

JOSEPH H. HARPER
MAJOR GENERAL, USA, RETIRED
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28 January '86

Dear Franklin-

Maria and I appreciated so much your gracious note of the 23rd, and reciprocate the feeling. It is always good to see you and Elizabeth, and we look forward to a long, pleasant association.

In re: the chairs; The one you have is one of 40 which Hitler had at his large table in the Eagle's Nest Conference room. The two arm chairs(I have one at my desk) graced either end of the table with the other 38 divided along each side(19 ea.) When the War ended, in May '45, I was in Berchtesgaden, in Command of my Regiment, the 327th Glider Infantry. I stayed on in Berchtesgaden as Military Governor of the Area until August when we moved into France(Sens). While in Berchtesgaden, we were given permission to "take a few souvenirs" which had belonged to the Nazi Party. Since the 101st was to return to the States, I wanted something to remind my men and which would remain a permanent part of our Officers' Mess, so I selected the 10 chairs(Permission of Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, C.G. of the Division).

While in France, we received tentative orders to move as a Unit to Japan, after a 30 day leave in the States, and to take part in the invasion of Honshu Island. While we were at home on leave, Pres. Truman dropped the bombs on Japan which ended the War in the Pacific. The 101st was inactivated and with it, my Command, and I had the chairs, and no Officers' Mess. The freight office at Bragg phoned as to the disposition, and Maria told them to send them to storage with the rest of our household goods(after our payment of a \$400 freight bill!) They are much travelled chairs. They went to Ft. Benning, then to Norfolk, then to storage for 7 years, and finally wound up here. Thus endeth the SAGA of the chairs.

Bud H.



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