

Dartmouth College Oral History Project  
The War Years at Dartmouth  
Interview with John Trethaway '47  
By Mary Stelle Donin  
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DONIN: Okay, John. I'm going to show you a picture that I got out of the Green Book of you, which tells me that you came to Dartmouth with a sailor's hat on.

TRETHAWAY: [Laughter] That's right. That was July of 1943, yeah.

DONIN: And how is it that you ended up coming to Dartmouth?

TRETHAWAY: Well, it was pure fortune—good fortune. I had hoped to come to Dartmouth, but I enlisted in the Navy Air Corps in December of 1942. I think it was December. They developed the V-5 program, which was similar to V-12, but different because it was strictly for people going into flight school. And lo and behold, they sent me to Dartmouth, which pleased me immensely.

DONIN: But the goal there was to train you just, what, for a short period of time and then send you off to the service, right?

TRETHAWAY: Yes. Every naval pilot is an officer, so this was the head start on, in essence, officer training school.

DONIN: How long did the training last?

TRETHAWAY: At Dartmouth, we were there for one semester, and then we headed off to flight training. And that lasted—I never did actually graduate and get my wings. I was just a few weeks short of getting my wings, but the war ended. And they had loads of people—yes—they had loads of people in the Navy Air Corps, and came around and said, "Do you want to stay in for two years or would you like to get out?" I was dying to stay in because I loved flying, but I knew I would never be allowed to go home if I hadn't opted to go back to college. So, I opted out and we were separated; we weren't released, we weren't discharged, we were just separated from active duty. So I headed back home.

DONIN: So the term that you spent in training there, was it a combination of military training and—Were there any regular classes involved?

- TRETHAWAY: Yes. I'm sure the classes were all modified to some extent to reflect our position as enlisted people in the service, but the slant was towards engineering, which would not have been my bend anyway, but it was fine. But they had regular courses: history, and English, and so on.
- DONIN: Were you in classes with sort of civilian students, or was it all military, navy people?
- TRETHAWAY: The majority of students on campus by far were military, so there were a few civilians and they could be in class with you, but there were so few that they don't stand out in mind. One stands out. He was a physically challenged guy who was very pleasant. I just remember his face, but he was obviously a civilian.
- DONIN: So describe to me what it was like—Had you been on Dartmouth's campus before you came in uniform, so to speak?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes.
- DONIN: What, visiting with—
- TRETHAWAY: Just traveling through or visiting. Nothing—I mean, I wasn't there for any enrollment purposes, just traveling through. I'm not originally from New England, but my family at that time was living in Boston—outside of Boston. And we explored New England.
- DONIN: Oh, nice. So, you had set your sights on Dartmouth as your undergraduate college even before the service business came along?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes, but I never got involved in the enrollment process because I knew I'd be in the service, and really did not know where I would be going.
- DONIN: So when you graduated from high school, you enlisted right away?
- TRETHAWAY: [Yes]. Oh, no. I enlisted early in my senior year.
- DONIN: Of high school.
- TRETHAWAY: Yes.

DONIN: Yeah, that's right. That makes sense.

TRETHAWAY: Almost the minute I turned seventeen.

DONIN: Right. So, what was it like arriving there as a soldier? I mean, you didn't go through the normal matriculation process, meeting—What year was it? It was '43?

TRETHAWAY: Forty-three.

DONIN: Yeah, so it was Ernest Martin Hopkins. You didn't go through the traditional matriculation process, then, I assume.

TRETHAWAY: Well, yes we did. I don't know how we compare it to the one they have now, but yes, we were greeted individually in his office by Hoppy.

DONIN: Really?

TRETHAWAY: Yeah. He talked to us and shook our hand. I was quite impressed with him.

DONIN: Yeah. Well, you know, he saved the college, basically, by turning it into this military training school and was able to keep the place running.

TRETHAWAY: That's right.

DONIN: I mean, he wasn't the only president that did that, obviously. I think—

TRETHAWAY: Oh no, there were loads of them. Since the war was on and civilians were just not in attendance, it was a very wise thing to do.

DONIN: And I gather they turned over a lot of the dormitories into ships, so to speak.

TRETHAWAY: Yes, they did. They were run like a ship.

DONIN: In what sense?

