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Adolf and Eva



Now George Mehr runs his elevator faster than he used to.

BERCHTESGADEN—Adolf Hitler was afraid of elevators that moved fast.

George Mehr knows this better than any man. Mehr operates the great bronze elevator that ascends the 400-foot shaft to the Eagle's Nest, a stone cottage atop Kehlstein mountain overlooking medieval Berchtesgaden.

Usually Hitler would be accompanied by Martin Bormann, the Nazi party boss. Bormann stood at Mehr's elbow and invariably warned:

"Move at your slowest speed or I will cut your throat."

When Bormann first said this, Mehr chuckled. He thought Bormann was joking him. Later he was told that Bormann never joked.

The elevator, elaborately constructed in the rock core of the mountain, now carries soldier sightseers. Hitler used the Eagle's Nest for solitary brooding, and occasionally he entertained there at diplomatic teas. Now GI boots have scarred the tables where Hitler once studied the blueprints of conquest.

The people of Berchtesgaden say that Hitler permitted his *fraulein*, Eva Braun, to have her way in many things, but that he would not permit her to ride horses. Sometimes, she complained of this to friends. "My Fuehrer," she would say, "will not tolerate the sight of ladies on horses. He says it is most unladylike."

Fraulein Braun, it seems, worried over Hitler's dandruff. She told intimates that often she urged him to change barbers, but he refused. Finally she gave him a specially built comb designed to sweep the dandruff clean. Friends saw little change. The dandruff continued to speckle the Fuehrer's fancy uniforms.

When *Fraulein* Braun came to Berchtesgaden, she would be dressed in expensive clothes and wear expensive jewelry. Many of his followers wondered if Hitler could not have made a better choice of a mistress. Many Berchtesgaden girls considered themselves much prettier.

"She did not wear her clothes well," said a hotel waitress who twice had served Eva Braun at dinner. "And in the conversation she seemed a little dumb. But one thing I will admit. She had good legs."

—Cpl. DEBS MYERS
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