

RICHEMONT INTERNATIONAL SA

*From Vacheron & Constantin
to the US Army Corps of Engineers
by DHL*

By DHL

US Army Corps of Engineers
44 G. Street
NW
Washington DC 20314-1000
USA

Attn: LTG Robert B. Flowers

Geneva, December 12, 2002

O/ref.: BI/jga

Use of the name "CORPS OF ENGINEERS USA" by Vacheron & Constantin SA on a limited edition of watch dials

Dear Sir,

Vacheron & Constantin SA, one of the brands of the luxury group Richemont International, is probably one of the most prestigious watchmakers in the world and one of the oldest since its origin dates back to 1755. I enclose herewith the English version of its latest catalogue.

In 1918, the Corps of Engineers ordered 5000 chronograph-watches from the predecessor in title of Vacheron & Constantin SA with dials marked "Corps of Engineers, USA" and "Vacheron & Constantin". I enclose herewith a color copy of a photography of this 1918 watch together with copies of letters from that period relating to the said order.

In the preparation of the celebration of its 250th anniversary, Vacheron Constantin intends to commemorate such an event by, inter alia, producing some exceptional watch pieces and some Limited Editions. Among the latter, the Swiss company has planned the production of a serie of 20 to 50 watches which will reproduce the dial of the 1918 chronograph-watch, including the words "CORPS OF ENGINEERS, USA".

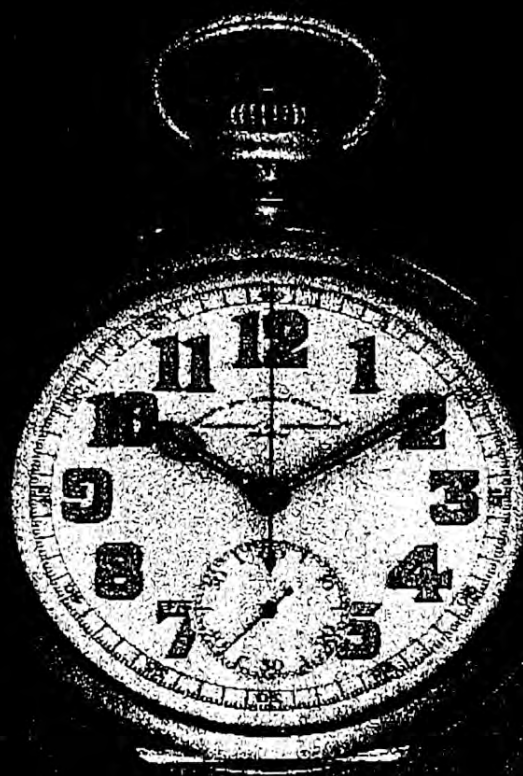
I trust that your Corps will be agreeable to this project.

Sincerely yours,



Bernard Ibos

Enc. ment.



Order No.E.D. 44 - 509

Reqn. No. B-5496

GENERAL PURCHASING BOARD, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

CHIEF PURCHASING OFFICER

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

25 MAY 1918

TBW:M

8, May, 1918.

From: Engineer Purchasing Officer, A. E. F.
To: Captain J. E. Miller, Engineers, U. S. A.
Subject: Chronograph-watches.

1. Following the arrangement made by you - in conjunction with a representative from this office - with Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin, Limited, in Geneva, it is requested that you place an order with them for the following:

NOT LESS than Five Thousand (5,000) single chronograph-watches, of the following description:

High grade movements, 20-jewels, stop sweep second hand without minute counter, adjusted to positions and temperatures, furnished with Certificate of Guarantee. To be without special engraving on the movements, except the name of the maker - Vacheron & Constantin - and the number of the watch. The cases to be of oxydized silver, open face, with the following engraving on the back: "Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. No.--- (Numbers to begin with 1). The dials and hands shall be luminous, except the small second and the sweeping hand. The dials are to be marked "Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. No.---" and "Vacheron & Constantin".

Price, SWISS francs, 280 each, f. o. b. Berne, Switzerland. Payment shall be made upon delivery to a representative of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.