TRETHAWAY: Well, you had the quartermaster, boatswain, and they used all of the navy terms. No stairways; they're all ladders.

DONIN: Oh. And I guess they had six o'clock reveille and calisthenics.

TRETHAWAY: Yeah.

DONIN: The guy I was just talking to down in Francistown was saying how he watched them marching— You'd march to breakfast?

TRETHAWAY: Yes, that's true.

DONIN: So, it really was trying to imitate—

TRETHAWAY: Trying to instill the military spirit and the discipline.

DONIN: Yeah. And doing formation on the Green all the time?

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes. Marching, drill.

DONIN: So your time was much more constrained than it was for a regular undergraduate.

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes. Every minute of the day, practically, was planned.

DONIN: Yeah. Did you ever get any free time?

TRETHAWAY: A little bit, yes.

DONIN: On the weekends, I suppose.

TRETHAWAY: Weekends, yes, but you weren't allowed to leave campus unless you had permission, and it was maybe an hour or two a day that you could have to yourself. Of course, there were designated times for study, which was sort of free time.

DONIN: Was there any social life at all for you guys?

TRETHAWAY: Yes, there was. College Hall, which is now Collis—College Hall was the social center, and there was a woman—oh gosh, I can picture her, but I can't remember her name. But she was the housemother in a sense, and she was mother to everybody on campus. Wonderful woman. And she arranged parties, and dances, and things like that.

DONIN: But was this just for the V-5 or for everybody?

TRETHAWAY: Well, V-12 and V-5. And the marine detachment, as well, because they were considered V-12, I guess. I'm thinking. It comes back. We

did have free time, because I know we were allowed to go to the movies.

DONIN: Oh, yes. In Webster Hall.

TRETHAWAY: Well, originally in the Nugget.

DONIN: Oh, before it burned down?

TRETHAWAY: Yeah. And I lived in Middle Mass., and I was on campus the night the Nugget burned. And you know Middle Mass. and that porte-cochère sort of roof out front?

DONIN: Yes.

TRETHAWAY: Okay. Well, I was out on that watching straight down the street the Nugget burn. It was fantastic. One of my friends was a volunteer fireman. He had been a volunteer fireman at home and he latched on with the Hanover Fire Department. He wasn't an active member, but he was sort of a buddy of theirs and he was there at the fire.

DONIN: He could go along to the fires?

TRETHAWAY: Yeah.

DONIN: Wow.

TRETHAWAY: I remember talking to him about it afterwards. It was quite a blaze.

DONIN: And they took a while to rebuild it, didn't they?

TRETHAWAY: Oh, a long time. Well, with wartime there were restrictions on building of that type, and they had Webster Hall, which they could use. So, it was just moved over there rather quickly. It wasn't the same, but it was fine.

DONIN: Right. A place to go. And your roommates, I assume, were all V-5 or V-12 people as well?

TRETHAWAY: Yes.

DONIN: Did you know any of them?

- TRETHAWAY: Before? No. Two of them had come from the regular navy. They had been enlisted men out serving in the fleet. And the fourth was a medical student.
- DONIN: Oh, really?
- TRETHAWAY: That was Farrar—he later went on to be a gynecologist, I think, in one of the better suburbs of Chicago. But he's now dead also. One of the enlisted two couldn't take the pressure; he dropped out very quickly. And the other enlisted man I kept in contact with for a number of years. He became very close to my family. My dad practically adopted him. And then we lost contact, and lo and behold, about three or four years ago here at Eastman I got a phone call. He also lived here.
- DONIN: Oh, you're kidding?
- TRETHAWAY: But unfortunately we don't have similar interests anymore, so we just gradually drifted apart again.
- DONIN: Right. So, it sounds like there was an age gap, though, between these older officers that had come in and you guys right out of—not right out of high school, but at least...
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah, age was not really a primary consideration, and they were all mixed up in ages.
- DONIN: I guess that was the year—What was I just reading out of this book about the V-12? That the 1943 football squad, dominated by V-12s, had a six and one record, losing only to Pennsylvania, seven to six. And this has come up before that some of these sports teams were fantastic, because they had these big, strong older guys on it who had a lot more experience.
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah, and some of them had previous college experience.
- DONIN: Yeah. So, it was made up of students from lots of the other colleges who had been sent for training to Dartmouth, is that right?
- TRETHAWAY: That's correct.
- DONIN: So it was a real mishmash.
- TRETHAWAY: It was a mishmash, yeah.

