

# 19.65



*The year 1920 ended without any unemployment; in autumn, the workshop that makes silver cases was already suffering from a shortage of orders, however. It was nevertheless able to continue working until the end of the year [...]. From the start of 1921 on we had to lay people off in the case-making workshop; in February the manufacture of movements also began to feel the general slowing up. The prospects for 1921 are not encouraging. The crisis is widespread and very serious<sup>1</sup>.*

Between 1920 and 1923 a worldwide economic depression hit the Swiss watchmaking industry, which was extremely dependent on exports and highly vulnerable to economic fluctuations<sup>2</sup>. The Longines factory was badly affected. This crisis “of an intensity that we cannot yet judge”<sup>3</sup> seems – despite the construction of a line of shaped movements between 1914 and 1916<sup>4</sup> – to have prolonged the period of sluggishness in the development of new calibres that started during the First World War, at least in comparison with the sustained rhythm that characterised the period from 1902 to 1912<sup>5</sup>. During this time, when the industrial challenge was to maintain production despite problems of labour and the supply of raw materials, the creation of new movements seems to have been to a certain extent put on hold<sup>6</sup>. With the exception of a few reference numbers<sup>7</sup>, only calibres that diverged from the technical homogeneity of the products manufactured at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were added to the catalogue<sup>8</sup>. These included the 19.65, a model with an alarm made in 1921.

<sup>1</sup> ARL, Pfister reports, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. KOLLER Christophe, *ibid.*, p. 99 ff.

<sup>3</sup> ARL, Pfister reports, 1921.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. calibres 7.43, 7.44, 7.45, 7.46, 8.47.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. calibres 11.87, 10.85, 12.92, 13.81, 18.89, 11.87M, 10.85M, 13.82, 15.94, 18.90, 19.96, 11.88, 15.93, 19.95, 10.85N, 13.33, 13.34, 9.35, 8.37, 10.39, calibres 17.25, 18.25, 18.26, 18.25ABC, 18.26ABC, 19.25, 19.26, 14.25, 15.25, 15.26, 17.26, 21.25, 14.26; calibres 18.49N, 18.68N, 18.69N, 19.74N, 19.75N, 18.89M, 18.90M.

<sup>6</sup> For example, cf. calibre 10.86N.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. calibres 21.55, 10.86N, 15.89M.

<sup>8</sup> Cf. calibres 19.41, 24.41, 17.27.

This 19 line movement with a height of 6.50 mm had a mechanism for activating an alarm. This function required the complete redesigning of the internal layout of the calibre in order to incorporate the striking-mechanism, which involved a hammer that struck a gong, and the timing mechanism. From the point of view of its structure, the 19.65 had three curved bridges and a broad bridge supporting the mainsprings – and their ratchets – of the movement and the alarm mechanism. These two independent devices for accumulating energy, both wound using a pendant, required a specific winding lever. The alarm mechanism consisted of various elements that were machined specially for the 19.65, such as the click and its spring, the rocking bridge, the hand-setting spring, the alarm-hand wheel, the recovery bridge, the release spring, the stopping lever, the hammer, the hammer shaft, the alarm-train first and second wheel or the strike-train star-wheel<sup>9</sup>. The creation of this calibre therefore required the development of an important number of components; it would appear that these efforts were approved in order to expand the company's range into different areas from those covered by its standard movements.

*The 19/65 alarm was also created in 1921. This special model, for which demand was fair during the war, extends our range of calibres, which meets all our customers' requirements at present<sup>10</sup>.*



# 19.65

**First produced in**  
1921

**Movement**  
manually wound mechanical

**Ebauche**  
open-face, bottom plate and 7 bridges

**Functions**  
hours, minutes, seconds, alarm

**Balance-count**  
18,000 vibrations per hour

**Size**  
19<sup>mm</sup>, 43.15 mm

**Height**  
6.50 mm

**Winding mechanism**  
pendant, two-directional (alarm and movement)

**Hand-setting mechanism**  
pendant, pull-out piece, push-piece

**Jewels**  
15 rubies

**Gear-train**  
traditional, 5 wheels

**Alarm gear-train**  
4 wheels

**Escapement**  
straight-line lever

**Balance**  
bimetallic

**Balance-spring**  
steel Breguet overcoil

**Index-assembly and balance-spring stud**  
index, top balance-endpiece, triangular stud

**Miscellaneous**  
alarm striking-work on a circular blade; stop and go for alarm mechanism

<sup>9</sup> Cf. ARL, catalogue of components 1914, pp. 108-109.

<sup>10</sup> ARL, Pfister reports, 1921.