

Dartmouth College Oral History Project
The War Years at Dartmouth
Interview with Fred Berthold '45
By Mary Stelle Donin
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DONIN: How did you end up coming to Dartmouth back in 1941?
Was there a family connection here or—

BERTHOLD: No, no, family connection. But my Boy Scout leader was a fellow named Tom Curtis, who was a congressman from Missouri and later a trustee of Dartmouth College; he was very enthusiastic about Dartmouth and was responsible in fact for sending quite a number of people from Webster Groves, Missouri, to Dartmouth. I'd never seen the place, but he had all these wonderful movies of it. I just looked at that and I said, Hah! That's where I want to go. [Laughs]

DONIN: Was it the outdoorsy aspect of it?

BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. And, you know, the skiing and the football. And, I don't know, just all kinds of things. The whole countryside, you know.

DONIN: And had you been to New England before?

BERTHOLD: No, never.

DONIN: Very brave.

BERTHOLD: Had a hard time understanding the lingo when I got here.
[Laughter]

DONIN: That New England accent can be tough to adjust to. And did you arrive here on your own or with your family?

BERTHOLD: My parents drove me up to Hanover along with a classmate of mine from high school who then became my roommate here at Dartmouth.

DONIN: What was his name?

BERTHOLD: Albert Gruer, class of '45. Now lives out in Wisconsin.

- DONIN: Uh-huh. Well, that was reassuring probably for your parents that you had a high school classmate with you.
- BERTHOLD: Well, they thought I was totally unmanageable anyway, so....
[Laughter]
- DONIN: So they were glad to park you here for a few years.
- BERTHOLD: Actually they wanted me to go to Washington University in St. Louis; stay close to home. But I would have none of that.
- DONIN: Were you the oldest one in your family?
- BERTHOLD: No, I had two older sisters.
- DONIN: So you weren't the first child they had shipped off to college.
- BERTHOLD: Well, the oldest went to Washington University in St. Louis. And the second one went to nursing school in St. Louis. So I was the only one who really flew the coop.
- DONIN: Really flew the coop.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: So when you arrived here in the fall of '41, you know, the war was going on in Europe, but the United States wasn't involved yet. So was it sort of a, what you would call a traditional first semester here? I mean there was no....
- BERTHOLD: Well, there was a lot of anxiety about the war. A lot of people who felt that we weren't involved enough. At that time I was—You know, it's interesting. Raised in the Middle West, St. Louis, where Lindbergh was a great hero. And Lindbergh was going around preaching that Hitler wasn't all that bad, you know. And also I was raised as a staunch Southern Baptist. And that church that I was in was preaching pacifism, which I, that point of view, which at that point I had adopted. So when I arrived here almost all of my classmates were pretty sure we were going to get involved. They thought we should be more involved. So I was different in that respect.

- DONIN: How did they react to you, someone who did not want to...
- BERTHOLD: Well, they were not vindictive or anything like that. I think they understood my point of view. I was incidentally also, already when I came here, a licensed preacher.
- DONIN: Really? Out of high school?
- BERTHOLD: Well, when I was a young man in this Baptist church, I seemed to have a gift of gab, and I also had all these strong convictions. And I got involved in doing some local work with youth and also occasionally preaching around. And so they decided I should be licensed as a preacher. So when I got here, I got immediately involved in the Dartmouth Christian Union, and that was my orientation very much. And when the war came, oh, boy! I didn't know what—how to react to that.
- DONIN: So December 7th, a Sunday, right?
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: Do you remember?
- BERTHOLD: I remember it clearly. Walking across the campus towards Commons to have our midday meal. A classmate, I've forgotten which one now, running up to say, "Pearl Harbor! You know we're in it!" And that kind of thing. Boy! The reaction in the class was immediate and utter shock.
- DONIN: A lot of kids were ready to sign up right then, weren't they?
- BERTHOLD: Yes. Indeed. Many of them did.
- DONIN: Uh huh. So your class diminished in number right away.
- BERTHOLD: We were.... The class of 1945 is interesting. We were split apart after only several months here in Hanover. And what's really remarkable is the degree to which we've come back together again after all of those separations and all of those years. Because it's really a very solid class now.
- DONIN: But you guys were so splintered by the war.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: And graduated at all crazy different times. Some of you never even had graduation ceremonies, I assume.

