

INTERVIEW WITH
Sue Sarafian Jehl
on
February 13, 1991
by
Mack Teasley
for
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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SUE SARAFIAN JEHL

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Sue S. Jehl
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This is an oral history interview with Sue Sarafian Jehl, conducted at her home in Maitland, Florida on the thirteenth of February, 1991. The interviewer is Mack Teasley of the Eisenhower Library.

MR. TEASLEY: I think we should probably just begin by having you tell me some of your background; where you were from, what you did before the military, and where you were born, when you were born and why you ended up joining the service.

MRS. JEHL: I was born in Malden, Massachusetts and we moved to Detroit when I was two years old. And I went through school and two years of junior college. It was during the Depression and my father had a grocery store and he lost his business so I had to quit school and look for a job. And I got temporary jobs with the federal government, Chamber of Commerce, a few of those, just little temporary jobs for three or four months. Then I got a job with an insurance company and worked for them for five years. I became the head cashier, as they called it. I ran the office. And when the war started--I came from a family of five girls, no boys and I was the oldest--and my reason for enlisting was purely patriotic. I felt like one from our family should go. My mother and father were immigrants from Armenia. They were very, very proud of me. I was in that first WAAC training center in Des Moines.

Q: What was the date? Do you remember?

MRS. JEHL: August of '42 is when I enlisted and September of '42 I reported to Fort Des Moines. I would like to have gotten a commission but I did not. It was even hard to get in as enlisted

then, they screened you very, very carefully. You had to have a good reputation or they wouldn't take you. Because I wasn't a college graduate I couldn't become an officer. So I went as an enlisted. We were in Fort Des Moines for nine weeks and our company was moved to Daytona Beach, Florida, where we started the second WAAC training center. And then we were alerted while we were in Daytona, that we were going to be the first group of WAAC's, 150 of us, to be ever sent overseas. So they transferred us to Camp Kilner, and we left for, we didn't know where, on January 13, 1943. And we went in a convoy, zig-zaging across the ocean. All of us got very sick. And it took eighteen days and we ended up in Oran, North Africa. From there we went to Algiers. And I don't think they should have sent women there at that time. It was still a battle zone. And now they are talking about women in the battle zone, well, our company; and we still get together, we have reunions every two years, and whenever we get together we still talk about it. We were the first ones in the battle zones. They would be dog fighting in the air, and we would look out of the office windows and watch them. I worked with the inspector general for two months and I got a call one day to go to the Commanding General's office, which was down the hall from me, and I didn't know who the Commanding General was. I didn't know a thing about him. All I knew was the inspector general, and what we did and it was very, very interesting work. I walked down the hall and there were two guards standing at this door. They told me to identify myself and I did, and they went in. And the aide came out and got

me and took me in. It was Captain [Harry] Butcher, and he interviewed me. And he said, "Yes, I think you'll do. How would you like to come work for us?" And I said, "I do not want to. I like my job." He said, "Do you realize what an honor this is going to be? You are going to be working for the Commanding General." I said, "I like Colonel Hill, and I love my job, it is very interesting and I would like to stay with him." And the tears were coming out of my eyes by then. And he said, "Well, you go back and talk it over with Colonel Hill." And on my way back, he had called Colonel Hill. When I got to the office, Colonel Hill said, "You are very silly to turn that down." He said, "You've got to go, this is an opportunity of a lifetime." So I went.

Q: There is a note here about, Edith Davis was the WAAC Commander. Was she the WAAC Commander at that time?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: Did she get involved with making assignments?

MRS. JEHL: Nothing, she had nothing to do with it. Absolutely nothing. It was headquarters command. Someone named Major Bemus, I knew, because when my boss, the inspector general, was going to go and inspect, pull, a surprise inspection on all these troops within a radius of about fifty miles of Algiers, he worked with Major Bemus. And, of course, I did a lot of the legwork, so Major Bemus is the one who recommended me. Major Davis had nothing to do with it.

Q: How do you spell Bemus?

MRS. JEHL: B-E-M-U-S. And he used to work for Campbell Soup Company up in New Jersey somewhere, I don't know. Hammill Bemus, I don't know how I remembered his first name.

Q: Well, there was a pool for drivers, but was there a clerical pool that was similar?

MRS. JEHL: No. There was a clerical pool for all the other offices, but not for the General's office. SGS had a clerical pool and they called on the girls.

