

**University of Illinois Student Life, 1928 - 38:
Oral History Project
Jack Foersterling – Class of '37
Palatine, Illinois
May 27, 2001**

START OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

Ellen Swain: This is an oral history interview for the University of Illinois Archives. The interviewer is Ellen Swain. The narrator Jack Foersterling, an alumnus from the class of 1937. We are at Mr. Foersterling's home in Palatine, Illinois and the date is May 27, 2001.

Okay, could I ask you your full name and birth date?

Mr. Foersterling: Yes, my full name is Frederick Jack Foersterling, spelled F-O-E-R and the sterling like sterling silver. Foersterling comes from the German Foerster and in Germany it had an umglot over the O, and just as German as sauerkraut.

ES: And when were you born?

JF: Born on March the 2nd 1916 in Peoria, Illinois.

ES: Where did you grow up? Did you grow up in Peoria?

JF: I was born and spent, went through grade school, through 8th grade, all in Peoria grade school. My father had a business on Main Street in Peoria, and he was such a good salesman of Calvanator products that Calvanator bought out his business in order to get him, to make him regional sales manager of the company. Therefore, I spent my freshman year in Chicago, where my father had the central United States territory, and then the next year of high school, I went to Philadelphia. My 3rd year in high school I was in Detroit and at that point my father drowned on a fishing trip, and I was 15 years old and my mother moved back to Champaign, Illinois where she had met my father when he was in the University of Illinois.

ES: I see. Did you have brothers and sisters?

JF: I had one sister, two years older than I.

ES: Tell me, how did you end up at the University of Illinois?

JF: Well, I ended up there because when my father drown, my mother told the Calvanator Corporation that she's like to be sent back to where she had met my father, which was in Champaign, when he was in the University, but she was not. So they moved her, paid her way to go back to Champaign and took a little money, not very much at all, and gave her a few dollars. We made our home with her brothers, my mother's brothers and sisters who were professional people in Champaign. Although you're no doctor anyhow, that's how we happened to get to Champaign, and that was in my fourth year of high school then. And so I went to Champaign

high school my fourth year. After these 3 other high schools I finished my education, through high school in Champaign. And then moved directly after graduation from high school, went directly into the University of Illinois as a freshman in 1933.

ES: Now did you choose the University for financial reasons because you were living in Champaign, or why did you choose to go to school there?

JF: Well, well firstly, I guess, the fact that because my father was a college graduate, a University of Illinois graduate, to the extent that we were old enough to, my sister and I...we had always just assumed the University of Illinois would be where we would go to. We didn't get there the way we expected to, but we still got there at the correct time in life, when I was, that was 15 years old when my father died and we moved down to Champaign. So I entered, in 1933 and graduated in 1937.

ES: Was it important to your mother that you go to school?

JF: Yes, sure, we had always considered it as just part of our education, didn't even think any other way, it was just from going from grade school to high school, to—

ES: Did other classmates at Champaign go to school, was it—?

JF: Yeah everybody in the senior school went, that I think without exception. I think there were probably exceptions. Living right where the university was, everybody somehow found ways to get there. I didn't, by that time there everyone went into a fraternity, and I didn't, I didn't. I was not with friends from Champaign high school anymore, except my best friend was a young man Donald Neimitz, who was in the same class because his father had gotten transferred into Champaign from Galesburg in his business. And Mr. Neimitz and Mrs. Neimitz had two children, which sort of reflected on my, on my sister and myself, and their daughter was the age of my sister. Their son was my age, so Don Neimitz and I spent the, lots of our spare time playing tennis on the University of Illinois tennis courts. And Donald Neimitz had a pretty sister, a year older than he, as my sister was year older than me, and my sister and Neimitz were buddies, coming into the University as coming into the Champaign High School as seniors, same as Donald Neimitz, we were the same age. I took a liking to his sister who was now my wife of 50, 60 years. We married in 1940 I guess, so over 60 years we've been married, had 3 children of our own.

ES: So you met prior to the University?

JF: Prior, we had met—

ES: In high school.