BERTHOLD: I never had one.

DONIN: Yes. How'd you get your diploma?

BERTHOLD: Through the mail.

DONIN: Wow. So let's back up again. So when you arrived here in the fall, I mean they were still doing traditional stuff like, did you do an outing trip, a freshman outing trip?

BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. We did that. And you know we had our tug-of-war. We had freshman hazing.

DONIN: Yes.

BERTHOLD: We were instructed that it was part of becoming a Dartmouth man, that we had to carry this couch for this guy across the campus and put it in his... You know, all kinds of stuff like that.

DONIN: The beanie, did you have to wear the beanie?

BERTHOLD: Had to wear the beanies. Learn all the Dartmouth songs. Yes.

DONIN: Now Ernest Martin Hopkins was the president.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Did he come up to Moosilauke when you did your freshman trip?

BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. Yes.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BERTHOLD: The final night there, yes.

- DONIN: And did you have a sense that this was going to be a good experience for you? I mean did you feel comfortable once you got into the routine?
- BERTHOLD: I have to say that comparing the Dartmouth class of 1945 as we entered the college with students today—and, well, I'm not teaching anymore, but I did teach up until 1999, I think that my classmates initially were less, a little bit less serious about the academic side of things. So I was different in that respect. The academic side of things was probably the most important thing for me, apart from all of this Dartmouth Christian Union activity. So I think that the students by and large were... Yes, they wanted to do well enough in their classes to get through and all. But for them I think fraternities and sport life and so on were more important in many ways.
- DONIN: That's certainly the profile that emerges from a lot of these guys in the classes of the forties. They were socially oriented and sort of gregarious, outgoing, sportsmen types. But you didn't fit that mold.
- BERTHOLD: Not really.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: And the thing to me that's fascinating is that I think the war experiences for those who went through it was a really life-transforming thing. The young men who came back after that were very different. They were serious about their work. They were committed to it. They were tremendously wonderful students to have. I came back to teach here in 1949. So I saw a number of those people in the class. Yes.
- DONIN: You even lectured in the Great Issues course, didn't you?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. Because I had gone to Union Theological Seminary in Chicago, and one of the great—in fact I think the greatest—Protestant theologians in those days was Reinhold Niebur. And I had become friendly with him. I got him to come up and lecture in Great Issues a couple of times. Also Paul Tillich, who was there. And so, because of my connection with them, I was asked to introduce them. It always was a faculty member who gave an introductory lecture before the big-shot came on.

DONIN: I see. Sort of warming the audience up.

BERTHOLD: Yes, well, right.

DONIN: [Laughs] So did you know, when you entered here, did you know you wanted to be a preacher? Or what was your major going to be?

BERTHOLD: Well, I was schizophrenic. I thought I wanted to be either a minister or a physician. And I soon.... Dr. Syvertsen was the head of the medical student group. He got us all to— Anybody interested in medicine, Doc Syvertsen's going to have a meeting such and such a time. So I go to that meeting. He says, "Alright. Now here's the courses you're going to take. You're going to take this and this and this and this." And I said, Whew! That's not going to give me any time to take this, this, this, and the other. I said, phooey on that. So I majored in sort of a joint major of philosophy and psychology.

DONIN: There was no religion department, was there?

BERTHOLD: Oh, no. No.

DONIN: So your focus was basically the Dartmouth Christian Union, your classes. You didn't really get into the social life.

BERTHOLD: The glee club.

DONIN: Oh, glee club.

BERTHOLD: The glee club. In the high school that I went to in Webster Groves, which was a very good school, they had a men's fraternity and three women's sororities. I was personally very anti-sorority and fraternity. I thought they tended toward a wee bit of snobbishness. I knew some people whose hearts were broken because they did not get into it. So when I came to Dartmouth, I had no interest whatever in joining a fraternity. Couldn't join anyway when you're a freshman. And at the beginning of my sophomore year, I thought, oh, heck. I'm going to go through this thing they call rush because I want to see what these places are like. So I got my tag on and walked up to a fraternity. It turned out to be the Deke

house, the first one I went to. And the guy looked at me, he says, "Berthold, huh? The bar's over there." I said, "What do I do if I don't drink?" And the guy's jaw dropped. He stared at me. He said, "Well, I guess you can come in today. But frankly we have nothing in common." [Laughs] So that confirmed my suspicion.