- DONIN: I mean, it was you guys that were sort of first-timers, right, with no college experience, and then college people from other colleges, and then these older officers.
- TRETHAWAY: They weren't officers, but they were—
- DONIN: Oh, I see. They were—
- TRETHAWAY: Enlisted men.
- DONIN: Enlisted men who were coming for military training. So, you had one term, right?
- TRETHAWAY: Correct.
- DONIN: One term. And then off you go. And when you left Dartmouth, how was it left, that you would just come back when your service was completed?
- TRETHAWAY: There was nothing said. It was sort of implied, but there was nothing said. But, when the war ended, I got a letter from Hoppy asking me to please come back to Dartmouth. I had also done some training at RPI, and also at the University of Georgia as a part of this navy flight training. And I got letters from them, also, encouraging me to come back to their campus, which was kind of a nice feeling.
- DONIN: Very nice.
- TRETHAWAY: Of course, colleges weren't quite as comp—they were almost more competitive in those days from the opposite standpoint. They were competing to get students, whereas now, students are competing to get spots.
- DONIN: Right. Sure, I mean, everybody was having trouble paying their bills, I think—of the colleges—and they needed as many warm bodies as they could get.
- TRETHAWAY: Right.
- DONIN: Of course, when the war was over, everybody was on the GI Bill—
- TRETHAWAY: Oh yeah, wonderful.

- DONIN: So, I assume people came back happily, because their education was going to be paid for.
- TRETHAWAY: Exactly.
- DONIN: Yeah. So when you came back, you were a second-semester freshman, or did you get points for your training?
- TRETHAWAY: I got quite a few points. I skipped almost a whole year because of the points I had, because of the colleges I had attended and the courses I had taken as part of the navy flight training. By the time we really got out of Dartmouth and going into our training, the war was moving along, and the navy had built up a real corps—they had a large corps of pilots and people in the pipeline training to be pilots, so they slowed things down, which was to our benefit, because we had lots of extra training, which was great.
- DONIN: And that—So you were able to use that as credit towards graduation.
- TRETHAWAY: Exactly. I got back in the fall of 1945, one of the first back on campus.
- DONIN: Oh, really?
- TRETHAWAY: It was interesting: almost all of the people back were either army air force or navy air force, because we had the most points.
- DONIN: Yeah. And the fall of '45, so John Dickey was becoming president.
- TRETHAWAY: I remember the day he arrived on campus.
- DONIN: Oh, do you?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes. He was a fraternity brother—Theta Chi —and we had our initiation—they called it a pig dinner—initiation dinner and he came to it.
- DONIN: Oh, that's great.
- TRETHAWAY: We had a marvelous time with him. He was a really wonderful guy. But he also told us, he said, "This is the last contact you will have with me at the fraternity, as long as you behave." [Laughter]
- DONIN: Oh, I see. Right. [Laughter] So, you had pledged the fraternity when you were there the first term?

- TRETHAWAY: No. First time I was back, there was no social life on campus practically. There was no place on campus you could buy beer.
- DONIN: Yes... You know we have a very long interview with President Dickey – 45 hours believe it or not – and he talked about how this was one of the first challenges he had to meet which was to meet the needs of the returning veterans who were not young 17 year-olds.
- TRETHAWAY: Yes, that's right. They finally opened up a bar—not a bar, a tavern or—
- DONIN: Pub or something.
- TRETHAWAY: Pub: better word—in College Hall.
- DONIN: In the basement?
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah.
- DONIN: Yeah, that's what he described.
- TRETHAWAY: But my roommate and I—this is the second semester back. Second or third—he had a big Harley Davidson motorcycle, so we cruised all over on that. Then I had other friends with motorcycles, and we would spend much of Saturdays scouting the countryside for beer.
- DONIN: Unbelievable. [Laughter]
- TRETHAWAY: To have parties. One thought just popped in my mind. I can remember with a chap named Jepson, and he'd been a marine pilot, so we had— The two of us used to go down and rent planes at Lebanon airport. I remember one day we took a Piper Cub up, which is a very small, fragile airplane, and we did things in it that should not be done in a Piper Cub. You know, we were used to it, and when we landed it was the FAA waiting for us. [Laughter] But we talked our way out of it. Of course, you know, veterans got a lot of—
- DONIN: They got a lot of play, didn't they? For good reason.
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah. But what I was starting to say, I remember the two of us going out on motorcycles, filling the saddlebags with beer to go back to the party. Then we decided, the heck with going back. We took our bikes and drove halfway down Quechee Gorge and sat there on a rock,

looking over and just drinking the beer. It was a wonderful experience.

