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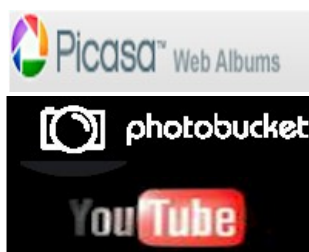
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420 ALBUMS ON PICASA

Hamilton Military Watches

For watches, at their very essence, their reason for being is their utility. It is the use for telling the time that defines them. As a watch collector, I have found myself drawn to military watches, and wondering why. When it comes to "utility", no other watches can match the military watch. They are accurate, and ergonomic for fit, function, and readability. There are no frills, and the jewelry component has been omitted. Virtually everything about these watches can be explained in terms of their utility. The term to describe these wonderful timepieces is "elegant".

I was unable to find the information I wanted about Hamilton military watches in any book. I have tried to put together what I have learned from a variety of sources. Since there is still more to know, I invite anyone with additional information or corrections to please forward them. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

There is no single categorization scheme that seems to work perfectly, so I have made some concessions. The following categories make the outline of this section. Please note that the American section is broken down by era, where the British section is by model, all of which were post WWII.

[American Hamilton Wrist Watches](#)

- [Pre WWII](#)
- [WWII \[including Canadian and Russian\]](#)
- [Post WWII](#)

[British Hamilton Wrist Watches](#)

- [Type 1, RAAF Issue](#)
- [6B](#)
- [6BB](#)
- [GS and Tropical](#)
- [W-10](#)
- [0552 Chronograph](#)

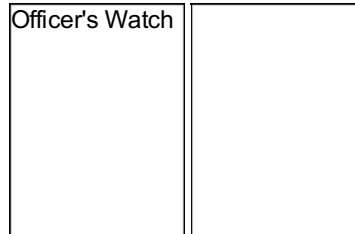
[Other Hamilton Wrist Watches](#)

- [Type 1, RAAF Issue](#)

American Hamilton Wrist Watches

Pre WWII

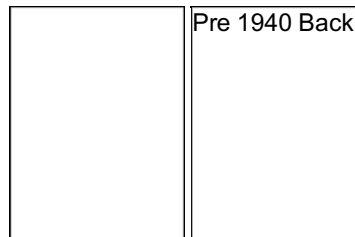
There was a need for timekeeping in WWI, but wrist watches were not in use during that time. While pocket watches were used extensively, some officers found a need for faster access to the time. There are watches that are often referred to as “officers’ watches”, that are small [usually ladies] pocket watches or pendant watches that had been converted to be worn on a leather strap. These are sometimes seen with schrapnel guards designed to protect the glass crystals.



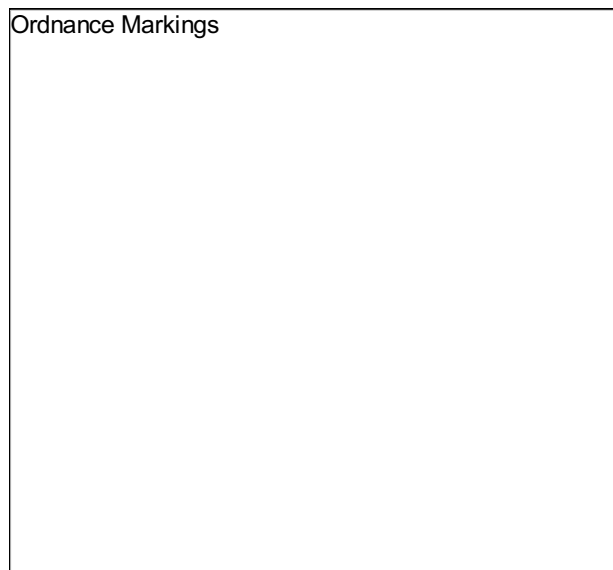
Current wisdom has it that these were not supplied by the government, but were purchased by individual officers. Therefore, they have no US Government markings. Since Hamilton was a popular maker of watches of the time, Hamilton watches were used for these “officers’ watches” along with many other American manufactures’ watches.

WWII [including Canadian and Russian]

In the early stages of WWII, there were government issued watches that had no markings. The Hamiltons contained 987A movements, and usually were supplied with a dust cover over the movement. They were contained in generic cases that were plated over base metal, and usually had a stainless steel snap back cover.



In 1940, the Ordnance Department published the requirements for military watches. The list includes pocket, wrist, and stop watches. Note also, that there was a provision for watches produced before 1940 to be retroactively marked if they were serviced.