JF: Just for a minute or two in high school, yes.

ES: Tell me, what did you major in?

JF: I majored in Political Science, for I had no idea what I wanted to do. I went and took Liberal Arts, which lots of people did at that time. You either took Liberal Arts or you took Commerce, one or the other, and I took Liberal Arts. Not thinking a bit about what I wanted to, I just didn't get around to, and I—

ES: Did you have any favorite professors?

JF: Well, everything that was favored to me was ROTC. I won the award when I was a freshman as the best drilled freshman in the University. And then my senior year, you know ROTC, I was colonel of the infantry branch of service. There was like 6 or 7 branches of service, you know those, what they are? Field Artillery, Coast Artillery, Signal Core, Infantry, Calvary, and I was head. I was that head of the Infantry branch of service, so when the Army caught me a couple years later, I went in as a second lieutenant in the infantry.

ES: Did you have favorite people in ROTC leaders, who are—?

JF: ROTC. No, not particularly. My favorite people to teach me things after I got out of University completely and I was very fortunate to hit some, the greater, investment ran into later that taught me everything I need. I became a chartered financial analyst in my work which was a special writing for people who are investment people. But anyhow, I worked for the smartest investment man that I ever ran in to, up to then and later, and then I ran in to and worked directly under President Dwight Eisenhower, when he was supreme commander in Europe of the Armed Forces. My office was right next door and his, to begin with at the Grand Trianon at the Palace of Versailles where I fought part of the War [*laughter*].

ES: Wow, very distinguished.

JF: And I worked with him and for him and he's a wonderful man. I have pictures of him where he's wishing me best wishes in the future and all that sort of thing, and if I could only emulate him I thought that I'd get through life all right. Not following your plan.

ES: I was wondering about students and faculty members. Did they have a close relationship or did you see them outside the class?

JF: I didn't have much of a relationship with any teachers, and I was average, maybe a notch above average or so. I'm not sure how much above average, but a little above average, until I got to Law School then I was not, but that's another little story, which I ended up with all, with all my requirements for, but I was only, had only been 3 years at the University, so I said, "Well, I'll stay and take a course in the Law School," so I really ended up taking 2 years of Law School, in the second one to a different school. And, got my Doctor's degree and JD, Doctor of Jurisprudence, from Valporaiso University.

ES: I see.

JF: In 1939. I got my undergraduate degree at Illinois in 1937, and then in 1939 I got my Doctorate JD, in Law at Valporaiso University. I'm sure everything that I learned at Illinois was used to finish up the last degree.

ES: Right.

JF: I graduated from the University of Illinois at 37, and I graduated from Valporaiso with a Doctorate in Law at 39, and passed the bar that same year that I graduated in, so I've been licensed to practice law for lots and lots and lots of years.

ES: You were 18 when you entered the University?

JF: I beg your pardon.

ES: You weren't age 37 when you graduated?

JF: That's correct.

ES: Could I ask you about rules on campus for students?

JF: Yes you sure can ask me anything you want, about what?

ES: About rules for students.

JF: I don't know what kind of rules your speaking of but I never intentionally violated any rules. I've never had in my hand, in mouth or in my system anything that you would call a dope or narcotic, and I guess at the University of Illinois, by the time I was a senior I probably drank some beer with the fraternity, except no place else. You know, when the guys had a beer bust of some kind. But, I'm sure I followed all the rules. My parents had a good upbringing, even though my father died when I was 15, and then the rest I didn't have any reason to stray off the good, straight and narrow path.

ES: Do you remember the Dean of Men?

JF: I bet—

ES: Fred Turner?

JF: Yeah, I remember him, I sure do.

ES: Did you have any contact with him, or—?

JF: No.

ES: No?