DONIN: And then getting back on the motorcycles having drunk all the beer.

TRETHAWAY: We didn't have that much really. And we were a lot younger.

DONIN: So that was a real issue then, the way President Dickey recalls it. That the campus was now populated by this amazing range of ages and experience but they were all, you know, still technically everybody was till an undergraduate. And the challenges of (a) meeting their social needs, the pub is a perfect example and also how to discipline undergrads who though essentially were men, many of whom had seen combat and done incredible things in their young lives and to have them come back on campus and have them live under the rinky dink rules that applied to

TRETHAWAY: That was a problem. A real problem. And they also had a major concern about safety. Because if there was nothing on campus, then we were going to go and find it. And it was White River Junction and Lebanon and the Leb Debs and so on. And so we were driving. I can remember—I wasn't driving, but I can remember coming home with heads hanging out the window in the fog—the valley fog—watching the white line after a party down in White River Junction. No, the party wasn't there. We'd gone down to the Polka Dot Diner for a hamburger late at night. That diner is still there.

DONIN: The Polka Dot is still there, barely hanging in, but it's still there. So, were you also among the group that would take the road trips down to the sister schools, you know, down in Northampton and wherever—Saratoga Springs?

TRETHAWAY: Sure.

DONIN: Over to Skidmore, and Smith, and Mt. Holyoke?

TRETHAWAY: I didn't do too much of that, though. I had two girls. In fact, they were both—one in Boston, one in Pennsylvania.

DONIN: Oh, my goodness.

TRETHAWAY: The one in Pennsylvania finally came up to Katherine Gibbs School in Boston, and so I would travel down there.

DONIN: It was tougher getting to Boston in those days, and longer.

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yeah. We had to go Route 2.

DONIN: You took Route 5 to Route 2?

TRETHAWAY: Route 5 down to Route 2.

DONIN: Oh, that's a long haul.

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yeah. It was miserable.

DONIN: Were you able to hitchhike or take the bus?

TRETHAWAY: Oh yeah, I used to do a lot of hitchhiking. We did both—when I was there in the V-5—went up to Saratoga quite a bit.

DONIN: Oh, yeah. Were they doing horseracing even then?

TRETHAWAY: Yes, but we weren't there for horseracing. [Laughter] I dated a lovely young woman there from England, who had been sent over to the States.

DONIN: As an exchange student of some kind?

TRETHAWAY: No, to get away from bombing.

DONIN: Oh, of course. Right. Before the war was over.

TRETHAWAY: And then after the war, one of my fraternity brothers' father was president of Skidmore.

DONIN: Well, that's convenient.

TRETHAWAY: So, that was very convenient. Moore, Dr. Moore.

DONIN: So I assume they got the fraternities open and running again after the war? Pretty quickly?

TRETHAWAY: Oh yes, they tried to do it as quickly as they could. I don't remember exactly how long it took before the fraternities opened. I think it was 'til spring before they opened up.

- DONIN: The fraternities, yeah. And were you just put in a regular dorm at this point? I mean, the dorms were all just regular.
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah, I think I was in Richardson Hall.
- DONIN: So, did you have a lot of the classmates that you knew from earlier—the V-5 and V-12 days—did they come back? I mean, did you find your old buddies again, most of them?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes. Townes Harris, for one, had been a friend before. And Hugh Chapin, who lives down in North Carolina now. He was a friend when I came back, a fraternity brother. There were quite a few.
- DONIN: That's good. Now, were they still running classes all year 'round at this point?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes.
- DONIN: To get everybody caught up, I guess.
- TRETHAWAY: That's exactly right. Yeah, I think one of the best summers I ever had in my life was the summer spent on campus.
- DONIN: The summer of '46?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes.
- DONIN: Did you think you were a better student when you came back? Did you feel like you did better work?
- TRETHAWAY: That's a good question. I don't really think so. I changed my thinking completely. I wanted to go to med school, but when I ended up in the service, by the time I got back, I just wanted to get out and get on with my life. I was concentrating on hurrying; grades didn't mean that much. As long as I passed, I was able to finish.
- DONIN: So what did you change your major to?
- TRETHAWAY: Economics. It was easy.
- DONIN: So you obviously didn't graduate with your class in '47.
- TRETHAWAY: I did.