DONIN: That was the end of your rushing activity.

BERTHOLD: I quit. I quit.

DONIN: [Laughs] So there were no fraternities that had an orientation away from alcohol.

BERTHOLD: Well, I don't know. Oh, I'm sure they did.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BERTHOLD: You know in later years. You know a lot of my classmates were devoted fraternity men, and they speak about a lot of very good things that happened in their fraternity. So I'm sure my attitude toward them at that time was based on very partial information and a considerable amount of bias.

DONIN: Right. Yes. So did you have—I know a lot of students then had jobs. Did you have a job when you were here?

BERTHOLD: I had several. I worked in the dining hall.

DONIN: Oh, yes.

BERTHOLD: As a waiter at first and other things. I also worked in the reserve desk at Baker Library. Then a little later in my undergraduate years I lived in the home of Professor Stone of the psychology department, got my room free in exchange for doing housework.

DONIN: Wow! You earned your way through.

BERTHOLD: Well, yes. But I also had a scholarship, so I managed.

DONIN: Were there any particular professors that mentored you in a special way?

- BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. Yes. Professor Wheelwright in the philosophy department gave these wonderful courses. I couldn't get enough of his stuff. Fran Gramlich in the philosophy department.
- DONIN: Oh, yes. Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: Charles Stone in psychology. And also Karwoski in psychology.
- DONIN: Oh. Uh-huh.
- BERTHOLD: In fact, when I was an undergraduate, Ted Karwoski and I published a paper together. He was so generous—I'd worked with him on this project—he allowed my name to be associated with his in publishing. And the funny thing is I came back to teach in 1949. I hadn't seen him for five years. I met him in Thayer Hall. He spotted me. He walked over. The first thing he said, "Say, Fred, you know that correlation that we had to do with the relationship between this and that, I've been thinking about that. I think maybe we need to rework that." It was as if—
- DONIN: That's great.
- BERTHOLD: —it never had.... That guy, his mind was on his work.
[Laughs]
- DONIN: Now I happen to know that you told a charming story about Professor Wheelwright in the previous interview you did for the Archives, I think with Jane Carroll, about his efforts to correct a student's grade?
- BERTHOLD: Ohhhh. He got caught by the campus police one night. Phil Wheelwright was really a great professor in the classroom, but he was also the epitome of the absent-minded professor. Anyway, he had this student who was about to graduate, and they were going to give out honors, whether they were going to graduate with honors or not. And he had just taken a course with Wheelwright. And Wheelwright got worried: Maybe I didn't do justice to this young man. Maybe the grade should have been a little bit higher because he thought then maybe he could.... He got worried. And he went over to the dean's office and was trying to break in so he could get the

records and change this guy's grade. And he got caught by the campus police. [Laughs]

DONIN: This is the famous Nelson Wormwood?

BERTHOLD: Yes. Oh, Nelson Wormwood was *the* security force.

DONIN: [Laughs] Right. The guy must have had eyes in the back of his head to be able to police an entire campus with just himself.

BERTHOLD: I know. I know.

DONIN: So were there any repercussions for Professor Wheelwright?

BERTHOLD: No. I'm sure he was embarrassed then. But I'm sure also the next day he'd forgotten all about it. [Laughter]

DONIN: That's a great story.

BERTHOLD: I met him once on the Main Street, and I said, "Good morning." And he said, "Good morning. How are you?" And we passed each other. Two o'clock the next morning I get this phone call from Wheelwright. "Say, Fred, you know this morning when I asked how you were, I don't want you to think that I thought you were looking badly."

DONIN: Oh.... [Laughter] Two o'clock in the morning?

BERTHOLD: Yes. Oh, I don't know. Sometime. I don't know what time. It was very late anyway.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Oh, that's great. That's great. So once the United States got into the war, they started running classes year round, isn't that right?

BERTHOLD: Year round classes. Yes.