JF: See I'm not that active in anything. I was accumulating knowledge that I am now using in a way. I, at one point in life my mother had given me an accordion, and I took accordion lessons from Gene Autry's sidekick, a fellow by the name of Smiley Brunette, of the movies, who was a comedian sidekick of Gene Autry and he taught me to play "5 foot 2" on the accordion, "5 foot 2, eyes are blue." And I somehow got over to the piano, and now at age 85 I'm in a senior, beside living here in Inverness for the last 40 years in this house, we now are members of a place called Barrington, Lake Barrington Woods. It's a 4 floor place that has about 65 or 70 couples in the thing and after breakfast the first day I was there, I sat down at the piano, which was in the big dining room and played a few songs on it. These people appreciate it because it goes back to the 1930s, the songs I play. I don't know any new stuff, but I picked this all up when I was at the University, knew how to do it, never used it. Well I didn't really play any place but now they want me to play all sorts of things, and I'm hammy, so when the first time that I played at breakfast and they, all the 85 year old people applauded, that's all it took for me to come back and do it some more. That's all I'm known as, Jack the piano player.

ES: You learned how to play when you were at U of I?

JF: Well, I played by ear. Yeah when I was young, I didn't play as well as I do now. I played a couple of songs that I had learned on the accordion, but I had a piano most of our life in the house and so when I want something to do, I sit down and play the piano.

ES: I see.

JF: And I enjoy it. And at this particular place, we were all out there now, they have the very sick people and they ones that don't need really any help at all, which is most of the place there, of the latter. But they asked me to play for the very sick ones one day, and they also had a lady who was a professional long haired musician, and played for them first, heavy music, and then I followed it with my jazzy stuff, and they thanked me and asked me to come back and do it over, and they said, "Oh you outplayed music that made the people up rather than down," and they wanted me to come back and do some more of that up music, which I really haven't done it for them again. I've done it for other stuff we had a party last night in fact, and they asked me to play for a minute or two. My wife doesn't like that, that show off stuff, so she's pushing me down a lot, while some of the people ask me to do it. And I say, "Well," I say to people you know, "Everybody doesn't like it, for it to be played too quiet," so anyhow. But that's off the subject, but, that's my only talent that I have. I am not a painter or an artist or public speaker or anything else, but I can play the piano. And I guess most of it while I was at the University. The fraternity had a piano in there—

ES: Tell me about the fraternity, which fraternity did you belong to?

JF: Theta Xi. That fraternity, as I understand since then, that if you belonged at the University of Illinois, you were probably one of the few Theta Xis around. But anyhow, some of my grandchildren, or one of my grandchildren just told me recently that he was a member of Sigma Chi, which I said, "Well, that sounds great because at least you have song that everybody knows."

ES: So there aren't very many Theta Chi chapters?

JF: Theta Xis around.

ES: Theta Xi.

JF: I guess that the year book showed a lot of chapters, maybe it's not in no great shape other places. Illinois wasn't either.

ES: Why did you decide to join a fraternity?

JF: Oh, it's because they asked me to join and I said, "Great." And they probably needed the money to keep the fraternity going and my mother could afford it. That was an interesting situation how I came from a 15 year old boy with no father, and a mother that had never worked in her life, and didn't understand it. And she died ten years after my father did, and it was as it turned out. It was all right with me, I mean it really did turn out very well. I guess I have to blame part of that on the University [*laughter*].

ES: How was she able to send you to school in 1933?

JF: Well to begin with the tuition was about, we've been trying to remember that for sure. I think it was \$35 a semester. Now it may had been less than that, but anyhow, the tuition was no great thing. And when my father died and my mother moved on to Champaign, my uncle and her brother who was a lawyer in Champaign, Illinois, was State's Attorney as a matter of fact, he said, "Bertha, () you have to have some income now from something," and anyhow, somehow I guess that from my father, or from the Calvinator Corporation where he worked he got some money, enough to buy a farm in Champaign. That's all, that's what you, in Champaign, Illinois in 1933, if you needed some income, you didn't go out to the Stock Market, which had just collapsed badly, but you'd go to somebody who had to sell their farm or part of it and buy some farmland. There was corn and soybeans, which my mother did, through a tenant farmer. It gets half the crop. My mother raised the land, and that's how that generally works. I am now 85 years old and I still have never been without some farmland in Champaign County.

ES: She got enough income from that to send you and your sister—?