- DONIN: Did you? Wow.
- TRETHAWAY: Between the points that I got for my service and that summer, and taking extra courses, I graduated in June of '47.
- DONIN: And they had a real graduation, then, right?
- TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes.
- DONIN: That was probably—
- TRETHAWAY: Henry Knox, I think, was the speaker—one of the speakers—Secretary of the Navy, committed suicide?
- DONIN: Yeah.
- TRETHAWAY: Back when the graduations were up in the Bema.
- DONIN: Yeah. So, this was Dickey's probably only second graduation, I guess.
- TRETHAWAY: That's right, yeah.
- DONIN: Had he started the Great Issues course yet when you were there?
- TRETHAWAY: I think he was just starting as I was finishing, because I never went to the Great Issues courses, which I regret now.
- DONIN: But there must have been a lot of your classmates that did not get to graduate with the class.
- TRETHAWAY: Quite a few.
- DONIN: Yeah. How do you think all of this coming and going and starting and then going off to the service and then coming back and then some graduating and some graduating later on—how do you think that impacted your sense of sort of class unity or class loyalty, or both?
- TRETHAWAY: Good question. Actually, when I was in college, most of my friends were in '44, '45, '46. They were guys that seemed to get back early. Also, I knew quite a few guys from '48, because when I came back, I assumed I would be graduating with the class of '48. It was only good fortune that I was able to graduate with my own class. So, when I

graduated, I actually knew more people in other classes than I did in my own class. It was a hard core of people that I knew and remained friends with over the years. It's only really through reunions, which I've been fairly faithful in attending, that I've been able to get to know most of my classmates.

DONIN: And did the class of '47 lose a lot of guys who, instead of returning to Dartmouth returned to some other college where they had been doing their training?

TRETHAWAY: Yes. One example: a chap lives here in Eastman is a classmate. We're very good friends, but when he did not come back, he went to Yale.

DONIN: Oh, how interesting.

TRETHAWAY: But he still pays his class dues.

DONIN: Yeah, well once you matriculate at Dartmouth they never let you go, do they?

TRETHAWAY: That's right. [Laughter] And I keep teasing him to come to our monthly luncheons and he keeps saying, "I'll come, I'll come." But he forgets.

DONIN: Yeah. But, so over the years the class has solidified a bit more even though—

TRETHAWAY: There's a hard core. There's a hard core of about seventy-five people—maybe not quite that many. They come to the reunions and stay in touch.

DONIN: Did you lose a lot of—I know some people actually chose to change their class affiliation, that they actually became officially members of a different class because of the delay in graduation.

TRETHAWAY: Yes. It was wide open; you could almost pick whatever class you wanted.

DONIN: So that wasn't a big deal. You would just go to the dean...

TRETHAWAY: Yes.

DONIN: Now was it Dean Neidlinger when you were there?

- TRETHAWAY: Yes. Pudge.
- DONIN: Pudge, right. Exactly. People have said that you didn't want to get called into his office, because it's not like today where deans are all touchy-feely. He was—
- TRETHAWAY: No, and the discipline was—the campus police was one man: Wormwood. I'm sure you've heard stories about him.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. Wormwood.
- TRETHAWAY: Oh, god.
- DONIN: I can't imagine how they could expect one policeman to keep the peace in that place. I mean, just chasing the women out of the rooms I would think would have been extremely difficult. Everybody talks about parietal hours.
- TRETHAWAY: Yeah. I never got to know him well. The only—
- DONIN: That must mean you behaved yourself. [Lebanon]
- TRETHAWAY: Well, that's true, but when I was—I know you had to lock the bulkhead door of your fraternity because he'd sneak in to see if you're having a party. He was not very nice.
- DONIN: But he had a lot of territory to cover.
- TRETHAWAY: He did. Well, the campus was smaller then, a lot smaller.
- DONIN: Yeah. Is Theta Chi still in existence? Is it still there?
- TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes. It's now called Alpha Theta. That was our chapter designation within the national. We were the Alpha Theta chapter of Theta Chi, and I was one of the ringleaders that took it local.
- DONIN: Oh, really?
- TRETHAWAY: Yes.
- DONIN: Was that while you were there as an undergrad?

