CELEBRATING 36 YEARS IN FIELD
BEGAN TRADING VINTAGE WATCHES ONLINE WITH POLYGON IN 1992

ALL TIME PIECES RESTORED BY GOLDSMITHWORKS

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CELEBRATING 36 YEARS IN FIELD
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BEGAN TRADING VINTAGE WATCHES
ONLINE WITH POLYGON IN 1992

THE QUESTIONS THAT FACE BOTH BUYER AND SELLER OF VINTAGE WWII GERMAN MILITARY WATCHES IS THEIR AUTHENTICATION. I MUST SAY, IF YOU INVEST IN A WATCH THAT IS BLACK DIALED, HAS OLD DEAD RADIUM ILLUMINATED NUMBERS AND HANDS, A SUB SECONDS REGISTER ABOVE THE 6 POSITION, HAS A STEEL OR CHROME CASE WITH WIRED LUGS AND A SCREW OR SNAP BACK AND HAS A CAPITAL D serial number CAPITOL H ENGRAVED/STAMPED
ON THE CASE BACK YOU CAN BE SURE 90% THAT IT IS GERMAN WWII, THE 10% WOULD BE HOW THE BACK IS STAMPED AND WHERE THE WATCH MAY COME FROM. COUNTERFEITS EXIST FROM THE PLACE MOST GENUINE WATCHES WERE LOST, EASTERN EUROPE.

NOW, THE FACT IS, MANY WATCHES NEVER HAD THE D serial H ON THE BACK. ALSO MANY HAD SPRING BARS INSTEAD OF SOLDERED WIRE LUGS. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WERE ALSO SWEEP SECOND HAND MODELS. SO, RATHER THAN DOING WHAT SOME HAVE DONE, I DO NOT DISMISS A WATCH AS BEING NON-GERMAN MILITARY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT MEASURE TO THE ABOVE STANDARDS. IN FACT, A SUPER NICE GERMAN WWII WATCH WAS PURCHASED FROM ESTATE WITH ORIGINAL "WAR BOOTY" APPROVAL CERTIFICATE ALLOWING THE PFC TO TAKE IT AND A HAND GUN TO THE US.

SO, I WILL BE UPDATING THIS AS I GO, AND UPDATING THE PDF ALSO. I HAVE RESTORED THOUSANDS OF TIME PIECES. I HAVE 35000 PICS ONLINE. BUT GERMAN MILITARY HAVE BEEN SLIM DUE TO THE FACT THEY ARE SLIM PICKINGS. BUT OF THE 1000 PIECES, ONLY 35% WERE ACTUALLY MARKED WITH DH, DJH, KM OR ANY OF THE MARKS YOU WILL SEE BELOW. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS, MARKS, MAKE-UPS THAT DELIVER THE FACTS OF THE PIECES GERMAN WAR TIME USE.

TAKE FOR INSTANCE THE TWO WYLERS I FOUND IN 9 YEARS. TWO WITH A RARE DESIGN. I DISCOVERED THEY WERE MADE DURING THE GERMAN OLYMPICS IN 1936. INTRODUCED ONLY IN GERMANY. DO I SAY THEY WERE NOT WAR RELATED? WELL BOTH CAME FROM WWII SOLDIERS ESTATES. RESCUED IN GERMANY FROM ACTIVE SOLDIERS. THUS I TELL THE STORY.

Swiss and German watch contractors signed up with the German Military [Wehrmacht] before and during WWII as watch and timer suppliers. It was these contractors who proposed the brands and not the watch making companies. The contractor would deal with the manufacturer and due to this fact, we find a host of brands that were utilized by the German Military:


The watches were Manually wound movements that, depending on date, were cased in either Nickel Plate or STAHL BODEN [stainless steel], with WASSERDICHT [water resistant] STAHL BODEN [stainless steel] screw down or snap case backs. Movements were a minimum 15 jewels, and, depending on brand and model, some were shock protected. The dial faces were often black, but white was also utilized.