2. It is understood that the Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin will fill the above order in the shortest time possible, deliveries to be made at the rate of not less than 200 watches per month, the first delivery to start within from three (3) to four (4) months. However, it is understood that the Corps of Engineers will be furnished from 75 to 100 watches within thirty (30) days, said watches now being in stock.

3. It is agreed that this order may be cancelled by the Corps of Engineers upon ninety (90) days notice in writing, to be effective after the delivery of five thousand (5,000) watches; otherwise the Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin, Limited, will continue to make the above stipulated deliveries until receipt of such notice, except as below noted.

4. This order will be automatically cancelled by the declaration of peace, except that the Corps of Engineers will accept and pay for three thousand (3,000) watches, even though peace be declared before any watches are delivered, and in the event of the three thousand (3,000) watches not being delivered before the declaration of peace, Vacheron & Constantin will be allowed to reduce the

-2-

number of watches furnished per month to a number mutually agreed upon, so as to allow Vacheron & Constantin to resume regular commercial work.

5. The Corps of Engineers will endeavor to obtain from the French Government for Vacheron & Constantin, a passport to cross the frontier into Savoy at any time, it being understood that certain polishing works located at this point are to do the necessary polishing of the watches manufactured by Vacheron & Constantin. The Corps of Engineers will also endeavor to obtain a pass for the packages and mail of Vacheron & Constantin to or from Savoy.

6. In case of a scarcity of metal in Switzerland that would prevent Vacheron & Constantin from carrying out the above order, it is understood that the Corps of Engineers will assist in getting materials to them.

7. It is further understood that Vacheron & Constantin will not be responsible for failure to fulfill any part or all of this order, due to riot, act of God or the public enemy.

By direction of Colonel C. McD. Townsend, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.


THOMAS E. WHITFIELD
Captain, Engineers, U. S. R.

Order No.E.D.44 - 509
Mode of purchase - Switzerland.
Reqn. No. B-5495

1 ton.

ANCIENNE FABRIQUE
VACHERON & CONSTANTIN
SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME

MANUFACTURE D'HORLOGERIE
FONDÉE EN 1755

GENÈVE



ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE
VACHERON-GENÈVE

GENÈVE, le 22 Mai 1918

En attendant le retour du contrat définitif que Mr le
Capitaine Whitted doit expédier de Paris, j'ai l'avantage
de vous confirmer notre entretien verbal du 4 Mai vous
passant la commande de 5000 chronographes simples en boî-
-tes argent.

May 22 -

I hereby certify that Cap'n
T.B. Whitted ordered above
watches on date mentioned
Contract covering same
to follow from Paris upon
signature of Col. Townsend
same done in my presence
J. E. Miller
Cap'n, Engls, USR.

Schweiz, Telegraphen- und Telefonverwaltung. — Administration des télégraphes et des téléphones suisses. — Amministrazione dei telegrafi e dei telefoni svizzeri.

No. 2.

Genève

Telegramm — Télégramme — Telegramma

Wörter — Mots
Parole

SS URGENT PARIS 44/75 RS 35 23 19 10

Erhalten von
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Le télégraphiste
Il telegrafistaEvent. Angaben
Indications event.
Indicazioni event.

Contr. N°

Adresse - Indirizzo

VACHERON AND CONSTANTIN
FABRICANTS MONTRES GENEVE

= NO 1208 THE AGREEMENT MADE WITH YOU BY CAPT WHITTED
ABSOLUTELY AS OUTLINED AT GENEVA WAS SIGNED AND MAILED
TO CAPTAIN MILLER MAY EIGHTH PERIOD RUSH WORK
TOWNSEND ENGRS = =

Gedruckt auf Telegramm- und Telefonpapier
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Der Telegraphist: - Le télégraphiste:
Il telegrafista:

5 Spitalgasse
Berne, Switzerland
May 26, 1918

Vacheron & Constantin

Geneva

Gentlemen:

Forwarding herewith, order No. 44-509, covering 5,000 watches,
received this morning from Engineer Corps in France.

