

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 6, 1987

Dear Mrs. Brown:

I was pleased to learn of your strong love for our nation, of how you donated your hair to the war effort during World War II and of its use as crosshairs in the Norden bombsight, helping our bombardiers sight enemy ground targets in Europe and the Pacific. You can be very proud of a selfless act that set a splendid example during wartime. Your story has touched me deeply.

When I hear of such patriotism, I am reminded of what an honor it is to be called to serve as President of the United States.

Nancy joins me in sending our warm best wishes for a very Happy 80th Birthday.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary Babnik Brown
303 Spring Street
Pueblo, Colorado 81003

*Letter from President Reagan dated Nov 6, 1987
wishing Mary a Happy Birthday on her 80th Birthday*



MARY BABNIK BROWN

Mary was known as “Mary With A Crown,” as she took great pride in her long blonde hair which she braided then twisted into a crown on her head. Little did Mary know that her “crown” would earn her a place in history.

At the start of WWII Mary saw an ad in the Pueblo paper that the government was looking for blonde hair from women that was 22 inches in length, had always been washed in pure soap, never been cut, never treated chemically or heated with a curling iron.

Mary told her Mother, “Mama, I can’t go fight like the boys do but I can do something to help.” And help she did - she sent her 34 inch hair to the government and it was used for the cross hairs in the Norden bombsight on the B-17’s, B-24’s and B-29’s. The Norden bombsight was a carefully guarded state of the art instrument - so advanced that it was surrounded by booby trapped charges and the crew was instructed to detonate if there was any chance it would be seized by the enemy.

After much soul searching President Harry S. Truman made the difficult decision and on August 6, 1945 a B-29 dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and a few days later the second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered - the rest is history.

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