark, post-1950.

MARINE NATIONALE AERONAUTIQUE NAVALE French Navy issue pilot's watch, c.1950.

M G Ministère de la Guerre - War Ministry property mark, 1914-1918 and c.1939.

 War Ministry property mark for the Artillery.

MINISTÈRE DE L'AVIATION French Air Ministry mark found on aircraft clocks, c.1915.

☆☆☆☆
☆☆☆ Mark applied to dial of Hanhaldt chronograph wristwatch by the Dodane watch company, to obliterate German provenance, prior to reissue to the French Air Force post-1945.

TYPE 20 French Air Force issue pilot's chronograph wristwatch issued from 1954.

TYPE 21 French Air Force issue pilot's chronograph wristwatch issued in the 1960s.


C E V Centre d'Essai en Vol - French Air Force test flight centre issue chronograph wristwatch.

FG 15 11 05 Fin de Garantie - quality control assurance mark followed by the inspection date, 15 November 1965.

CANADA

C. H. S. † 1 Canadian Hydrographic Service code for naval issue gimballed chronometer watch, 1939-1946.

C. H. S. † 2
C. H. S. † 3
C. H. S. † 4 Royal Canadian Navy codes are the same as the Royal Navy issue markings with the addition of a "C" prefix.

 Canadian military issue watch mark, 1939-1945.

R.C.A.F. REF. No. 08/150 4308/42 Royal Canadian Air Force issue pilot's wristwatch, dated 1942.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

**MAJETEK
VOJENSKÉ SPRÁVY
2922**

Property of Military Affairs - marking and issue number found on Czechoslovakian military watches, pre-1939.

na letadle

For Air Force Use - marking found on some Czechoslovakian Air Force watches, c.1939.

ITALY

**ISTITUTO IDROGRAFICO
R. MARINA**

Hydrographic Institute - Royal Italian Navy issue watch mark used in the 1930s.

MARINA MILITARE

Italian Navy issue wristwatch mark.



Regia Aeronautica - Royal Italian Air Force pilot's chronograph watch, pre-1945.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Chinese Navy issue wristwatch mark.

CHILE

MARINA DE CHILE

Chilean Navy issue chronometer watch.

SPAIN

NAVEGACION

Spanish merchant navy issue deck watch.

SWEDEN



Swedish Navy issue chronometer watch.

JAPAN



Imperial Navy issue watch mark, pre-1945.



Japanese character mark on rear of Imperial Navy issue wristwatch, pre-1945.



Imperial Army issue watch mark, pre-1945.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

**K. u. K.
Kriegs Marine**

Kaiserlich und Koeniglich Kriegs Marine - Imperial and Royal Navy issue chronometer watch, pre-1918.

POLAND



Wojsko Polskie - Polish army property mark, pre-1939.

**↑
68/159
A12696
P.A.F.**

Polish Air Force issue mark found on Royal Air Force coded wristwatch, c.1940.

PERU

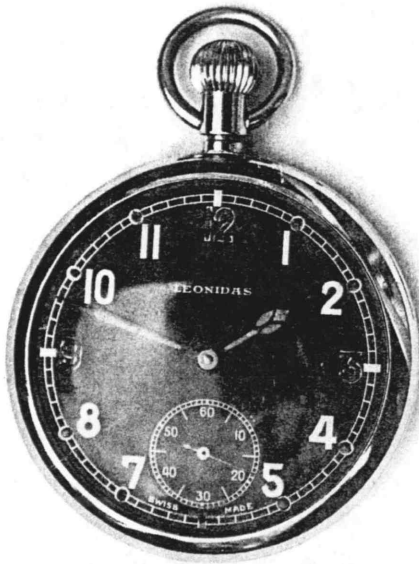


Peruvian Air Force property mark on a pilot's issue Rolex Cosmograph wristwatch, c.1975.

NETHERLANDS



Royal Dutch Army issue watch mark, c.1939.