JF: She got enough income to survive, and she didn't work. My mother didn't ever work.

ES: Did belonging to a fraternity cost a lot more on top of the tuition?

JF: Well not when you lived in town, because I didn't have to sleep or eat in the fraternity, I was just a town boy member. And so it cost me practically nothing.

ES: How much time did you spend with—?

JF: The fraternity?

ES: The fraternity.

JF: Not very much. I played on their basketball team and then their softball team. Mostly that's about all.

ES: Did being in a fraternity give you greater social status on campus?

JF: No, oh no, but I can say what I gained for it. I already from moving through these four different high schools, I had become very competitive of things like tennis and basketball, intramural tennis, intramural basketball, all that. I was fairly geared to athletics, simple athletics. And, which made me, if I wasn't already, and I think inherited it from my father. I was competitive, and I was competitive in life, and I've been competitive in my job, and I always, even though I get some advice that now a days says you know that your financial stage, that I'm at now, which is quite good financial stage; I'm not in a lot of millions of dollars, but I'm comfortable, and I, my 2 sons who are have not good jobs and everything, they say, "Dad, you know, you're not going to run out of money," but I still, it's hard for me to talk about giving money away. I mean this is all part of my competitiveness. I'm not going to throw things around when I've spent my whole life trying to accumulate money and I think everything at the University didn't discourage that. I suppose the intramural sports would be one of the things, you play to win.

ES: Was that between the fraternities, the intramural sports?

JF: No.

ES: Or was that a campus wide—?

JF: I will not get enough in any athletics to make any Illinois teams. I might have come close in tennis with the high school in Philadelphia. We lived in a home that was directly across from the Park District tennis courts of a suburb called Narburth, and we were right across the street, so everyday practically I was over at the tennis courts, playing tennis, and that was my 3rd year of high school, so I was getting some size by then, and I could've tried out when I got back from Philadelphia, when I went to Detroit and Champaign High School. So I could have gone out, when I tried out for the tennis team, but I didn't, but I played on the intramural fraternity tennis team.

ES: The fraternity, did they play against independent students?

JF: Well, they played against mostly other fraternities. The fraternity had their own league of baseball and basketball and tennis and everything, and they won trophies and so forth. So now I play golf competitively [*laughter*]. I was fairly decent until recent, now something happen when you get about 85 years old, and I find that I'm not the only one that has the problem, where you're suddenly, you lose your distance off the tee [*laughter*].

ES: I wanted to ask you too, did Greek students and independent students socialize very much?

JF: No, no. And the fraternity was really thing that would help me with my dating of my girl, girl who I married. She lived in town too incidentally. So, we went to all the fraternity dances that Theta Xi had, and oh some—

ES: Did she belong to a sorority?

JF: Huh? She did not belong to a sorority. Don, my best friend, who was my wife's brother, he didn't belong to a fraternity. Nat, my wife, could have joined what would be asked any, she was popular girl, good looking women, lady, and anyhow, she could have gone into any. I'm sure she was asked a number of times, probably her father or mother said you know, well, don't do it for some reason.

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JF: It was not a plus to belong to a fraternity at Illinois, when we belonged, when I belonged.

ES: Were they having financial problems too with the Depression?

JF: At the fraternity? Actually, I don't remember, there being any problems, and I don't remember any financial problems that I had.

ES: Did you talk to other students about the Depression and what they were going through?

JF: No.

ES: Were you aware of other students having difficulties?

JF: No I was not aware of that, and I guess in my courses in economics, or whatever I took, we probably knew we were in Depression as we are on the border of one now. Now that big, could be. That's a tough subject I would say, because I was, and I said that at the very beginning that, living at home and not being accepted at the University of Illinois from Chicago to Champaign or anything like that would make a world of a difference. To me, my mother was able to support us before I entered the University. The University didn't add or subtract anything from it.

ES: Did you work at all?