Q: So when was this that you went in to Eisenhower's office?

MRS. JEHL: I think it was the first of March of '43. And Margaret Chick took the dictation from Captain Butcher on the diary. Oh, the General's main secretary was a warrant officer named Walter Marshall and he was the speediest typist and stenographer I have ever seen in my life. And we enjoyed working with him. We were all together in this little office but he disappeared all of a sudden. He had a boyfriend who used to come and they'd go to lunch together, these two warrant officers, and we called him "Uncle Walter" and he was one of the girls, we loved him truly. And we was a fine, fine secretary. But one morning we came in and Tex Lee came and said, "Walter will no longer be with us." So that left the three of us.

Q: There was [Margaret] Chick, and

MRS. JEHL: Chick, and Nana Rae and me. And then they decided--at the entrance they always had the two guards--and they decided they needed someone to kind of screen people as they came in instead of one of the guards having to go into the office and bringing one of the aides out. So they put a desk right there inside that door, and that's where I sat. That was, I guess, about after the Italians surrendered. And I sat out there, so I was sort of a receptionist as they walked in, besides doing, Nana and I did all the General's dictation.

Q: What that in a separate room?

MRS. JEHL: It was the foyer, it was the foyer. Then to the right was the aide's office where Tex Lee sat and Colonel Gault, a British

Q: Jamie Gault?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, James Gault. And then Captain Butcher had his own office and then the two WAAC secretaries were back there but I stayed at the entrance.

Q: Where was Eisenhower's office from there?

MRS. JEHL: To the right was the aide's office, and to the left was the General's office. And he had a balcony, and I have pictures here, snapshots, where when he was gone we'd go out on that balcony. But anyway, I think it was December of '43 that he went to the Advance Command Post, which was in Amilcar, and it was close

to Tunis. And he took me with him this time. He took turns taking Chick, Nana Rae, or me. And this time he took me. It was when Roosevelt and Winston Churchill had a conference and I forgot which conference it was.

Q: Teheran?

MRS. JEHL: Teheran, I believe. And they decided that Eisenhower was going to be Supreme Allied Commander. Churchill got sick, the General had an office in this house and then his home where he was living was about three blocks away and it was white brick and we called it "the little white house" where he lived. And I lived in a little camper right next to the office, all by myself. I was in the office, the General was in the office, and Captain Butcher came in and he said, "Look at this cable." And we looked at it, and it was informing the General that he was going to be Supreme Allied Commander. So, of course, he was very happy over that and we flew back to Algiers and started getting ready to move to England. And we moved to England almost a year after we had arrived in Algiers. And he took the three WAAC secretaries, Pearlle and Kay, those are all women, and then his house boys. We all went to England in his B-17. And the war was still going on and I remember how cold we were on that airplane because they had to have, what do you call them, open so the gunners could have their guns out?

Q: Waist gunners?

MRS. JEHL: Waist gunners, yes. I remember my feet got like pieces of solid ice. The General was in Washington and so I found a pair of fur-lined boots that said "Ike" on them and I put them on and wore them all the way across the ocean to keep my feet warm. And when we got to London we were there six months and there were a lot of air raids going on, you know, we worked in the Grosvenor House, I guess that was the headquarters there. We were there about six months and then we moved to Bushey Park and our offices were in a camouflage thing where it looked like a little hill in this big park and we lived in nissen huts. And then

Q: Quonset huts?

MRS. JEHL: Quonset huts, yes. And then we moved to Portsmouth and lived in tents in Portsmouth and our offices were in trailers and the General lived in a trailer.

Q: Was this right before the invasion?

MRS. JEHL: Right before the invasion, yes. And then after the invasion, I don't remember what the date was that he took the three of us over to the Apple Orchards, to the Advance Command Post. I think it was in July of '44. We went to the Apple Orchards and that was the Advance Command Post and we lived in tents there. The General lived in a trailer and we had tents for our offices. We didn't have any bathroom facilities. We had to use the same thing the men used. They had a separate one for us. No bathing facilities, so Mickey [Michael McKeogh] found a hose somewhere, I

don't know where it was, and he set up ropes and stuff and put some sheets over it and when one of us was ready to take a shower we'd turn the hose on and the other would hold it over us. Then from there we moved to Jullouville. And in Jullouville we lived in a schoolhouse, a dorm and that's when I inherited the dog, "Monty". Larry Hansen decided he couldn't keep him anymore and he gave him to me. And our offices again were in a trailer. And I think we were in Jullouville and Granville, what, about a month or two and moved into Versailles, into France.

