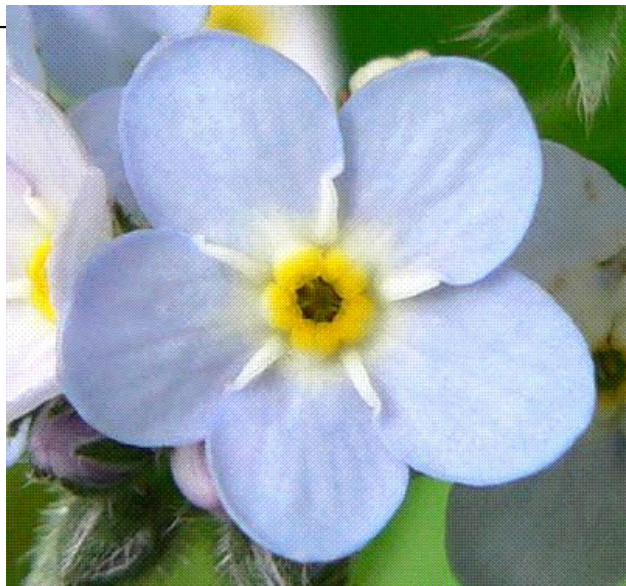


Our Masonic History

The Forget-Me-Not and Freemasonry



The preserved records of the Nazi Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office) show the persecution of the Freemasons. RSHA Amt VII, "Written Records" - overseen by Professor Franz Six - was responsible for "ideological" tasks, by which was meant the creation of anti-Semitic and anti-Masonic propaganda.

While the number is not accurately known, it is estimated that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were exterminated under the Nazi regime. Freemasonic Concentration Camp inmates were graded as "Political" prisoners, and wore an inverted (point down) red triangle.

The small blue forget-me-not flower was first used by the Grand Lodge Zur Sonne, in 1926, as a Masonic emblem at the annual convention in Bremen, Germany. In 1938 the forget-me-not badge - made by the same factory as the Masonic badge - was chosen for the annual Nazi Party Winterhilfswerk; a supposed charitable organization, which actually collected money used for rearmament. This coincidence enabled Freemasons to wear forget-me-not badge as a secret sign of membership.

After the Second World War, the forget-me-not flower was used again as a Masonic emblem at the 1948 First Annual Convention in of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons. The badge is now worn in the coat lapel by Freemasons around the world to remember all those that have suffered in the name of Freemasonry, and specifically those during the Nazi era.

It is rumoured that a photograph of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel dressed in ceremonial uniform exists with a forget-me-not badge visible. To date I have not found a copy of this photograph.

These badges are still available today, but many Freemasons wear them without knowing the full story behind them. If you haven't seen one before, ask me and I'll show you my badge. Perhaps you might even want to order one for yourself?

Bernard Hope



*Erwin Johannes Eugen Rommel
(1891-1944)*