JF: No. No I never did, never had a job off campus, that I remember. Well certainly not a regular job. Well it's possible I picked up a few dollars on doing something, but I can't remember, and now my Nat worked for her father in the creamery some. My wife, Nemitz is her name, Nemitz. He was running the Beatrice Creamery in Champaign, Illinois and hired people, and had to do some bookkeeping and all sorts of things. In fact he was, her father was an accountant.

ES: Did he hire students?

JF: Huh?

ES: Did he hire other students to work for him?

JF: I don't think he hired many students at all. No, I think he hired adults.

ES: Tell me what kinds of things you did for fun?

JF: For what, for fun?

ES: For fun.

JF: Fun.

ES: When you had free time. What did you do?

INTERRUPTION.

JF: Played games, in other words, played basketball or tennis or baseball.

ES: Did you go out to any of the local restaurants or where did students go to unwind?

JF: Well they went to movies. And they sometimes went to dances. I went to one dance a month, that might be something like what it would be.

ES: Were dances a big social event?

JF: Was what?

ES: Were dances a big social event?

JF: Well, yeah. Actually my mother belonged to I think she already by then belonged to a country club, and they would have a dance, once, a bigger dance, you know professional orchestra, I suppose. And of course the Freshman Ball, and the Sophomore Cotillion, and the Senior Ball. No, ballroom dancing, jitterbug, a bunch that I remember.

ES: How did the Depression affect students activities outside the classroom?

JF: I'm pretty sure that even the low price of tuition and room and board, and the whole part of going to a University, there certainly must have been many, many, many families that had, they had two or three children reading the University age. I'm sure there were more that could not afford it, than could afford it. Certainly among the general public on the Depression, that was pretty, pretty ominous, to face, and in my case it didn't, I didn't feel it. I was just lucky. We didn't have illness in the family.

ES: Everything was cheaper.

JF: Not just the cost of things, but anyhow, I cannot be of any help to you in that regard, I don't think. And the big factor there was that I was living at home.

ES: Did a lot of students do that, a lot of the local students? You said a lot of people from high school went to the University.

JF: They sure did. I would say some of them would not have been able to afford it if there was any more expense than there was. But I think you'd find out some that were pretty broke families, and their fathers, if they were not totally unemployed, some of them were making pennies. Then the normal families, you've got sicknesses and that makes them still more penniless. You got to be lucky. I've been very lucky. I'm here at the nursing home type place up here that everybody's taking pills, and I mean everybody. I mean most of them are trying to get over, as my wife is, illnesses that are low blood pressure or high blood pressure, or this or that or something else, and I have been very lucky up until now. My dentist says she's never seen anybody 85 years old with as good of teeth as mine [*laughter*]. Well anyhow.

ES: Let me ask you just a couple more questions. One is about whether do you remember if there were black students on campus?

JF: I don't. I'm sure there were, I mean then there was all conversations that, in the newspaper, courts and everything else that says that there are, that there have been then and clear until now, it's been a fighting matter or something. It's a hard thing for people. Well you see it, it's all over the world, anyhow. I remember there were blacks on the campus. I remember they were most of our best football players and basketball players were black even then.

ES: Was there must socializing between black students and white students?

JF: No there never was. There, actually there wasn't. We didn't, at that time, up until then, we didn't have a black in our fraternity, and didn't discuss it very much. Unless all of a sudden somebody had brought it to a head, and could have by saying my three children are black and they're not being asked to be in any fraternity, and let's go to court and find out why not. And just somebody does it to, it, at that time at least it was rolling along without anybody getting upset about the subject one way or another. But I don't think there was no prohibition against about girls dating, white girls dating black men, or vice versa. I just don't think that they enjoyed dating of their own color more maybe than they did a different color. I don't know that there is any, and I'm sure that it went after you got out of school when you get your first job. I would guess that it made a difference whether you were a white person or a black person as much as it didn't. It wouldn't have been in my office. We had blacks working for my company in equal to their number of applicants.

ES: But you weren't aware of discrimination on campus when you were a student or—?

JF: No, I was not aware of it no.

ES: What about Jewish students?

JF: The what?

ES: Do you remember Jewish students having any problems?