TRETHAWAY: Yes. Dave McGregor and I. I can remember sitting all night talking with the president of the national fraternity, trying to convince him that really there was no need to be in the national; it didn't serve any purpose.

DONIN: What's the advantage of being part of the national?

TRETHAWAY: Well, that's what our point was. And he kept coming up with: Well, you go into a meeting or something and you give somebody the handshake and you find out if they're Theta Chi. Well, phew. He was just totally years behind. On a huge campus like Ohio State or something like that, fraternities are necessary, because that's your social unit, and I think fraternities are necessary at a small school like Dartmouth, but you don't get the same loyalty to them that you get at a major campus. You're Dartmouth first and fraternity second.

DONIN: Ah, interesting.

TRETHAWAY: But it does serve as a social unit on the campus.

DONIN: Right. But on a small campus like Dartmouth, what you're saying is that's not your only social option; you have other options for socializing, or not?

TRETHAWAY: Well, let me put it this way: if I meet someone who went to Dartmouth, I'll ask, "What class were you?" I never think of asking, "What house were you in?" Until we've been talking for a long time and talking about life on campus and then I'll say, "Well, what house were you in?" So, it's a secondary thing.

DONIN: And did Dickey support the fraternity life when you were there? I assume he did since he was one of yours.

TRETHAWAY: My recollection is that, yes, he did.

DONIN: Getting them back up and fully functioning again.

TRETHAWAY: Yeah, they really needed the fraternities, because there was nothing else for social life.

DONIN: Right. Plus, people were living in them, weren't they? They needed the space.

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes. Yeah, I lived in it more than you were supposed to, because I enjoyed it and I was one of the officers.

DONIN: So were there any memorable professors that stuck with you all these years that you have memories of?

TRETHAWAY: One professor I was very fond of: Allan Macdonald. He was an English professor. Unfortunately he died rather young so he's been long gone. And Professor Carter who was economics and his son was a fraternity brother. And there was a physics professor Mirsch, Krisch, I can't quite get it. But he was... I learned quite a bit from him.

DONIN: Now when you were making the decision to not be pre-med, was there someone you could go to like an advisor that you could go to at that point and talk to about planning?

TRETHAWAY: It never occurred to me. I made up my own mind.

DONIN: Yes, but to help you choose a different major?

TRETHAWAY: No.

DONIN: You did that on your own. Very different than today.

TRETHAWAY: Lots different. I've been taking part in the Daniel Webster dinners.

DONIN: Oh, what are they?

TRETHAWAY: Well, they revived the tradition. Each spring, every senior is invited to a Daniel Webster dinner; they're held in the Daniel Webster room at the inn. And they invite alumni in the area. At tables there are two alums and six students. There's a reception first for about half an hour and then you have dinner. It's just fascinating and fun, because the first question they ask is: How is the campus different? And if there are women at the table, I just point to them and say, "Well, there's one major difference." And we trade stories back and forth. Absolutely fascinating. So, yes, campus life is considerably different today.

DONIN: But do you think the end result of the kind of person you were with the kind of education you had is markedly different than the

experience that they have now? Obviously, women have made it very different, but in terms of the education.

TRETHAWAY: I think there is much more educational opportunity available for students today. So much more going on on campus. I mean, you look at the football games and how low the attendance is, when you ask the kids about it, it's just: "Well, I didn't have time. There's so much to do." Even the number of sports. They've got over forty teams now, and when we were there, there was half a dozen. More than that probably, but comparatively very few.

DONIN: Yeah, the choices of activities are enormous now. It's true. And in those days, the sports events were central to your activities.