The British armed forces were slow to embrace change, and consequently, when war loomed once more in 1939, the War Department was caught ill-prepared. Pocket watches were hurriedly purchased by the procurement office from numerous Swiss makers and from commercial retailers, in anticipation of the shortages that were likely to follow. Most of these pocket watches were regarded as "General Service" timepieces and classified as "Temporary Pattern". While more appropriate watches were not yet available to the Army in sufficient numbers these "GSTP" pocket watches had to suffice, becoming the workhorses of the Army's horological instruments. "General Service" watches were exactly that. They fulfilled the role of the contemporary timekeeper for routine duties such as those performed, for example, by radio operators and drivers. Each Swiss-produced GSTP watch had a 15 jewel movement, luminous black or white dial and subsidiary seconds dial. Cases were normally provided with snap backs, although some do have screw backs. This particular Leonidas pocket watch is a typical example of the standard British Army GSTP:

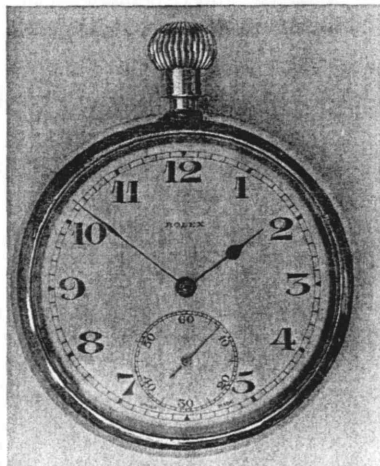
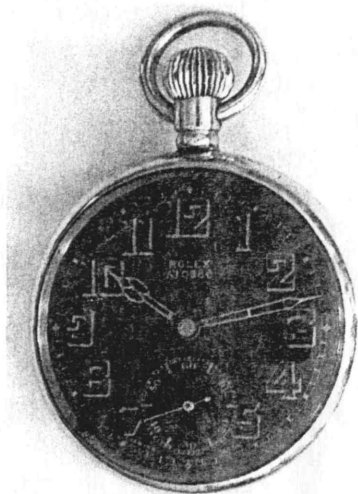
Value £25-£30

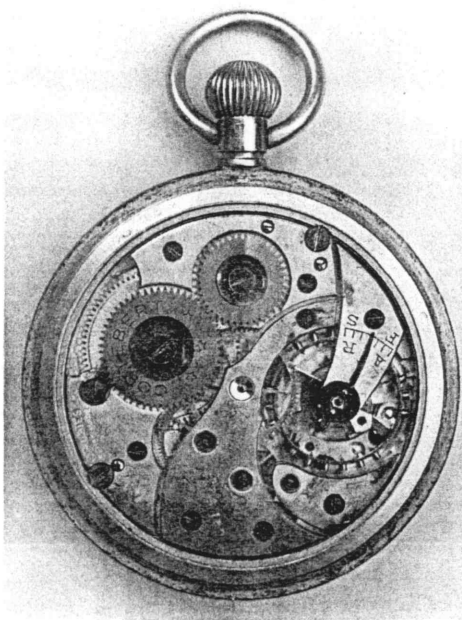
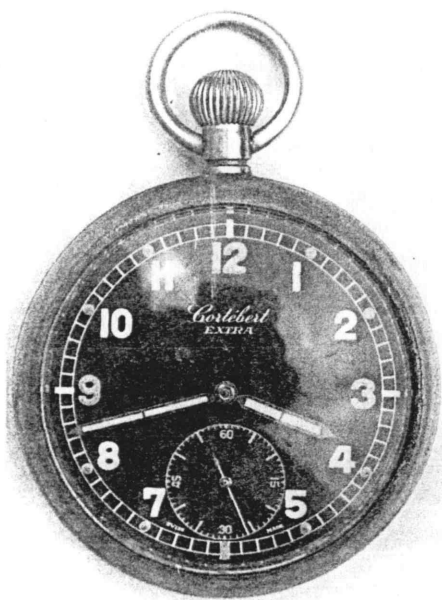


Military Rolex pocket watches were available, circa 1939, in two styles, with either a black luminous or a white non-luminous dial. The black dial pocket watch was evaluated by the British Army and given the grade "General Service Mark II". The white dial version was not intended for pocket use, and was constructed in a case without a chain bow. This was so that the watch could be inserted in a receptacle within a protective wooden case, or on a vehicle instrument panel. The second pattern was designated by the Army as a "B" type, or "back-up" timepiece to a chronometer watch. The "B" mark used to prefix

the issue number of the watch was stamped on the rear of the screw back and on the side of the casing. The GS Mk.II watch had all the issue numbers prefixed with the letter "A". The movements of both models are signed by Rolex on the dial case and movement, which is also marked "15 Rubies". These Rolex movements are actually manufactured as ebauches by the Cortebert watch company; based on Cortebert's calibre 526 movement.