Cases can be found with a variety of configurations. The center watch has a parkerized case, and the other two are plated and showing wear. The first has no markings, but has a 987A movement with a dust cover and a screw back. The last has a snap back and is most likely later than the first.

The 987A has sub-seconds, and the later 987s and 2987 both have center seconds. The center seconds was more desirable simply because it was easier to read. None of these variations had the hack function found on later watches.

WWII no mark		OD back
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During WWII, Hamilton supplied watches for the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps [the Air Force was the Army Air Force]. Hamilton also supplied some watches for allies in WWI, specifically for Russia, and for the Royal Canadian Air Force [RCAF]. There were a total of 168,560 made by Hamilton during WWII. It is believed that this does not include pre-1940 production.

Fortunately, some records were kept that let us know the production for the Hamilton watches and their variations.

Hamilton WWII wartime production figures

Part No.	Grade	Jewels	Manufactured From – To	Quantity	Service
27014	987A	17	1942-1945	110,336	Army
27016	987A	17	1942-1945	3,000	Russian Gov't
39038	987S	17	1940-1945	2,000	RCAF
39054	987S	17	1940-1945	22,410	Navy
39054	987S	17	1940-1945	15,888	Marine Corps
39102	2987	18	1943-1945	12,000	Navy
39102	2987	18	1943-1945	2,926	Marine Corps
			Total	168,560	
	987A	17	1942?		BuAero US Navy
R88-W-800	987A	17	194?		Navy

As a note, there was a standard established for watch production called the A-11. Elgin, Waltham and Bulova produced many military watches under this standard, but Hamilton never did. They did make for the US Navy a similar type watch using the G-987S and G-2987 movements, and left the type A-11s for Elgin, Waltham and Bulova. Also, the USMC received them too, only they had white dials instead of black for the USN.

Apparently those with the 2987 movements would typically be marked on the back "R88-W-800 / MFR'S PART NO. 39108 / HAMILTON WATCH CO. / K-H-3?".

Canteen Watch

A-11 dial	A-11 case back
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Many of these old Hamilton military watches were later recased into more civilian friendly cases. One of my favorite watches is a recased military movement with inner dust cover from WWII. It is a true "Frankenwatch", as it has the movement and case [remember, recased] that I got, a NOS dial, and hands off of another Hamilton watch. So, it is possible to find these revived relics as they surface for a new life. They are of course no longer of much military interest, but can make a very nice watch.

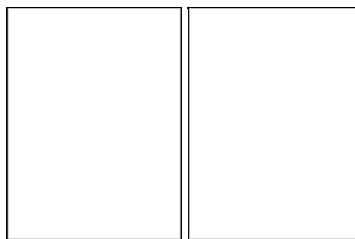


Post WWII

GG-W-113

June 6, 1967 the Military Specification for the GG-W-113a were established, for the USAF. These were issued to pilots, usually with a black one piece band, and look very much like the field watch MIL-W-46374 that was issued to Army personnel. The watch was even more legible because of the slightly larger size, and the removal of the radiation warnings on the dial. The early GG-W-113s

are one piece case designs. The movement is removed from the front after removing the crystal. In 1982 or 1983, the GG-W-113 was made with a two piece case. DTU 2APMIL-W-38188 [1965]

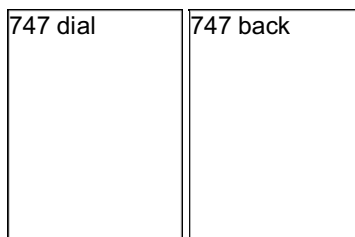


Hamilton Post WWII US Military Watches

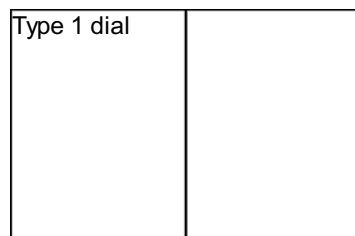
Spec.	Grade	Jewels	Date	Hack?	Service
OF 747	747	17	1946?	No hack	USMC
GG-W-113	649 685	17	1967	Hack	USAF
Type 1	684	17	1970	Hack	USAF, RAAF
MIL-W-46374		17	1964/5?	Hack	ARMY
MIL-W-46374A		17	1968?	Hack	ARMY
MIL-W-46374B	447ST 466ST INT-7420/3	7 7	1976?	No hack Hack	ARMY
MIL-W-46374C		17	1983	Hack	ARMY
MIL-W-46374D		18	1986-88	Hack	ARMY

OF 747

A curiosity is the USMC marked "OF" followed by a serial number, and "747?" on the reverse. It is marked like the war models, but not listed as being part of wartime production. The 747 movement was introduced post-war by Hamilton in 1946. Note that the back shown below indicates no serial number because it was never issued.