All military/officer watches used on the U Boot [submarines “unterseeboot” = “undersea boat”] had Phosphorus Illumination, in many cases white dials were fully illuminated with black NON-LUME numbers. THE U-BOOT WAS EQUIPPED WITH FLUORESCENT LIGHT CHARGING STATIONS READ: “IRON COFFINS”.
I HAVE AN ORIGINAL SIGNED HARD BACK FIRST EDITION

IRON COFFINS. A BOOK WRITTEN BY CAPTAIN H.A. WERNER. THE TOP GERMAN SUB OFFICER WHO SURVIVED THE WAR. IN IT, THE BOOK DETAILS HIS RISE TO TOP OFFICER FROM 1939 TO 1945. AMONG TONS OF FACTS OF WAR, SUB WAR-FARE, AND HIS LIFE FROM BEGINNING TO POW TO ESCAPE TO COMING TO THE USA IN 1965. ONE OF THE TRUELY FIRST HAND RELIABLE ACCOUNTS OF GERMAN NAVAL SUBMARINE WARE. HE ALSO INFORMS HIS READERS OF THE USE OF WATCHES AND TIMERS AND HOW THEY HAD PHOSPHOROUS INSTEAD OF RADIUM AND CHARGED THEM UTILIZING FLUORESCENT LIGHT STATIONS

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NEW 2015
1.5 YEAR RESTORE
THIS ALPINA WAS/IS NOT SIMPLY A FASHION OR HONOR WATCH
THE FACT THIS ALPINA HAS A MILITARY SWEEP SECONDS HAND
A RARE MILITARY GRADE ALPINA SWEEPS POCKET WATCH MOVEMENT
AND IT HACKS FOR AVIATION/NAVIGATION
PULL CROWN STOPS SWEEPS SECONDS SO IT CAN ZULU TIME
LIKE THE USAA HACKING A-11

Hacking: Wait till hand at 12, pull crown set time, push crown. You are done
One other item the Crystal bezel seems to be slightly arrow going around the case. It took a press to seat it

The dial gently cleaned & silicone
too rare to do anything else
with work the old crystal would
not clear the hands so we utilized
an acrylic crystal sanded to fit

Page D-H Radium
Glycine D-H Radium
Mimo D-H Radium

Some of those used by the Wehrmacht and some PILOT watches had radium illuminated DOTS, AND/OR NUMBERS AND HANDS.
Most were issued with sub-seconds dial, but the sweep second was also invested in, especially for Pilot Watches, Sub Watches, Artillery and Intelligence And Towards The Last Two Years.

Depending on supplier, year, type and branch of service, watches could have a code stamped on case back, and/or the dial would be signed such as: **D serial H, D.i. serial H**,
OWNERSHIP/PROPERTY/SERVICE codes for the German Army [Wehrmacht] were placed on all imported watches. A watch made for the German Army by a German company did not have to have the codes BUT ROCK RESTORED A STOWA [BELOW] POCKET WATCH CONVERSION AND IT HAD THE D serial H ON THE CASE BACK.

German Service Codes
Navy (KM, M or Anchor) Luftwaffe ‘Fl’ (Flight) ‘RLM’ (Reich Air Ministry)

Branch Codes

DH: Dienstuhr Heer  
D: Dienstuhr Luftwaffe 
DRGM: Deutsches Reich Gebrauchsmuster 
RLM: Reichsluftfahrtministerium  
KM: Kriegsmarine  
DU: Dienstuhr (Verwaltung)

Main German Made And Supplied Watches.
Alpina Hanhart Junghans Stowa

JOHs HARTMANN OF BERLIN SUPPLIED 
German Worked Minerva [swiss] Watches & 
Timers. SEE THE ROCK 
RESTORED FLYER 
WRIST WATCH 
FURTHER DOWN