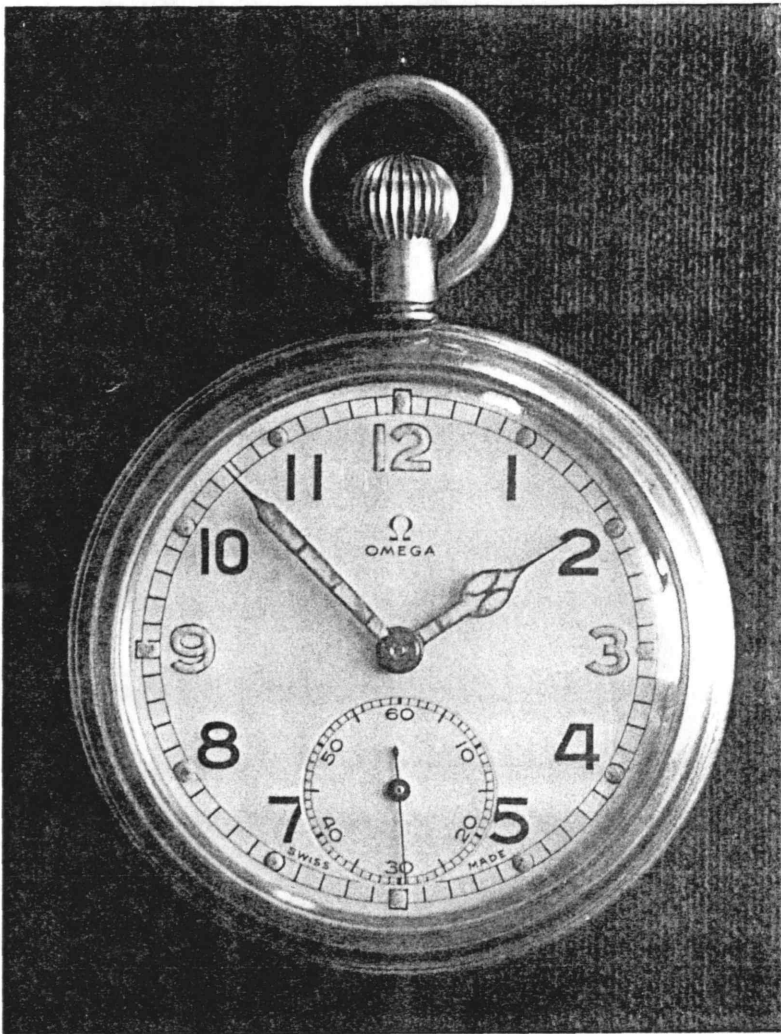
Value £250-£350





This Cortebert "Extra" pocket watch, designated as a General Service Timepiece, is housed in a soft alloy screw-back case; this example is marked on the back with the broad arrow, "G.S.T.P.", and "T7905". Made by Cortebert circa 1942, the signed calibre 526 movement is also marked "15 Rubies". This movement bears a striking resemblance to the Rolex military pocket watch movement - unsurprisingly, as Cortebert supplied ebauches to Rolex based on the calibre 526 movement. Although superficially the connecting bridge work follows a different layout, all the working parts are interchangeable between the two models.