For and in the absence of Captain J.E. Miller:

Very respectfully,

J. H. Garley

3, Spitalgasse,
Berne.

June 4, 1916.

Messieurs Vacheron & Constantin,
Genève.

Your letter of May 30 received upon my return here from France. It is necessary to know to whom free-pass is to be made, as a blank pass permitting anyone to go to and from France is against regulations.

I expect shortly to be in Geneva and will call upon you. In the meantime will refer your inquiries to headquarters, France.

J. E. Miller
J. E. MILLER.

Captain, Engineers, U.S.A.

PURCHASING AGENT FOR SWITZERLAND
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCESOrder Berne No. 154.
P.O.E.D. 44-537
Reqn. No.B-6288

Telephone 6252 Berne

BERNE (Switzerland), August 10, 1918.
20, LausannestrasseVacheron & Constantin,
Geneva.

I hereby purchase from you, by order of and for account of Engineer Corps,
American E.F. the materials hereinafter specified upon the following terms:

DESCRIPTION : 2,000 watches, oxydized silver, half-chronometer, luminous dials
and hands, as per sample No. 252608, submitted to Engineer Purchasing Officer in
Paris. On the back of each watch will be engraved: " Property of Corps of Engineers,
U.S.A. 10,351 " up to 12,350.

QUANTITY: 2,000 (two thousand) watches.

PRICE : 96.- [Ninetysix] Swiss francs each.

PAYMENT: To be made in Swiss francs at Berne as soon as possible after delivery
of said materials by seller to buyer at Berne.DELIVERY: 100 pieces monthly at Berne: to be increased, if possible, to 150 to
200 pieces monthly.

SHIPMENT: To be made at seller's risk and expense to Berne.

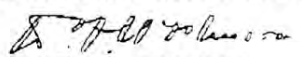
INSPECTION: The buyer waives the right of inspection at the seller's factory before
shipment of watches to Berne. Watches will be subject to inspection in Paris by the
Engineer Corps and such watches as are not similar in all respects to sample watch
No.232608, and are not engraved according to above specification may be refused
by buyer and no payment shall be made for these.

RAW MATERIALS No raw material for the manufacture of these watches will be supplied
to seller by buyer.

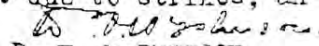
ACCEPTED:

INGENIEUR PERCHON

VACHERON & CONSTANTIN S.A.


D. F. McPHERSON,
Captain, A.G.N.A.Purchasing Agent for Switzerland,
American E.F.

It is understood that Vacheron & Constantin will not be responsible for ~~strikes~~
delays in the performance of this contract due to strikes, an act of God, or of
a public enemy.


D. F. McPHERSON,
Purchasing Agent for Switzerland,
American E.F.

PURCHASING AGENT FOR SWITZERLAND
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

Telephone 6252 Berne

BERNE (Switzerland), ~~February 21~~, 19 18.
25, Luiseustrasse

M. Heron & Constantin,
Geneva.

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your courteous favor of February 20th, with which you were kind enough to enclose me a copy of the "Journal de Geneve", of this date, which contains the results of the latest "chronometer contest" at the Geneva Observatory.

I am, indeed, delighted to learn that the excellence of the watches of your manufacture has been recognized in such a positive manner, and I take this opportunity of offering you my congratulations and again expressing my appreciation of the excellent workmanship which those chronometers sold by you for the use of the American Expeditionary Forces in France have uniformly shown.

Yours very truly,

J. C. Sims
J. C. SIMS,
Captain, U.S.A.,
Purchasing Agent for Switzerland,
American E.F.

Ordre No. E.D. 44 - 509
No. de réquisition B-5495

GENERAL PURCHASING BOARD, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
CHIEF PURCHASING OFFICER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

TBW/M.

8 Mai 1918.

De: Monsieur l'Officier Acheteur du Corps Expéditionnaire
Américain (Génie)

A: Monsieur le Capitaine J.E. Miller, Génie, U.S.A.

