Nazi Foreign Minister Planned to Live in Cornwall

Background

Joachim von Ribbenthorp was born in 1875 in Germany, and died on 16th October 1946.

Ribbenthorp first came to Hitler's notice as a well travelled businessman, who had more knowledge of the outside world than most of the senior Nazis and was an authority on world affairs. He offered the use of his house for the secret meetings in January 1933. These meetings resulted in Hitler's appointment as Chancellor of Germany. Ribbenthorp became Hitler's close confidant, this was to the disgust of many party members, who thought he lacked tanent. Nevertheless he was appointed Ambassador to the Court of St James, (for the United Kingdom and Ireland in 1936. In 1938 he became Germany's Foreign Minister.

Before WWII he played a key role in the 'Pact of Steel' this was an alliance with Fascist Italy. After 1941 his influence declined. In June 1945 he was arrested, tried at the Nuremberg Trials, convicted for his part in starting WWII and enabling the Holocaust.

On 16th October 1946 he was the first of those sentenced to death to be hanged.

A lucky escape for Cornwall.

His position as Hitler's personal envoy initially made Ribbentrop a much-courted figure in Britain and he was a frequent guest of establishment figures such as former prime minister David Lloyd George, the pacifist George Lansbury and the British fascist Sir Oswald Mosley.

Andrew Lanyon collected testimonies such as that of Michael Lyne, from Rejerrah near Newquay, who met Ribbentrop in 1937 when he accompanied his journalist grandfather to an interview with the German diplomat. "We went down to a country estate and when we got there my grandfather went in," said Lyne. "Eventually grandfather came out looking blacker than thunder. Driving through Hayle my granddad said 'Ribbentrop has told me when they get world domination, he is going to live on St Michael's Mount and Cornwall will belong to him'."

Information obtained from Internet sources.

      Paul Phillips (Helston O.C.S.)