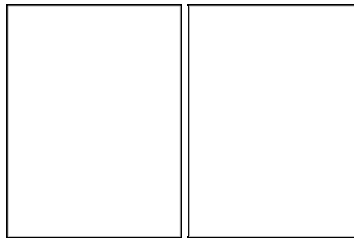


Type 1 In 1970, the Air Force came out with a slightly larger pilots watch, the Type 1 Navigation Watch. This watch was also issued to the Royal Australian Air Force. Inside, the screw down caseback features a nice Swiss 17 jewels Hamilton Grade 684 manual wind movement with hacking device. It is shielded by an antimagnetic dust cover. The dial layout is very similar to the GG-W-113 and the British Mark XI, but has "Swiss" at the bottom. The case is about 36mm in diameter (excluding crown), and 47mm lug to lug, with 17mm lug width with solid fixed bars. the American model is marked as a FAPD 5101, although collectors refer to this watch as the "Type 1 Navigation".



MIL-W-46374, MIL-W-46374B, MIL-W-46374C, MIL-W-46374D

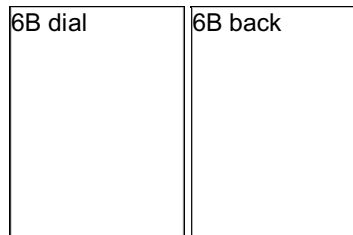
Mil Watch 463748 1983. April 15, 1983 the Military Specification for the MIL-W-46374C(AR) were established. October 10, 1986 the Military Specification for the MIL-W-46374D were established. The US Army got the 17 jewel, hackable movement in their MIL-W-46374 in 1987. It was the equivalent to the USAF GG-W-113 at this point. From what I can tell, the last Hamilton US issue watch was in 1988.



British Hamilton Wrist Watches

6B

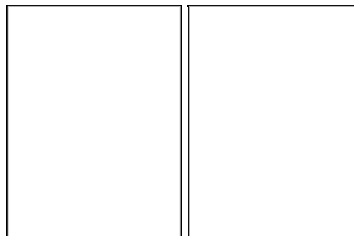
Many refer to the [6B](#) as the Hamilton Mark XI, because it was issued at the same time and to the same specifications as other watches designated Mark XI. It occurred in two marking variations, both for the Royal Air Force: the 6B-9614045 pattern seen here and a 6B-9101000 marking pattern. It also appeared in two dial variations: one with "Hamilton" on the dial and the other without it. The movement is a Hamilton 8758 based on the ETA 2390. There is a 75 and probably "S" marking the movement.



6BBGS and Tropical

Hamilton [G.S.](#) ["General Service"] watches were specifically made for the UK's General Services. They were actually issued to Government personnel, that were not Military. These watches were used by a number of Government agencies overseas, Foreign and Commonwealth Office aid groups helping with education and health stuff like that from the mid 60's to the late 70's. They also acted as a cover for a number of former military men who helped nations organise their own security and law enforcement on behalf of HM Government.

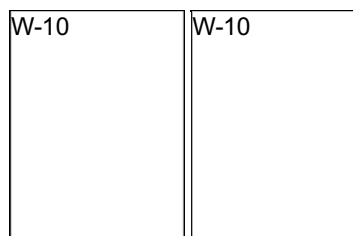
The [G.S. Tropical](#) seems to have been a specially sealed series of watches for use in tropical climates. They are marked "Tropical" on the stainless steel case back, These are rarer than the standard G.S. watches. The case and movement appear to be the same for both watches. The Tropical does not have the broadarrow found on military watches of Great Britain.



6BB – Royal Air Force

W-10

The [W-10](#) is a tonneau shaped British Army issue watch. Caliber 649, 17 jewel unadjusted.



0552 Chronograph

The watch has a heavy asymmetric case stainless steel case with recessed winder, fixed bars, heavy screw back and round waterproof pushers. The rear of the case has the British Broad Arrow and the issue numbers, showing its date of issue. It has a 17 jewel ETA 7733 movement with Incabloc shock protection, the movement is signed Hamilton on the main bridge.

The watch was a product of the Swiss Hamilton company after its purchase by SMH and is not an American Hamilton.