DONIN: Started right then that summer of....

BERTHOLD: So I finished in three years, graduated in '44 actually.

DONIN: So you went straight through with no breaks.

- BERTHOLD: Yes, straight through.
- DONIN: And graduation was not an event.
- BERTHOLD: There was no graduation ceremony at all. We just got our diploma by mail. And, you know, it was....
- DONIN: How many of there were you there then? Not very many. It was quite diminished.
- BERTHOLD: Well, let's see, I'm not quite sure I know the answer to that.
- DONIN: What was I just reading about the....
- BERTHOLD: I don't think there were too many civilian graduates at that time.
- DONIN: Right. I think you're right. I thought I brought that with me. But there was a little blurb about the numbers, and it was way down. So that there were maybe 150 students, civilian students, on campus or something like that.
- BERTHOLD: Right. And they were, you know, 4F or they were premedical students or something like that, you know.
- DONIN: And what was your classification?
- BERTHOLD: I was classified as a clergyman. I think that's 4D or something.
- DONIN: Were you doing any preaching up here as an undergrad?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, yes, and I have a funny story about that, too. I began that right early because, you know, during the war a lot of the churches around here had no ministers. The ministers were off in the service, too. Anyway, I found a Model A Ford to buy for \$50...a lot of money for me in those [days]. But I needed that to get out to these little churches I was asked to preach here and there. And the guy who was in charge of scholarships called me into his office. He said, "I hear that you bought an automobile." I said, "Yes, sir." He says, "Don't you know that freshmen are not allowed to have automobiles? And moreover, scholarship students are not allowed to have automobiles?" "Yes, I know that." Well, he

threatened to toss me out, you know. And I finally explained to him why I'd done this. And he let me get away with it.

DONIN: Did you get paid for preaching?

BERTHOLD: I think a very small...about enough to pay for the gas. Which was all it was worth, I'm sure. I saved some of those early sermons.

DONIN: Oh, did you.

BERTHOLD: When I began clearing out my office, I said, Oye, my gracious! Could I ever possibly have said that?

DONIN: There was gas rationing then, too.

BERTHOLD: Yes. Well, no, but, see, this Model A Ford, I could get it started by priming the carburetor with gasoline. But then once it got going, I got it to run on kerosene.

DONIN: Oh, that's dangerous!

BERTHOLD: Oh, it was terrible. [Laughs]

DONIN: You could have gone up in flames.

BERTHOLD: No, I don't think so. But it sure created a smell. [Laughs]

DONIN: Oh! They knew you were coming then.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: You must have stunk of kerosene when you marched into the church.

BERTHOLD: Oh, heck, on one of these expeditions, Dick Gilman, a classmate of mine; he later became president of Occidental College.

DONIN: Oh, okay.

BERTHOLD: He was also very active in the Dartmouth Christian Union.

- DONIN: Oh, he was at the mini-reunion. I sat next to him at the mini-reunion.
- BERTHOLD: Oh, did you?
- DONIN: He's from California, yes, yes.
- BERTHOLD: And he and I were driving over to Woodstock. We were going to have this service over there. One of us was going to preach, and the other work with the young people's group in this little old Model A Ford, which of course had fumes coming through it. And it was also a hot day, windows open. And we saw this quite attractive young lady going along on a bicycle. He learned out one side, I the other, and we went whoo whoo! You know. That kind of a thing. The wolf whistle. When we got to the church, we found this young lady sitting in the front pew. I think that the sermon that Sunday had something to do with keep your mind on lofty things. [Laughter] It was very embarrassing.
- DONIN: That's great. I wonder if she recognized you two.
- BERTHOLD: Oh, she sure did.
- DONIN: She did. [Laughter] That's great. So you had a very unusual undergraduate experience, I think, it sounds like.
- BERTHOLD: Oh, I think it must have been almost unique, really, in a way.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. What were the other activities that the Dartmouth Christian Union was involved in at that point?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, something they should still be—the Tucker Foundation should still be doing. I found out recently they don't. We had a wood chopping crew. We would go out when winter was coming on, go out and chop wood and do insulation for poor people, needy people, who needed a supply to keep them warm through the winter.
- DONIN: That's very relevant today.
- BERTHOLD: Yes. And we did a lot of work with youth groups around in various churches, that sort of thing.

- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Now how many members were in the Dartmouth Christian Union at this point? Not many.
- BERTHOLD: No, it was pretty big.
- DONIN: Was it?
- BERTHOLD: And at that time in New England there was what was called the New England Christian Conference or something. All of the Ivy League schools were involved in this. We used to have these big yearly gatherings. A lot of students, yes.
- DONIN: Mmm.
- BERTHOLD: It was quite popular.
- DONIN: Now how did your Southern Baptist upbringing match with what your undergraduate experience was like? It must have been sort of radical, wasn't it?
- BERTHOLD: Head-on collision. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Yes, I bet.
- BERTHOLD: When I came to Dartmouth, it's a funny thing: When I came to college as a freshman, I got into an argument once on differences between men and women. And I needn't go into all of this. But one of the things that I said was, well, you know one difference is that men have one fewer ribs. They said, "What!" "Yes," I said, "look right here in Genesis 3, it says, 'And God took Adam and took a rib and made his Eve.' Obviously men have one fewer rib. They laughed at me. They said— Took me up to the medical school and straightened me out. [Laughter] I began to switch and have in a sense continued moving toward what I would call a much more liberal interpretation of religion. Partly due to what I learned at Dartmouth, what I learned at seminary, what I've learned ever since, trying to teach.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. What did your family make of this transformation?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, my mother as horrified. I told her I was going to go on to theological school. I would be in Chicago. She said, "Oh, you're going to Moody Bible Institute?" I said, "No, I'm going

to Chicago Theological Center.” Oooh! Known as a radical hotbed of liberalism.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BERTHOLD: She didn't like it at all.

DONIN: That's what happens.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: But they must have been delighted, though, when you came out a minister and came back to Dartmouth. Were they?

BERTHOLD: I think so. They visited often and went to church with me. They didn't ever stand up in the middle of a sermon and denounce me. [Laughter]

DONIN: So who was your social group here? I mean if you didn't hang out with these fraternity types or these athletic types, who did you hang out with?

BERTHOLD: Well, with Dartmouth Christian Union people. My closest friend, who lived next to me in Woodward Hall, Richard Kuhns, a Jewish background, went on to become professor of philosophy at Columbia University.

DONIN: How interesting.

BERTHOLD: He, too, took the same courses I did. He was a very bright interesting guy, a good musician. You know in those days quite a few of my friends were Jews. There were not many at Dartmouth in those days. And anti-Semitism was a real problem.

DONIN: Was he a victim of that?

BERTHOLD: I'm not even sure people were aware—he was not an observant Jew in any way. I think he was thought to be queer in the same way that I was thought to be queer because we were all the time reading books and arguing about our courses and stuff like that. But, no, I don't think that.... But it was true that I remember one of my friends. I was on the tennis team, too. That was another thing.

DONIN: Oh, so you were athletic.

BERTHOLD: And I wanted to play tennis with this friend of mine who happened to be Jewish. And I said— No. It was a foursome. And one of them said, “Oh, I have to go into my fraternity house; I forgot my racket.” We said, “Well, we’ll all go in with you. Like to look around.” And he said, “Yep, but this guy can’t go in because he’s Jewish.”

DONIN: Oh, that’s unbelievable.

BERTHOLD: You know that kind of thing.

DONIN: You mea, step foot inside a house?

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Oh!

BERTHOLD: But that, you know, I think John Dickey earns kudos for changing all of that.

DONIN: Yes, he did. He went after the fraternities to drop their discriminatory rules.

BERTHOLD: Yes. Right.

DONIN: But Ernest Martin Hopkins apparently, I’m sure you’re aware...

BERTHOLD: There was an informal understanding that not more than a certain number of Jews could be admitted.

DONIN: And it seems from other alums that I’ve talked to from this era, the ones who were Jewish, they just— They were very matter-of-fact about it. They knew there was a quota system, and they were a number in that quota.

BERTHOLD: Yes, yes.

DONIN: And I don’t think it was just Dartmouth.

BERTHOLD: No, I’m sure it was in general.

DONIN: It was sort of standard practice.

