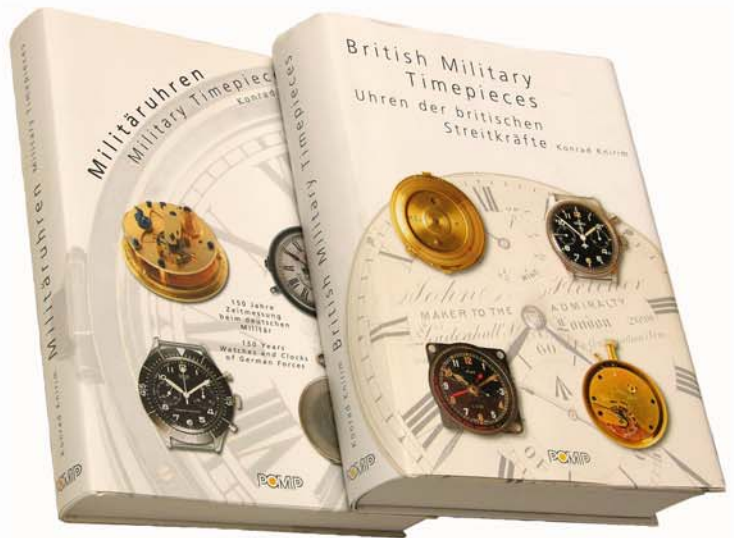


British Military Timepieces

Military Timepieces Vol. 2
British Military Timepieces
Watches and Clocks of Their Majesties Forces
 Author and Editor: Konrad Knirim
 Publisher: Peter Pomp
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Following on from the 2002 'Military Timepieces', which concentrated on 150 years of watches and clocks for the German armed forces, comes the British side of this history. Somewhat extended, it covers a period of 250 years and starts in the well travelled territory of John Harrison and the beginnings of chronometry and continues with a horological odyssey that brings us right up to the Gulf War. An international team of authors have contributed to what must be the most complete study of this subject to date, the text in both English and German.

Divided into six sections, Part 1 gives a succinct account of Harrison and his work followed by details of the historic precision clocks and chronometers at the Old Royal Observatory. This is followed in Parts 2 to 4 by the history of chronometers, clocks, deck watches, pocket watches and wrist watches and which covers the bulk of the book amounting to 650 pages. Excellently and prodigiously photographed throughout, this history ranges from the general, eg. WW1 Aircraft Pocket Watches or Precision Time for WW2, to the very specific – An English Captain's Watch in the French Wars, and, The Aviator Chronograph of Lawrence of Arabia.

Part 5, some 60 pages long, covers the timepieces of the Commonwealth and Allies of Britain during both World Wars, perhaps a rather meagre account, given their vast contribution during the conflicts. Rather curiously, given the title of the book, a small section on Japanese WW2 Military Timepieces is tagged on to the end.

There would appear to be hardly any area of the military use of timekeeping that has not found a place in this work and it will be a long time before it is surpassed. Only in Knirim's Preface does the book seem a little dated; "England impressed me, lots of broad motorways with dense commuter traffic, so there was a good deal of GNP (Gross National Product) on its way. ... You can feel the economy booming!" No comment!

Alan Middleton FBHI

The book is available from the author direct: www.knirim.de; Amazon, Germany, www.Amazon.de, or a wide range of British sellers: www.gkhadfield-tilly.co.uk, www.shentonbooks.com, www.formby-clocks.co.uk, www.abebooks.co.uk, www.aeroclocks.com