Q: When you were with the General what kind of office equipment did you have?

MRS. JEHL: You know, they were talking in this questionnaire about the sophisticated files systems and stuff. We just each had our own typewriter and we had one portable that when we went to the Advance Command Post we would carry the portables with us, but we had our typewriters, and nobody ever touched our typewriters and just a regular old filing system. That was it. If it was "secret," or "eyes only" classified we kept all that in the safe.

Q: And what size safe was it, was it a four drawer?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, it was a big, tall safe and I remember when we were

Q: Was there just one of them?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, just one. And when we were in Bushey Park in the, what were those things they shot over from Germany? V-1s and V-2s were coming over. Every time we got the warning we had to stop and at night we had to lock all our shorthand notebooks in the safe, our carbon paper, everything, we locked in the safe. But one day, and the General happened to be in the office that day, I think we had to go into the shelter eighteen times. And eighteen times we had to lock everything up in that safe before we got out to the shelter. This was in Bushey Park.

Q: How many filing cabinets were there, do you recall?

MRS. JEHL: At first there was just one, and the more well-known he became the bigger our mail became. We had just these regular old, big drawers and I think I had three of them. And it was strictly fan mail and I got to know who his personal friends were and ones that he would like to answer himself, or ones that he wanted me to answer and give him to sign, and then just the regular fan mail. And then of course we got letters from a lot of parents looking for their sons they hadn't heard from in so long. Well, all of those I would write the parent and say that the General was looking into it and they would hear from someone shortly. And I would send it over to Chief of Staff's office and that's why they had duplicates and I noticed that in your letter. The Chief of Staff would send it over to SGS and SGS would look into it and answer these people. But the General always insisted on answering himself first and letting them know that it was being looked into and worked on.

Q: The interim letters like that, were those signed by the staff, I mean, did you sign some of those?

MRS. JEHL: Oh yes. I signed some. Some he signed, but not very many. Most of those I would sign and say that the General was having it looked into and they would hear from someone shortly and then I'd send it over SGS.

Q: What were the primary duties of the three of you that were there in the office?

MRS. JEHL: Taking dictation from Captain Butcher and the General, and the fan mail. You know, when the General dictated to us it was all strategic, all "top secret" stuff about the war.

Q: Did you all three do all three things?

MRS. JEHL: Yes. And they asked questions in that thing about messengers with the "top secret" messages. Well, we not only had "top secret" in Algiers, but some of the messages were "eyes only" and the "eyes only" messages, when the General would send one to Marshall, whoever took the dictation and typed it up would take it down to the signal center and give it to the "eyes only" officer, that was one officer down there. And when they got a message, if the "eyes only" officer couldn't deliver it, he would call one of us and we would go down and get it and bring it up and give it to the General.

Q: So it was hand-carried?

MRS. JEHL: Hand-carried, by either one of the secretaries, sometimes one of the aides when we were too busy to do it, or the "eyes only" officer down in the message center, in signals.

Q: You have this fan mail of a personal nature and then you had the official files. Were there two separate filing systems or filing cabinets?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, the official ones we didn't file, we sent over to SGS. They filed those.

Q: So official correspondence, the files copies went to SGS?

MRS. JEHL: Went to SGS, yes.

Q: The incoming with the carbons, the outgoing

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: Did you use carbon paper?

MRS. JEHL: Oh yes, oh yes, and that's why we even had to put our carbon papers in the safe at night. And I remember one time in England--and to this day we all swear that it was Tex Lee who forgot to lock the safe, not one of us--but in the morning when we got there the safe was open. This was at Grosvenor Square at Grosvenor House and Tex blamed it on us and he grounded us for a week. He wouldn't let us go out of the--he'd sent word to whoever our commanding officer was in London and said that we couldn't go anywhere for a week because that safe was left open. But to this

day I think he was the one that left it open. [Laughter] The working hours were long and difficult and hard.

Q: That was what I was going to ask you.