ALPINA WWI FLIEGERTRUPPEN 
[RESTORED BY ROCK ]
PURCHASED BY THE ALPINA WATCH COMPANY

GERMAN WWI ACES
Not All WWII German Military Watches Were Property/Service Branch Marked

THIS GERMAN MADE STOWA IS A NON-PROPERTY MARKED GERMAN WWII MILITARY WATCH THAT BECAME WAR BOOTY & BROUGHT TO THE US BY A US ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS. ROCK RESTORED IT
CERTIFICATE FOR NON-CODED WWII GERMAN STOWA “WAR BOOTY” WATCH

B-UHR FLIEGER AVIATOR:
THE B-UHR FLIEGER AVIATOR IS RARE SO BE READY TO DISCOVER MANY REMAKES AND COUNTERFEITS

JOHs HARTMANN BERLIN
ABOVE IS A RLM 100 SEC TIMER BY MINERVA SUPPLIED BY JOS HARTMANN

WWII 48mm MINERVA JOHs HARTMANN BERLIN

AGAIN, THE FACT IS NOT ALL GERMAN WATCHES WERE STAMPED/CODED. PRIOR TO 1939 AND AFTER 1943

In the 1930’s, Germany was re-arming “under the table” due to the fact they were still under the WWI terms of the armistice. During this time, Germany was secretly developing the Luftwaffe and its crews. They were secretly developing the PANZA and its forces; subs and their crews. During this time, everything military was procured without any hype, note or code. The DH code did not exist. And, towards the last years of the war, when times got hard, especially on the Eastern Front.
1937 German Army “Mimo” Watch

STEEL CASED GERMAN MIMO Girard-Perregaux
WITH MIMO/GP
FIRST AS 1130 Wehrmachtswerk
NOTE-
A 1938 ORDER WAS FOR 7 JEWEL MODELS

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WAS GERMAN WATCH PROCUREMENT LIKE THAT OF THE USA?

The USA built a design on paper, then added all the scientific and mechanical specifics and aspects, then had companies sign a contract for that one, usually identified with specs, version; for instance the A-11 hacking pilots watch. **The German way was to contract with a supplier and the supplier contracted with manufacturer.** The supplier chose the brands and models that met the German Military requirements. That is why we find over 50 companies/models with and without the property/branch codes. There was no specific “main design” written in stone, rather there were requirements. No mod, number or specific brand, just the basics:

NOTE THE RARE SWEEPS SECONDS ON THIS ALPINA POCKET WATCH

GERMAN ARMY/WEHRMACHT
Steel or Chrome Case, Screw Down Case Back – early and late had Snap Back, many with Black Dials, brands purchased included illuminated and non-illuminated dials and hands, fixed wire lugs [standard were also supplied] and ***Sub Second Register.
Many of the watches produced in the 1930’s and 1940’s were available with white or black dials, raised radium numbers and most had sub-second registers.

***Sweep Seconds were more than useful and by 1942 were becoming popular.

In many cases, the same brands were sold to the British, directly to American Soldiers, and sold to Germany.

Germany utilized just about the same watches as the British and vice versa. While many were black dailed, white dials are also discovered.

Another fact is that prior to WWII and during WWII many pocket watches were converted to wristwatches by adding silver or steel wire to form lugs or by placing in large lug cases. The Minerva Flyers above was cased by Jos Hartmann of BERLIN and the STOWA “DH” below was a pocket watch also converted during the war to a wrist watch [i do not know who/what company converted it].

MANY UNMARKED GERMAN WATCHES. THE ABOVE HELOSIA HAD GERMAN TRENCH ART. TRENCH ART SIGNATURES SS AND SERVICE NUMBERS CARVINGS BUTTONS ART. FROM USA TO JAPANESE MANY TIME PIECES WERE PERSONALIZED

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AS1130
Unlike the USA Military Watches with no “main movement”; with each model having a movement designed by each separate manufacturer, in the beginning, an individual Swiss movement was chosen for the first large Wehrmacht production orders. The German Military chose a solid, common movement manufactured by A Shield. The Swiss AS 1130.

