



## **CHRONOFIGHTER FORTRESS**

### **GRAHAM flight plan**

“Welcome on board.” GRAHAM LONDON is on a mission. A long flight back to the very origins. No, not all the way back to George Graham, the father of the chronograph, the genius who inspires the brand, but back to another world none the less.

“This is your captain speaking.” Today’s destination is the world of the first and iconic Chronofighter, the Chronofighter Fortress.

“Fasten your seat belts, it’s going to be bumpy ride.” We are about to travel through time. Our destination is the skies of the 1940s. A dangerous place, even for the aces of the RAF, the British Royal Air Force.

The Chronofighter Fortress pays homage to the watches worn by the aircrews of RAF Bomber Command.

In the beginning, stopwatches used by flying officers were in fact just large pocket watches strapped over bomber jackets. Nonetheless, they were vital pieces of equipment used to follow flight plans and to time air raids. Already these early watches had to be trusted by the aviators as a matter of life and death. They were praised for their reliability and precision. These watches had to work high up in a world made of adrenaline and excitement where the freezing temperatures of high altitudes reign supreme. They were operated by men clad in heavily lined leather jackets and big gloves, strapped into their seats, in the confinement of a flight deck in combat. And after dark, on a night mission, in the dim glow of the cockpit instruments.

---

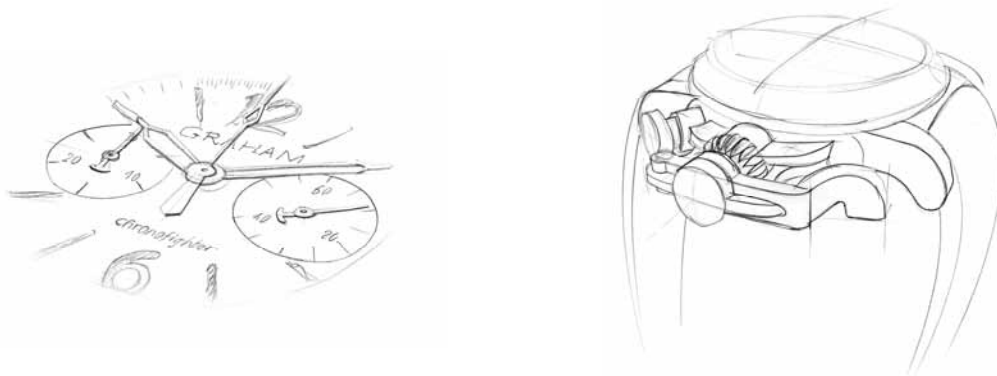
#### **GRAHAM-LONDON**

GRAHAM SA | Boulevard des Eplatures 38 | 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds | Switzerland  
Tel: +41 32 910 98 88 | Fax: +41 32 910 98 89 | Email: [george@graham-london.com](mailto:george@graham-london.com) | [www.graham-london.com](http://www.graham-london.com)

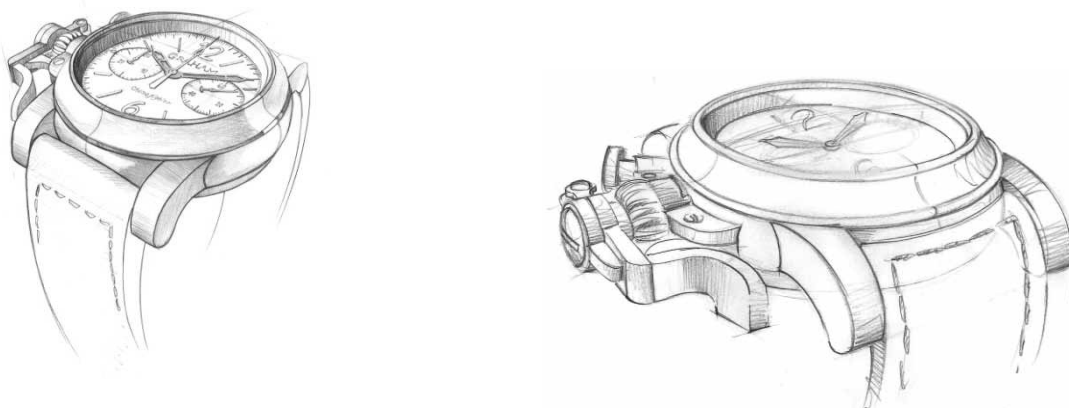
More than enough reasons to design and develop a specific system to activate the chronograph without fail – the result was the now famous lever.

The lever is a device which allows the crewmember to operate the chronograph intuitively under stress, while wearing those heavy gloves. It is a fail-safe system which does not distract the wearer from vital tasks because the left-hand lever is effortlessly reached with the right hand. The thumb, the fastest of all fingers, starts and stops the chronograph. The result is precise timing.

We have now reached cruising altitude. Through the window, you can examine an authentic watch that recalls these times. Fixed on a bomber jacket leather strap, the 43 mm case features a black dial with beige Super-LumiNova numerals, indexes and hands. They are the exact shade of aging Tritium found on historic military timepieces. The chrono seconds and minutes counter hands are red, bringing out the chronograph functions.



With its vintage look, this time instrument embodies a part of British aviation history. Like the fuselage of a Flying Fortress, the case presents a subtle mix of brushed and polished steel, playing with the light, combined with a completely transparent case back. The R.A.C. (*roue à colonnes*) device is the most elegant and precise mechanism to control the start – stop – reset functions of the chronograph. The blue propeller shaped column wheel is recognizable by its seven polished triangular segments. Each starts or stops the chronograph by activating numerous levers. Or they allow the resetting of the counters. Finally, the distinctive and prominent lever on the left side of the case represents the essence of the Chronofighter collection.



---

#### GRAHAM-LONDON

GRAHAM SA | Boulevard des Eplatures 38 | 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds | Switzerland  
Tel: +41 32 910 98 88 | Fax: +41 32 910 98 89 | Email: [george@graham-london.com](mailto:george@graham-london.com) | [www.graham-london.com](http://www.graham-london.com)

Main features also include:

43 mm steel case. Calibre G1742, automatic self-winding column-wheel movement, 28 jewels, 28'800 A/h (4Hz), Incabloc shock absorber, 48 hours power reserve, domed sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating, see-through sapphire case back and leather strap.



GRAHAM-LONDON traces its origins to London clockmaker George Graham (1673-1751) who is responsible for many innovations in timekeeping. He invented the chronograph, the dead-beat cylinder escapement, the mercury pendulum to compensate for temperature differences. He also built the master clock for Greenwich Royal Observatory which defined time for most of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. GRAHAM-LONDON was resurrected in 1995 and is today a privately owned Anglo-Swiss watch company which designs and builds its own watches in its in La Chaux-de-Fonds production facilities in Switzerland.

For further information please contact Jessica Jacquot at [j.jacquot@graham-london.com](mailto:j.jacquot@graham-london.com).

---

**GRAHAM-LONDON**

GRAHAM SA | Boulevard des Eplatures 38 | 2300 La Chaux-de-Fonds | Switzerland  
Tel: +41 32 910 98 88 | Fax: +41 32 910 98 89 | Email: [george@graham-london.com](mailto:george@graham-london.com) | [www.graham-london.com](http://www.graham-london.com)