

Scale 1/43

#12011

available

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limited edition 333 Stk.



## The former pride of Vaihingen

During 1924, there was a discussion led by the Mayor of Vaihingen to study the needs for the construction of a new fire engine and authorize the funds to build and place it into service for the city and surrounding towns. There is no doubt that many technical aspects were discussed such as chassis length, engine size, and a list of equipment to be carried. Most importantly, a plan was needed to pay for such a civic vehicle purchase. Historical records have been found that indicate that Vaihingen and the surrounding communities pooled their resources to raise the amount of 31,360.90 Marks. This amount had been collected by the time that the order for the new fire truck was purchased from the German firm BENZ – Gaggenau.

The city fathers opted to purchase a Benz Type 2 CSN chassis that was powered by a 40 horsepower engine. The truck was designed and assembled according to the detailed specifications provided by the city staff. The engine drove a three-stage central water pump that was connected by a

powerful transmission that could be engaged when needed. A large hose reel was located at the rear of the truck body and wooden ladders were carried on the side of the body. Add all of the required fire tools and eleven firemen and the gross vehicle weight totaled 2.5 tons on the scales. With a mere 40 hp under the hood, the Benz fire truck struggled to attain a top speed of 50 km/h.

On June 3rd of 1925, the fire brigade in Vaihingen received their new fire fighting vehicle. Officially designated as “Automobilspitze Benz-Gaggenau” (Fire Brigade Benz-Gaggenau), it was painted bright red and quickly became the pride of the fire protection association, where it served until far into World War II. The last active fire station it served with was with the fire brigade in Salamander located in Kornwestheim. The end of active duty came when the old Benz 2 CSN was retired to the fire department museum in Winnenden. To this day, it is on display and admired by all who visit. It truly reflects the spirit of a

time that has long since passed. There is no roof over the vehicle interior and firefighters of the period simply endured the weather regardless of the season.

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