BERTHOLD: Amazing.

DONIN: It is amazing. Well....

BERTHOLD: I have a feeling that attitudes among my classmates, the ones I really came to know later, were changed by the war.

DONIN: Really!

BERTHOLD: Well, you stop to think what that was all about.

DONIN: Of course. Sure.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Well, and some it was also just developmental, don't you think?

BERTHOLD: Yes, probably.

DONIN: That they grew up and matured.

BERTHOLD: Probably.

DONIN: So many of them, especially the ones who participated in the war said, as you said, that they grew up, and they became more focused, they knew they had a job to do when they got home which was to finish school and get a job. And I'm sure you're right. A lot of them were changed—

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: -- in their take on members of the Jewish....

BERTHOLD: There were a lot of changes. I remember the uproar about the dropping of the Indian symbol. It's one of the things I remember about my undergraduate days is the atrocious way in which that Indian concept was used. We all loved to sing that, you know, Eleazar Wheelock song. And wahoo wa! But half-times at the football game. I remember one

particularly instance, but there were things like this. They put up a teepee in the middle of the football field. And then they had this guy all dressed up as an Indian chasing this squaw, grabbing her by the hair, and dragging her back. You know in the Hanover Inn, in hotels and things, they'll often put up a "Please do not disturb" sign. What they had at the Hanover Inn at one time was a drunken Indian. Things like that. And I think that outlawing the use of the Indian symbol was a thing that a lot of alums didn't like, including some of my own classmates.

DONIN: Mm-hmm. Well, those traditions die hard.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: They're still struggling over it, some of them.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Still unhappy about it.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: And some of that, don't you think it was based on, what's the word? Sort of crowd mentality. I mean the Indian symbol was there, and everybody accepted it, and nobody gave it a second thought.

BERTHOLD: And there was all this stuff about, you know, well... In fact not long ago there was an article in the newspaper talking about Samson Occom as a co-founder of Dartmouth. Not so. When I encountered this—and I did a lot of research on Samson Occom, who was sent to England to raise money, which he did, £10,000, and he understood that this was to be for Moor's Indian Charity School.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

BERTHOLD: Sent the money back. Wheelock used it to found Dartmouth College.

DONIN: Mm-hmm.

- BERTHOLD: There are letters in the Archives from Occom explaining his dismay, his anger at this. And he never set foot in Hanover.
- DONIN: Mmm.
- BERTHOLD: So that for him, this symbol that we use, he still sits up there on the top of Baker Library, is an example not of the great Indian tradition; but of the way in which the white man abused them.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. Yes. And yet the college still bills itself—or markets itself—as a place that was founded for the education of Native Americans.
- BERTHOLD: And many others. [Laughs] Well, and now, I must say that—and here again I think it was under Kemeny really that a new program for the bringing to the campus and reintroducing the Native American support and program is a wonderful thing.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: That we're doing now.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. But that wasn't until Kemeny's time.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: So what was your take on Hopkins? Did you actually ever interact with him?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, a lot.
- DONIN: Did you?
- BERTHOLD: Oh, yes. In many different ways. When I left college, before leaving, I secured an interview with Hopkins along with Dick Gilman.
- DONIN: Uh-huh.
- BERTHOLD: And my purpose in going to him was to say that the Dartmouth Christian Union needed some adult supervisor who would give full attention to the development of that organization. And he hired one, George Kalbfleisch.

- DONIN: Oh, yes.
- BERTHOLD Who did a terrific job in that sort of thing. So I was involved in that. I started teaching under him. Got to know him pretty well. I conducted his memorial service and got to know him and his family at that time, you know.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: I think he... Apart from this business about the quota, he was a very good president. I remember the fuss that was made about—Well, I didn't know it personally—but I heard about the fuss that was made when Orozco painted those murals you know. And the alums went up in an uproar. "Oh, there's all this Communist stuff here in the college! What are we going to—?" And Hopkins was heard to say to them at this time, "If I could get Josef Stalin to come over here and lecture, I'd do it in a minute." The point being, we've got to be open to all of this that's going on in the world, and he was a very good man in that respect.
- DONIN: And, you know, he's the one who created this arrangement with the Department of Defense to have this training going on here, which essentially kept the college, you know, open.
- BERTHOLD: Solvent. That's right.
- DONIN: Solvent, exactly.
- BERTHOLD: That's right.
- DONIN: So you spanned—well, your class spanned, although I guess you were gone—but the class of '45 started with Hopkins but finished with Dickey.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: He was coming on board. Well, he came I guess in the fall of '45. So your class was I guess gone.
- BERTHOLD: Well, a lot of it still hadn't come back.