The AS 1130 would take on the name: Wehrmachtswerk or “German Army Movement”. This was/is an excellent movement used for commercial watches before, during, and after WWII. And due to the German Army, it can still be found in a host of different brands. A Phenix, Helios and Mimo are all separate private brands, yet we can discover all three with their own individual cases, dials and hands but each with the same AS 1130 movement. While German military watches can be discovered with the same movement, they are also found with different movements. In fact, while you can find 5 different brands with the AS 1130, you can also find three similar Phenix black dialed sub registered watches, all manufactured in the same year, but all three having different movements. WWII meant supplies were limited. Though many watches were produced, the lack of steel and other metals meant left over on the shelf movements were used and many steel cases were replaced with chrome plated brass.

AS 1130 15 JEWELS

Features manual wind sub second power reserve 38h

Many WWII German Issued Watches contained the AS1130 movement. Due to its early exclusive use by the German Army the 1130 became known as the “Wehrmachtswerk”. Wehrmachtswerk translates as “Wehrmacht movement” German Army Movement. AS 1130 Features manual wind sub second. Data 13”, Dm= 29mm H= 3.8mm, 15/18/17/21 jewels, f = 18000 A/h, power reserve 38h. Wehrmachtswerk (army movement) option: Reed’s regulator, various bridge shapes, sometimes separate escape wheel cock, differently beveled bridge and plate edges, later samples with ring balance and/or movable stud carrier,
Fixed Lugs or Spring Bars

Some writers act as if SPRING BARS are a modern feature. Well, believe it or not, spring bars date from the first watch made for the wrist. In fact, the fixed lug, whether a set of lugs with a wire soldered between them, or, a wire formed into a lug and soldered on a case like that which is found on a trench watch or conversion, were used because the wrist watch was new – especially during and following WWI. By WWII the spring bar was already a fact; a conclusion, and on most wrist watches. Why were there wire lugs on some military and not others? Manufacturers could fix a wire or sell with holes. During the war years it was often simpler to weld a wire. The German Military liked the fact that the wire could not come loose. So, we find the fixed lugs on some but not all WWII watches. Is this a factor to consider when buying a vintage watch? Absolutely not. And, if the wires are broke they can be repaired.

AT THE END OF THE WAR WATCH SUPPLIERS HAD AGREEMENTS WITH THE ALLIED FORCES TO DESTROY WATCHES THAT WERE RECOVERED, WHETHER GERMAN OR BRITISH. THOUSANDS OF WATCHES WERE COLLECTED AND THEN DESTROYED. IN ONE CASE, A WWII VET TOLD ME THE STORY OF THE 10,000 OMEGA WATCHES. HE LITERALLY WATCHED AS 10,000 WWII OMEGA POCKETS WERE PILED ON A RUN WAY AND WATCHED AS A STEAM ROLLER WENT TO WORK FOR AN HOUR FLATTENING THEM ALL.

POCKET WATCHES

POCKET WATCH CASES
WWI AND POST WWI WERE USED IN WWII
THE ABOVE RECORD BELONGED TO A GERMAN SOLDIER ON THE EASTERN FRONT

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THE DH AND THE HOST OF DIVISION MARKS CAN BE FOUND ON POCKETS
LOOK FOR MARKS ON CASE BACKS – DIALS – HOLDER CASES – AND MOVEMENTS

VINTAGE 1944 WWII GERMAN ZENITH
SINGLE SCREW CASE D 8409627 H [Deutsche Heer] MILITARY POCKET WATCH
SER# 8409627
THIS ROCK RESTORED ZENITH GERMAN “DH” MILITARY POCKET WATCH IS THE BEST OF THE BEST AND THEY WERE PURCHASED BY GERMANY AT THEIR WWII HEIGHT. NOTE TOOL INDENTS TO UNSCREW. THESE ARE “WATER PROOF” THEY HAVE THE MILITARY INTERNAL CASE. THE MOVEMENTS ARE JEWELED