Sujet : Montres-chronographes.

1. Comme suite aux arrangements que vous avez faits - conjointement avec un représentant de cette section - avec l'Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin, Limited de Genève, il est demandé que vous passiez à cette Société la commande suivante :

Cinq Mille (5,000) montres chronographes simples, La Quantité livrée ne devra pas être inférieure au chiffre mentionné ci-dessus, Ces montres auront la spécification suivante :

Montres à mouvement supérieur, 20 rubis, avec compteur à secondes sans compte-minutes, invariables aux différentes altitudes et aux différentes températures, chacune des ces montres-chronographes sera fournie avec son Certificat de Garantie. Sans gravure spéciale sur les mouvements à l'exception du nom du fabricant - Vacheron & Constantin - et du numéro de la montre. Boîtiers en argent oxydé, à cadran visible, avec la gravure suivante au dos du boîtier : "Corps of Engineers, U.S.A. No. ---- (Les numéros devront commencer par le No.1). Les cadrans et les aiguilles seront lumineux à l'exception de la petite aiguille à seconde et du compteur à secondes. Les cadrans porteront la gravure suivante "Corps of Engineers, U.S.A., No. -----" et "Vacheron & Constantin".

RIX : 280 francs l'une (FRANCS SUISSES) f.o.b. Berne (Switzerland). Les paiements seront faits sur livraison des montres à un représentant du Génie du Corps Expéditionnaire Américain.

2. Il est entendu que l'Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin exécutera cet ordre dans le plus court délai possible, les livraisons seront faites à raison de 200 montres par mois, pas au-dessous, la première livraison devant commencer dans un délai de trois (3) à quatre (4) mois. Cependant, il est entendu que 75 à 100 montres seront livrées au Génie de l'Armée Américaine dans un délai de trente (30) jours, ces montres étant actuellement en magasin.

3. Il est également entendu que cet ordre peut être annulé par le Génie sur avis de 90 jours donné par écrit, cette annulation prendra effet après la livraison des 5,000 (cinq mille) montres;

- 2 -

dans le cas contraire l'Ancienne Fabrique Vacheron & Constantin, Limited, continuera à exécuter les livraisons ci-dessus jusqu'à réception d'un tel avis, à l'exception des cas prévus ci-dessous.

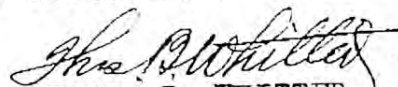
4. Cet ordre sera annulé automatiquement par la signature de la paix, excepté que le Génie de l'Armée Américaine acceptera et paiera la valeur de trois mille (3.000) montres, même si la paix était déclarée avant la livraison des montres ci-dessus, et au cas où les trois mille (3.000) montres n'auraient pas été livrées il sera permis à Vacheron & Constantin, d'après commun accord, de réduire le nombre de montres à livrer par mois, afin que Vacheron & Constantin puisse continuer leur commerce régulièrement.

5. Le Génie de l'Armée Américaine fera son possible pour obtenir du Gouvernement Français les passeports nécessaires à Vacheron & Constantin pour passer la frontière en Savoie, étant entendu que le polissage des montres fabriquées par Vacheron & Constantin sera exécuté dans les ateliers de polissage situés en Savoie.

6. Au cas où la rareté du métal en Suisse empêcherait à Vacheron & Constantin d'exécuter la présente commande, il est entendu que le Service du Génie de l'Armée Américaine fera tout son possible pour les aider à se procurer les matériaux nécessaires à la fabrication des montres.

7. Il est également entendu que Vacheron & Constantin ne sera pas responsable de l'inexécution d'une partie ou de la totalité de cet ordre par suite de grèves, d'un acte de Dieu, ou de l'ennemi public.

Par ordre du Colonel C. Mcd. Townsend, Corps of Engineers,
U.S. Army.


THEOS. B. WHITTED,
Captain, Engineers, U.S.A.

Ordre No. E.D. 44- 509
Mode d'achat - Suisse
No. de réquisition B-5495

1 tonne.