- DONIN: Exactly. So a lot of them did come back to have Dickey as their president. Now you obviously had gone by then because you finished in '44. But then you came back and started teaching when John Dickey was there.
- BERTHOLD: Right.
- DONIN: Right. And then interacted with a lot of your classmates who were still coming back as undergraduates. It's bizarre.
- BERTHOLD: [Laughs] I know. Yes.
- DONIN: And where did I see— Oh, this thing here. You won an award: the Student Who Best Read the Scriptures. May of 1946.
- BERTHOLD: [Laughs] Yes, I did. And with that great huge prize money, I bought a little movie camera.
- DONIN: Oh, terrific.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: Terrific.
- BERTHOLD: To take pictures of the.... I got married about the same time, so I had....
- DONIN: So when exactly did you come back to campus, '49?
- BERTHOLD: 'Forty-nine, fall of 1949.
- DONIN: And you found some of your classmates there. Wow. Some of them probably were at Thayer and Tuck as well.
- BERTHOLD: I have a funny story about coming back and starting to teach, which shows that my Southern Baptist background had been eroded to some extent because I was here working hard to get ready for my first class at Dartmouth. It was summertime; it was so hot. I thought, oh, boy! A cold beer would really be just the right thing. So I went down to the old Red and White store that was owned by Al Lozier, picked up a six-pack of beer, went to the checkout counter, and the young lady there said, "Let me see your ID." Well, I didn't even know what an

ID was. But Al Lozier, who was filling shelves right nearby was overhearing all this. And he hollered out, you know, in a loud voice that could be heard throughout the store, "That's quite all right! You let Reverend Berthold have all the beer he wants!" [Laughter]

DONIN: Oh, gosh! Caught red-handed. That's a great story. [Laughter] Now where did you live when you came back here in '49?

BERTHOLD: We lived in one of those Quonset huts that were down right near where the high school is.

DONIN: Oh, they called it Sachem Village.

BERTHOLD: Sachem Village. There were some old Quonset huts there for three or four more years before they finally tore them down.

DONIN: Yes.

BERTHOLD: We moved in, and we had almost no furniture. It was so easy. Got up in the morning, whsst! Everything was clean.

DONIN: Yes, yes. Simple, very simple. And what were you teaching?

BERTHOLD: I was asked to come to begin the teaching in the field of religion.

DONIN: Was there no— There still was no....

BERTHOLD: There was no department at that time. And I began by teaching a course called The Judeo-Christian Tradition, which was sort of a survey of Judaism and Christianity developing. I think that was the first course that I taught. And then I taught a course in philosophy of religion and one on the Reformation, which I'm going to be doing again this next winter, as a matter of fact in Ilead.

DONIN: Oh, great.

BERTHOLD: And it just gradually developed.

DONIN: But you were still working on your Ph.D. at this point.

- BERTHOLD: Yes. Oh, yes.
- DONIN: How did you manage that? Did you have to go back?
- BERTHOLD: With difficulty.
- DONIN: Yes, I bet. Did you have to go back and forth to Chicago?
- BERTHOLD: No. They didn't care where I was. Well, I did have to go back for a little while when I finally got the degree, but only for a couple of weeks really.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm. So you were able to do it all here and stay in touch with your advisor or whatever?
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: Yes. But, you know, it was— We didn't have children at that point, so.... My wife is a minister, too. She had a little church.
- DONIN: Oh! Where was her church?
- BERTHOLD: Her church was in Plainfield, New Hampshire.
- DONIN: Yes, yes.
- BERTHOLD: She did that sort of thing until our first child came along.
- DONIN: Mm-hmm.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: So what was your take on—I know we've talked a little bit about this—but I can't remember if the tape was on when we talked about it. What was your take on how the students had changed after they came back from the war?
- BERTHOLD: I think they knew what a college was all about. And it was not mainly about the football team winning or about getting drunk on the weekends. It was about learning something of significance that would help you earn a living and maybe

make the world better. I think a lot of people became committed to a more ethical outlook by what they had gone through. So they were serious, and they worked hard, and they were very good students. And they were also [laughs] much more equipped to say to the professor, “Where did you get that crazy idea?” You know, and challenge it. It made the discussions in class—

DONIN: More interesting.