JF: No, I sure don't. I've been aware of Jewish problems, of discrimination. I've been aware of it. I read about it in the papers, clear back in the university days, and that's how many years ago, 37 to, that's 60 years ago. There was discrimination, and Jewish, now I don't know any, I don't remember any other nationality discrimination, other than Jewish, but well maybe I could say there was some Mexican discrimination. Because where the quantity of them get high, like it is now. But you're not talking about the University. I don't even remember anything at all about that at University.

ES: When you were in school, uh-huh. What about Catholic-Protestant—

JF: Because at this place we're living now, off half the time, my wife and my favorite couple, they way the population of this building is, you know the housing, there are 40 single women, 3 single men and 12 couples. My wife and I have a tendency to sit with the tables, dining tables that are all fours. My wife and I tend to sit with much of the time with another couple, and this happens let's say one single sits down at one of the tables, then pretty soon another single might take the other, the two women and my wife and I, but anyhow my wife and my favorite couples that we are with are German. My first thought about them is that they're born and raised in Germany and just came over here and this country in the last 20 years or something like that. He was an executive of a corporation. They live in this place, most of the places demand you to buy the apartment, we're, this is when you rent. And we pay \$4,000 a month rental, and so it's not real cheap, that's \$50,000 a year. But anyhow, our favorite couple, this German couple, and we kid about all sorts things. I have been talking to him about the war between Israel and, well I didn't say that, they are both Jewish, very, very Jewish, and his name is, like my name is "F," Foersterling, his is Fienstein or something like that. They're people, we talk very frankly about like things like that though and because I'm curious. Like any good Jewish person, he knows all the reasons that they should be having that land over in the Middle East, and as the Palestinians they, apparently implication of both, both countries had occupied it at some period of time back, uh-huh, like when Jesus was on the Earth, Jesus was alive, that was, and I don't know which ones had how much land at that particular moment, but they all, anyhow, it's, that's a big subject.

ES: Well speaking about Germany...this was prior to World War II, but things were heating up around the late 30s, do you remember any kind of radical student groups on campus?

JF: I don't because I didn't associate with it. I've never been in any groups that felt so strong about things that you march for it, whatever it be. People march or wave flags or banners.

ES: Now you were involved in the military, the ROTC.

JF: Yes.

ES: Talk about that just a little bit, about what you did when you were a student.

JF: Well all I did was wear a uniform when we were out in uniform, and ROTC uniform and so forth. As a law student later, I got associated, now there's an association with maybe 6 or 8 young lawyers, that were maybe a little older than I was, but anyhow, young lawyers that most of them had gone to the University of Illinois too, as a matter of fact, and at the beginning of the War in 1941, the FBI was big. The FBI was something that was making the newspapers, for the late 30s, FBI came to life and people were looking for spies. I mean there were spies around. There were disloyal Americans around, and we had the FBI to try to keep the people on the straight and narrow, and this group of lawyers decided to set...the Army didn't have an FBI of it's own, so we decided as a group to set up a branch of service, like the Infantry, like the Field Artillery, Coast Artillery, Signal Core, Military Intelligence, Military Intelligence, MI branch of service. Ended up I was in the Army fighting the War as an infantry man for the first couple of years, and I was in Chicago, so ended in Chicago area here, and so with these other lawyers, we went to the floor department and set up. Said the Army is getting a lot of people bringing up a lot of questions.