DI serial H

WE FIRST DISCOVERED THE BELOW EXPLANATION FOR THE DI H PROPERTY MARKS AS

"In 1942 the Italian coalition reorganized under Rommel were referred to as the Deutsch-Italienische Panzerarmee; a name which was soon to be again modified, to the Heeresgruppe Afrika. A watch was issued with the “I” PROPERTY MARK mark”

I FINALLY AFTER 10 YEARS FOUND ONE TO RESTORE. THE GUARD WAS ON IT BUT WAS NOT ORIGINAL.
WE THEN DISCOVERED THE REAL ISSUE OF THE PROPERTY MARK DI .....H AND BELIEVE THIS TO BE FACT.

THE GERMAN MILITARY MARKINGS DI-H IS A PROPERTY MARK FOR ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND IT DENOTES A TIME PIECE WITH SWEEP SECONDS,

HELVETIA WAS THE MAIN BRAND. NOTE THE YELLOW DIALED UNIT ABOVE. AND THE ONE WE INVESTED IN AND RESTORED.

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GERMANY

MILITARY TIMEPIECE MARKINGS

German Navy watch mark, c.1932.

Kriegsmarine property mark, 1933-1945.

Chronometer watch mark with naval issue number.

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

Kriegsmarine issue chronograph watch mark.

Kriegsmarine issue chronograph watch mark.

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

Kriegsmarine issue clock mark.

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

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

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

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

German Flying Corps mark, pre-1918.

Mark on Luftwaffe wristwatch with Flieger number, 1939-45. The first two digits (21) of the code identify an observer's watch.

Mark on Luftwaffe wristwatch with Flieger number, 1939-45. The first two digits (21) of the code identify an observer's watch.

MADE IN JAPAN

Deutsche Reichsmarine issue watch mark, first used by the German Navy in 1940 although the RM code was not officially accepted until 1943. The mark continued in use until 1935.

Traditional German Navy issue watch mark, 1918-1935. As above, a navigator's watch is identified by the first two digits (20) of the code.

Typical manufacturer's and maker's detail, 1935-1945.

Reichs Luftfahrt Ministerium, Navigation Beachtung Uhr - Reich Air Ministry issued navigational observation watch, 1933-1945.

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

Bundeswehr issue pilot's wristwatch with NATO stores code.

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

German Flying Corps mark, pre-1918.
FACT IS, WHILE THERE WERE GERMAN WWII MILITARY WATCHES ILLUMINATED WITH RADIUM, ALL WATCHES AND TIMERS ISSUED FOR SUBMARINES WERE ILLUMINATED WITH A PHOSPHOROUS COMPOUND AND MOST HAD THE DIAL ILLUMINATED WITH BLACK NUMERALS.
RARE IS THE GERMAN WWII PHOSPHORUS DIALED WATCH AND/OR TIMER. MOST WENT DOWN WITH NEARLY ALL THE GERMAN SUBS.

THE PHOSPHORUS COMPOUND USED BY THE GERMANS WAS 5 TIMES BETTER THAN MOST COMPOUNDS IN USE TODAY. WHILE THERE WERE WATCHES WITH RAISED PHOSPHORUS NUMBERS, THE FACT IS THE DIALS THEMSELVES WOULD BE ILLUMINATED AND OFFICERS AND SAILORS WOULD CHARGE THE PHOSPHORUS ILLUMINATED DIALS BY USING A PERMANENT FLUORESCENT CHARGING STATION …..

“AT MIDNIGHT GERLOFF RELIEVED ME FROM WATCH. I FELL THROUGH THE HATCH AND LOWERED MYSELF INTO THE BLACK HULL. THE CONNING TOWER WAS ILLUMINATED ONLY BY THE FEEBLE SHIMMER FROM THE PHOSPHORESCENT FACE OF THE COMPASS ....”


MOST OF THESE ARE FROM ROCKS COLLECTION.