BERTHOLD: —more vivid and alive, yes.

DONIN: Mmm. And of course they were all going through on the GI Bill at that point.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: So. Now, did you have opportunity to interact in any way or get to know any of the fellows that came here for their military training who weren’t actually Dartmouth—who hadn’t matriculated at Dartmouth?

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Did you?

BERTHOLD: One of my jobs was to arrive at Thayer Hall every morning at six a.m. and prepare breakfast for these V-12 students. And, yes, I got to know quite a few of them not only because of that; because a lot of them were in classes with me. A lot of them were in the glee club with me.

DONIN: Oh, really!

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: Ah-hah.

BERTHOLD: Stuff like that.

DONIN: I didn’t realize they were able to participate in this extracurricular stuff as well.

BERTHOLD: Well, yes. Some of them did.

- DONIN: I know some of them played on the sports teams.
- BERTHOLD: Yes. So if you can play football, why can't you sing?
- DONIN: Right. Exactly. It's a good point. And some of them actually petitioned the school to come back here as students when the war was over.
- BERTHOLD: And some did.
- DONIN: Did any of them join the class of '45?
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: Yes. Was there a distinction made between the students, you know, who had come in through the training programs versus the sort of traditional civilians.
- BERTHOLD: If there was, I'm not aware of it. The V-12 students were so far and above the predominant presence on campus. No, I don't think—I didn't notice any kind of.... Did you have in mind that they were regarded as maybe not quite up to snuff because they'd gotten in through the military?
- DONIN: Yes.
- BERTHOLD: I don't believe there was that attitude.
- DONIN: There was ever a distinction that way. Yes.
- BERTHOLD: No, no, I don't think so.
- DONIN: Right. And the class unity then was really not... I mean even though you were all splintered and sent off in different places and different directions and graduated at different times, you feel the class was able to maintain its sense of identity and its unity afterwards?
- BERTHOLD: It began to come together through the efforts of people like Bull Hinman, Harry Hampton.
- DONIN: Oh, yes.

- BERTHOLD: And three or four others of this kind. And, yes....
- DONIN: Who kept up correspondence and organized meetings.
- BERTHOLD: I still get letters from Harry Hampton. [Laughs] What's going on at the college?
- DONIN: Right, right. Well, I'm sure particularly those that are spread far and wide must focus especially on you guys that have been...who have stayed in the area. And especially people like you who have kept up a relationship with the college for all these years.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: They must look to you for all sorts of insights.
- BERTHOLD: Sometimes they ask me to intervene on behalf of a daughter or nephew to gain admissions to Dartmouth. And what I tell them now is I used to do that but my batting average on this is zero. [Laughs]
- DONIN: Exactly. Right. In some ways I think it can backfire.
- BERTHOLD: I do, too.
- DONIN: Yes, yes. Doesn't work. But that's a reflection of sort of the Old Boy Network. It used to work just fine.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: I mean back in the day, if you were a son of a Dartmouth man, I think it was assumed that you could come here.
- BERTHOLD: Yes.
- DONIN: And of course that's all changed now.
- BERTHOLD: Well, it's changed. I know even now some of my classmates are saying it's changed too much. But, you know, I think the college has got to stand up to its basic principle, and serve those who are most ready to make use of what it has to offer.

DONIN: Right, right. And they've raised the standard of admission in terms of what your qualifications are to be here.

BERTHOLD: Yes.

DONIN: It's not enough to... Just to have some green blood in you is not enough any more to get in.

BERTHOLD: Right.

DONIN: OK, let's see here. What have I forgotten to ask you?

BERTHOLD: What is the truth? You forgot to ask me that.

DONIN: Right. [Laughter]

[End of Interview]