Some of them thought that there were enough people in America now of different nationalities there were Nazis around too besides good Germans and bad Germans, and anyhow. So anyhow we set up the military intelligence branch, and when I got in the Army then and I was sent over seas, not right away, but by it was in 5 years, I stayed in from 1941 to 1945 and I went over seas and got assigned. I didn't know how I was in London and Eisenhower was named as head of the whole war in Europe, Supreme Commander and he took the troops from England, across the Channel, over to France and to push the Germans back to the East. Eisenhower was running the place and he was the top general. When he got sent the first place he went when he got over to France was to set up a headquarters in the Grand Trianon of the Palace of Versailles, that was Shafe headquarters. I got sent over to England and suddenly I got orders that were to report to Shafe headquarters in the Palace of Versailles. I didn't know it was there, but I thought to find Shafe headquarters ended up in the Palace of Versailles, next door to General Eisenhower. The reason I got there, I think, was because we didn't have any military intelligence in the big headquarters. They had all infantry and field artillery, coast artillery and Calvary. Who do you want to save the life of more than if there was a spy in the headquarters of Shafe, that's important, so I was a military intelligence officer, this was assigned to Eisenhower's staff. Eisenhower didn't know really what's a military intelligence supposed to do. He had been taught you fight a war by fighting a war, but he now had an MI branch person, so he named me as Head of Counter Intelligence Planning for the European Theatre War, and Head of Counter Intelligence Planning and Civil Security for Germany. Somebody suggested "Civil Security for Germany" was to try to put back Germany as a law abiding nation. And that was that part of the my job, and the other was counter intelligence planning. I don't know exactly what it meant and nobody else knew what it was, but they had to give me a title, because I was a colonel. I was a lieutenant colonel there, and so they did it.

ES: You were the student colonel on campus, when you were at U of I, how—

JF: Yeah, student, of infantry, yeah. I was at the top of my, in the ROTC, and probably so were the generals and so forth, but anyhow, it's certainly, it helped my 201 file, included everything

that military wise and I got promoted because Eisenhower gave me good ratings for what I was supposed to do.

ES: What—

JF: Let me tell you a little story, that you can't really have any place to use it in what you're doing but, mostly what, there's a real smart tactical general, who was regular army general that sat at the office next to Eisenhower on the left side of him. I had the office on the other side. I was a civilian, makeshift military, and there's a lot of very good Army people who were in the War there. I got the garbage that Eisenhower...Eisenhower got lots and lots of communications from senators and Presidents of other countries, telling him how to run the War, what he should do. He would send that stuff to me, to do something with it, to get rid of it. He got on one occasion near the end of the War, he got a message from President Roosevelt, but it was from the secretary, Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasurer Morgenthau, who was representing it during the wartime. He was representing the Jewish Intercin America relative to the war, Morgenthau, you probably might even remember that yourself, but anyhow. He was the Secretary of the Treasury, Jewish, strong Jewish person, and Eisenhower got a message from Morgenthau for Roosevelt, is where he was written. And it said, "From this date forward you will not feed any American, any rations we send over from America to the troops, you cannot feed prisoners of war any of those rations or for, to be fed only to the American troops and the Germans have to be fed off the land." And off of Germany land, that got to Eisenhower, and he sent it to me, so I sent it down to the all the Army groups that were on the front facing Eastward and they were moving at Germans back, and they were heading down at the south end you had the British and some French. And then you had the Americans were mixed with anyhow, with the, well anyhow, the one group of all these army groups, not just an army, but a group of armies, except General Patton.

General Patton was making the most active moves forward, and he only had one, the third army. General Patton a real soldier. And he was pushing, he was making like 20 miles a day, when the rest of the troops were moving 5 miles a day, and he was pushing the Germans back. I sent this thing to Patton and the Army group's commanders and I got no response from anybody. They said, I thought, you know I told them, "You can't feed any of the—" the message, it got to General Patton, got to him and immediately came back a message to General Eisenhower. Well all my messages were from General Eisenhower to the Army groups and it didn't say Foersterling, they said Eisenhower, and Eisenhower had signed them and everything, but I got this thing from General Patton came back about the second it landed on Patton's desk. It came saying it's against the rules of war when all rules of warfare, any, provide any war prisoners, any one that takes war prisoners must, must take care of them, and I cannot, especially cannot torture them in any manner against all of them, or do anything like that. And it's clearly that there are no food being, coming from the land, German land. The land had been totally emasculated and so forth, and so General Patton turned on, turned on Eisenhower, that was never heard of before. And Eisenhower, I had to send it to him. He accepted what Patton said because he knew that Patton was right. It was a rule of warfare, I guess that provides that. I was so pleased because I didn't like the idea that we were going to torture.

END OF INTERVIEW.