TRETHAWAY: Very much so. Very much so. The stands were always full. The old Davis hockey rink was jammed. The basketball in the old gym was always full.

DONIN: When you went back, did you do any kind of part-time—you didn't need to do a part-time job, did you?

TRETHAWAY: Oh, yes.

DONIN: You did?

TRETHAWAY: Yes.

DONIN: What did you do?

TRETHAWAY: I was a cook at the old Putnam drugstore, short-order cook, yeah.

DONIN: Oh, really? Yeah, behind the counter. Did you get free food?

TRETHAWAY: Sure.

DONIN: Yeah, that's the whole idea.

TRETHAWAY: Yes, exactly. And ice cream. We made our own ice cream.

DONIN: Now, the dining choices back in those days, it was just Thayer wasn't it?

TRETHAWAY: It was College Hall.

DONIN: Oh, it was College Hall, yeah. Sorry. Right.

TRETHAWAY: And there were places in town: Hap and Hal's Diner, the place in the alley.

DONIN: Do you feel like, you know, even though you never actually got into combat, but because you were a veteran, did you feel like you got treated differently from the traditional civilian students?

TRETHAWAY: At Dartmouth?

DONIN: Yeah. With more respect or you were just somehow recognized as being different?

TRETHAWAY: I would admit to a little bit of that, but not a great deal.

DONIN: In a good way or a bad way?

TRETHAWAY: In a good way.

DONIN: In a good way. By the professors or by the other students? Both?

TRETHAWAY: Oh, I think chiefly by the—the only thing that was important was the professors.

DONIN: Right. So, what happened—when you graduated, what happened? Where did you go?

TRETHAWAY: I went down to my family's place on the Cape for a month or so and then I went to work.

DONIN: Everybody was anxious to get out and get on with it. Right. Good. And did you continue to stay in touch with your classmates who were still up there at Dartmouth? I mean, you had friends that were still getting through their courses and stuff.

TRETHAWAY: A few. As I mentioned, my friends were mostly in other classes.

DONIN: Right. Some were already out ahead of you, even.

TRETHAWAY: Yes.

DONIN: Right.

TRETHAWAY: And those, I saw them and saw a few classmates. Hugh Chapin that I mentioned earlier I kept in touch with—

DONIN: Did you start going back to reunions right away, you know, like, your fifth or your tenth?

TRETHAWAY: I think I went to my fifth, and then I don't remember in the middle there, because I was living far away and with kids and so on. I skipped a few of them.

DONIN: Yep.

TRETHAWAY: But about my twentieth, I started. I think I've been to every one since.

DONIN: Wow. Any other memories?

TRETHAWAY: No, except I just have very fond thoughts of the navy for sending me to Dartmouth.

DONIN: It's amazing too that that was where you wanted to go because most people are saying, well, I got sent to Notre Dame or I got sent to BC.

TRETHAWAY: Well, my father had gone to Cornell. In fact, I was the first one of our family—the generation that they'd been here from England—but I was the first one in the extended family that had not gone on to Cornell.

DONIN: Oh, you broke the mold.

TRETHAWAY: Yeah.

DONIN: Now, how about kids? Do you have any kids that went to Dartmouth?

TRETHAWAY: Yes, my son. He was '79.

DONIN: Oh, was he?

TRETHAWAY: Yes. And I just found out this weekend my grandson has decided that Dartmouth is his number one choice.

DONIN: How old is he?

TRETHAWAY: Well, he's a junior at Hotchkiss.

DONIN: Oh, so he's right in it. Well, the legacy helps.

TRETHAWAY: Well, I don't know. He's got pretty good grades and he's a very good athlete. So maybe it will work out. I remember... Talking about those two, I took my whole family to the twenty-fifth reunion. We had a blast. And I can remember on the way home, my son, who had been sitting in the back seat, leaned up and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Dad, I'm going to Dartmouth." I was delighted. Well, my wife came from a Harvard family, so there is this rivalry. And we had made this decision—agreement—that neither one of us would over-promote either Dartmouth or Harvard, but we would try and convince our children—we had a boy and a girl—that they should go to a small New England college. How Harvard fit into that, I don't know, but Dartmouth certainly did. So, I was delighted when Tom said that he wanted to go to Dartmouth.

**[End of interview]**