

HOW TO TIME AN AIRSTRIKE?

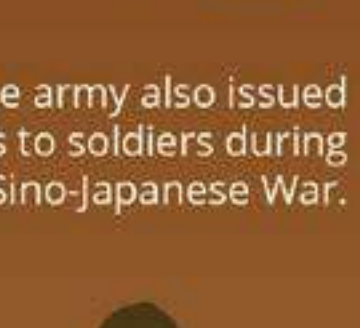
A SHORT HISTORY OF MILITARY WRIST WATCHES

The first wrist watch evolved from the men's pocket watch and came into the mainstream around the end of the 19th century. However, before they could become a mainstay of men's fashion, they had a much more colourful history which began in the armed forces.

A TIMELINE OF TIMEKEEPING IN THE MILITARY

Wrist watches were first worn by army men, not for the purpose of simply keeping time but to specifically synchronize tactical maneuvers

THE FIRST YEARS



1880

German Imperial Navy men were equipped with Girard Perregaux watches that could be strapped to the seamen's wrists by.

The Japanese army also issued wristwatches to soldiers during the Sino-Japanese War.

1894



1899

The British military began using wrist watches during the course of the Boer Wars.



Regardless of the different origin stories, they share a common fact that in order to tell time with ease in the battlefields of the late 1800s, men's pocket watches had to be modified and strapped to the soldiers' wrists for ease of use.

WORLD WAR I



1902

In an attempt to change public perception of wrist watches as women's accessories, Omega's advertising campaign mentions that their watches were used by the British military during the Boer Wars.

World War I breaks out, increasingly complex air and ground co-ordination efforts require both pilots and infantrymen to wear wrist watches.

1914



1915

A number of prominent British watch makers began to manufacture, advertise and sell what came to be known as service watches, a wrist watch with luminous hour and minute hands.

The first wrist watches to sport a shrapnel guard came around

1916



1917

Towards the end of the Great War, a number of American and European watch makers, including Omega, Elgin and Longines were supplying wrist watches to troops on the front line.

As pocket watches were not practical in combat, the Great War served as the transitional period between pocket watches and wrist watches, incorporating features of both.

AFTER THE GREAT WAR



The US Military developed the MIL-SPEC standard for combat watches.

1920

Since the wrist watch was worn by almost every enlisted man, it soon caught on as a fashion trend and transformed what was an essential military item into a status symbol.

1930



1938

MIL-SPEC began to mass produce the now legendary Type A-11 wrist watches sporting a black dial, luminous white hands, 60 second gradation and Arabic numerals.



The main suppliers to the British military included Rolex, Jaeger-LeCoultre, IWC and Omega.

1939

At the outset of World War II, many watch manufacturers, especially Elgin, Bulova and Waltham also began to mass produce the Type A-11.

1940



1942

The Hamilton Watch Company began manufacturing the legendary Khaki series of army watches. A similar model was also supplied to the Russian army as well.

Frogmen watches were issued to Navy divers, one of the first instances of dive watches.

1946



Watches that fulfilled the demanding standards earned the right to have the British Broad Arrow engraved on the dial and case back.

Water proofing technology for watches also came into being around the same time and those that met the required water proofing standard were engraved with the letters W.W.W (waterproof wristlet watch).

THE COLD WAR YEARS (1945 - 1990)

American Military Wrist Watches



Disposable wrist watches were issued to US infantrymen deployed during the Vietnam War.



Disposable wrist watches were supplied to the U.S. military by brands such as Benrus, Hamilton and Westronics, all produced according to MIL-SPEC.



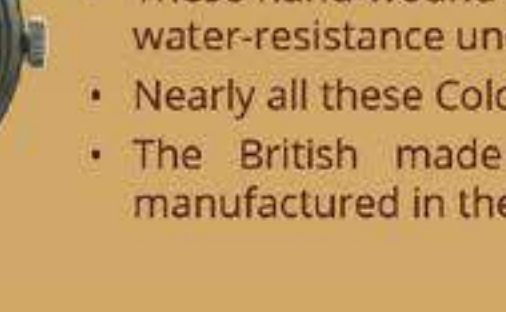
Stainless steel case was used, and glass replaced by reinforced plastic.

The watches were packed in simple paper boxes and issued to soldiers together with the ration.

British and European Military Wrist Watches



- Military watches were much larger in size than the average American navigator's timepieces.
- These hand-wound watches were expected to be water-resistant to 20 feet, including water-resistance under low-pressure at operational altitudes.
- Nearly all these Cold War models were Swiss manufactured.
- The British made Smith's W10 became the last mechanical watch actually manufactured in the United Kingdom for supply to the military.

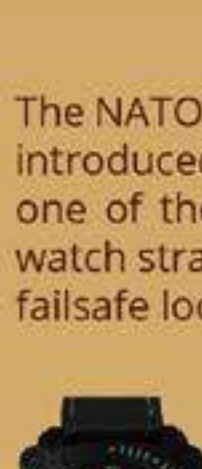


1973

The NATO straps, also known as G10s were introduced by the British Defense Ministry, one of the most well known and reliable watch straps in history, distinguished by its failsafe loop-through design.

A landmark year in military wristwatch history, Tritium gas capsules were invented by a Swiss company MB Microtec, revolutionizing the luminous dials and hands that are of much importance towards military watches.

1980



MODERN MILITARY WATCHES (1990 - PRESENT)

Military watches had reached a stage where they had reached the peak of maturity and was on the verge of growing on the front of technological sophistication.



Current iteration of military watches feature hardened titanium or alloy casing for added physical protection against shock and rough use.



Antimagnetic Faraday cages are installed to prevent de-synchronization from coming into contact with magnetic fields.



Micro solar recharge panels allow the watch to refill its battery continually with minimal chance of running out.



Navy Diver's watches are built to withstand underwater operations beyond 300 meters depth and can also resist 5 bars or more of atmospheric pressure.



Most modern military watches include additional precision features such as chronographs, altimeters, compasses and thermometers.



Some field watches such as the Timex Ironman also sport data uplink features.



Smart wrist watches are also expected to be adopted by the military sometime into the future.

Officially, the armed forces stopped issuing standard timepieces with an increasing number of commercially manufactured reliable watches. However, although not official, here are the preferred wrist watches for some of the most renowned divisions of the armed forces.

British SAS - SBS Rolex Explorer II 16570 US Marine Corps - Marathon Diver's Automatic (GSAR)

RAF - Pulsar G10 US Air Force - Casio AMW-320D

Royal Navy - Seiko 7T27 7A20 US Navy SEALs - Resco Patriot



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