

BRITISH DEALER FINDS TOP NAZI'S MERCEDES-BENZ

British classic car specialist Nick Szkiler has without doubt made the find of anyone's lifetime – unearthing a 1942 Mercedes-Benz V12 600k once owned by Nazi Hermann Goerring from a Russian lock-up

The 600K M157 sports cabriolet, with a fully-armoured body by Erdmann & Paul, on a shortened sports cabriolet, is expected to be worth a seven-figure sum. Despite having no engine or gearbox, it still weighs some 4.5 tonnes.

Nick, a Christian, heard about the car through some Russian contacts in the church. "I wasted no time following up the lead – taking a plane to Moscow, then a 15-hour train ride. The result was a car the like I had never seen before. It is just incredible."

The car ended up in Chechnya after the war and was bought by a Russian family, which is believed to have used it up to the 1970s, substituting Russian parts when required.

"Examining the underbody revealed traces of the original blue paint so favoured by Goerring. I've owned hundreds of coach-built cars over the years and never seen one made this way," said Nick. "Most of the body is made from 8mm thick steel and some of it is 12mm."

Nick, who set up Grundy Mack, now the Classic & Sportscar Centre, admits that handling the sale of the car was not without its poignancy.

'Incredible' is an appropriate word for such a find, a favourite car for one of history's most infamous people