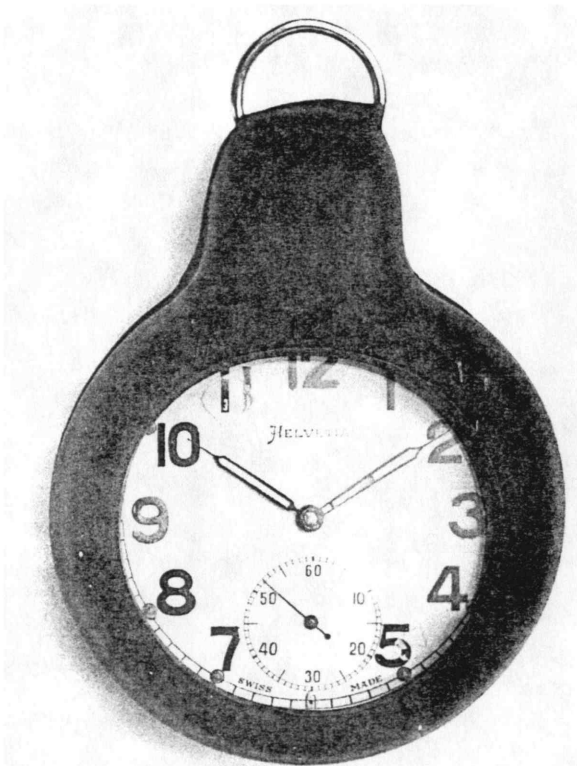
Value £30-£40



This 15 jewel British Army issue General Service Timepiece, circa 1939, has survived in pristine condition, with the white enamel dial retaining all its original luminous paint. This scarce example was supplied by the renowned maker Omega, whose name and trademark appear on the dial. Omega were first contracted by the British during the First World War, when they supplied motor vehicle clocks for Army trucks. However, between 1939 and 1945 the British were supplied with huge quantities of Omega watches which totalled

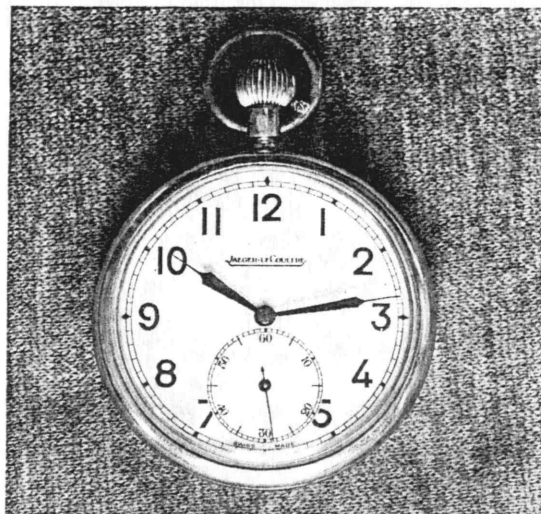
over 100,000 pieces. These represented over half the total number of timepieces procured by the British armed forces during the war. After the Allied victory Field Marshal Montgomery visited the Biel factory and personally thanked the staff at Omega for their work towards the war effort.

Value £70-£80



Special rubber coverings were made to fit over pocket watches which might be subjected to harsh conditions. This example has been fitted to a Helvetia GSTP which already shows signs of damage to the dial. Note also that the hour hand is a contemporary replacement which does not make the correct pair to the minute hand.

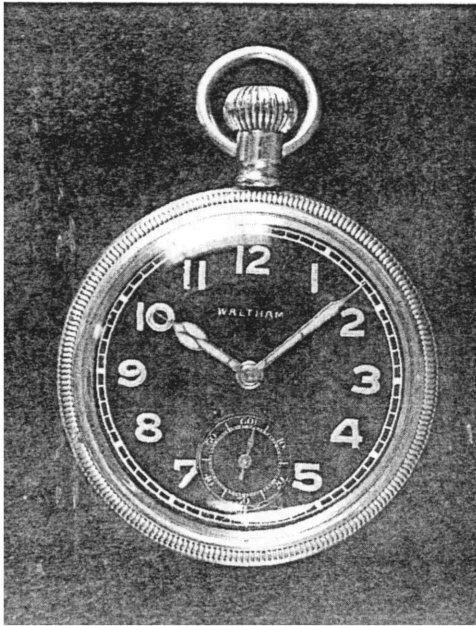
Value £15-£20



Royal Air Force issue pocket watches differ from the Army's GSTPs only in being non-luminous. 15 jewel pocket watches were often chosen by navigators in preference to wristwatches, especially during night bombing operations. The navigators found it useful to place their pocket watches on the charts from which they were working, and the watch's size meant that the time could be read more easily. On this fine Jaeger Le Coultre watch note the size of the subsidiary seconds dial: much larger than the configuration on a normal watch dial, it emphasises the importance of elapsing seconds in certain operational circumstances. The back of this case is marked "6E/50", "A1027C" below the broad arrow.

Value £60-£80





Waltham produced two field grade US Army Ordnance pocket watches during the Second World War, the Model 1609 with 9 jewels and the Model 1617 with 17 jewels. Basically they were the same watch, employing the 16 size movement. Early examples, circa 1941, have white dials, and cost \$12.50 for the Model 1609 and \$24.63 for the Model 1617. By 1944, when the first batches of the Model 1609 arrived in England, a black luminous dial was also being used. These were primarily for issue to the Royal Navy, as with this example, which is marked on the back of the screw case with a small broad arrow. Unusually, however, some Waltham Model 1609 pocket watches were issued to the Army and,