MRS. JEHL: Very, very hard. The General was an early riser and he liked to be at the office, at the latest, by eight o'clock in the morning. So we were always there at 7:30. We had to be there before he arrived. He never left before six o'clock at night. We could not leave until after he had left. Our mess halls served lunch at noon, the General didn't go to lunch until one o'clock. We couldn't leave until he left. So they had to make accommodations for us. We a lot of times ended up with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at the mess hall because we couldn't go during mess hours. And they were very, very strict, hard on us. And there was no room for error, no room for error. We had to be extremely careful.

Q: Who was supervising you day to day?

MRS. JEHL: Tex Lee. He was in charge of us.

Q: How many days a week did you work?

MRS. JEHL: Seven. Holidays, Sundays, didn't mean a thing, we worked seven days a week. And even in the Pentagon after the war I worked seven days a week. That was another reason I wanted to-- because civilian workers didn't work seven days a week and I wanted to get out of the service and when I told him he talked me into

taking that commission and still working seven days a week. And not getting all that overtime pay they were paying any civilian whoever worked that long.

Q: You mentioned the long hours and so forth, how much contact did you have with Eisenhower during any given day? You'd go to his office and have appointments and be on the phone.

MRS. JEHL: You know, almost constant. We never were in there when, well, when he was dictating to us, when we went in to have him sign it. Whenever he dictated something to us, to one of us, and we finished it, we, ourselves, took it back to him. Either the rough draft or the finished copy for him to sign.

Q: When he wanted something to be dictated did he pick up the phone and say, "So and so, please come in"?

MRS. JEHL: He had a buzzer, he had a buzzer. And whichever one of us was available would answer the buzzer and go in.

Q: The buzzer would buzz

MRS. JEHL: Into our office.

Q: And you would just get up and go into his office, with your steno pad?

MRS. JEHL: And one of us would get up. Yes, yes.

Q: And then go back and type it up and then

MRS. JEHL: Then we would go to the aide and say, "This is the letter and we're taking it in to have it signed," and if there was someone in there with the General, we had to wait until they left before we went in. In the Pentagon, Colonel Stack had a small hole drilled into the door of the General's office so he could look in there and make sure that no one was in there because there were other accesses to his office. Like from my office, the Secretary of War could go in. So he had that little peephole made and the General, I don't believe, ever, ever knew that it was there. And he'd look in to see if the General was free so we could take it back in.

Q: When you took a double-spaced draft back in to the boss then would you just leave it with him and then he marked it up and sent it back out?

MRS. JEHL: Marked it up and sent it back out to us and his handwriting was atrocious, terribly hard to read. But, of course, after a while we got used to it and were able to read it.

Q: He was noted for his editing, I mean, as a President, so I imagine that

MRS. JEHL: He was wonderful. And anybody who says he had ghostwriters while he was overseas is sadly mistaken. He wrote all his own speeches, everything. Very articulate, he was really one of the most intelligent people I've ever met in my life. And when he knew he was coming back for the victory parade, he typed up his

speech, his address to the Joint Session of Congress, and sent it to General Marshall for approval. General Marshall didn't like some of the things the General had said. So General Marshall wrote a speech and sent it back to the boss and said, "This is the speech you're going to make." And the boss said, "Like hell I am." And he wouldn't do it. That's why I was caught taking that dictation all the way across the ocean, because he was determined he was not going to make General Marshall's speech. He was going to write his own and he did. I'm sure he had ghostwriters when he was president, but not while he was the general, ever.

Q: He has a good reputation as a writer, I think.

MRS. JEHL: We arrived in Bermuda at four o'clock in the morning, it was still dark, I remember. And Captain Butcher, whoever it was that came to our plane to meet us, said, "The secretary has to get an escort for her and take her to an office where she can sit down and type." I had to make the final copy and when I got to this office they had four typewriters and the General liked his speeches double-spaced and new ribbon, so it would be dark, the print would be dark. And none of those typewriters had a new ribbon in it. And you know, like 4:30 in the morning, where am I going to find a new ribbon in a strange office? I had a rough time of it but I finally got somebody to bring me a new ribbon I could put into that machine and do a final copy. And then when we left Bermuda I got on our airplane with Larry Hansen and our crew. President Truman's airplane, you know, was the first one into Washington, we were the

second ones in. I did not go, I only went from Paris to Bermuda on President Truman's plane.

Q: You were talking about eating lunch on the run because you couldn't go to lunch until the General had gone to lunch, so then you'd go grab a sandwich or something, did you go eat at the mess hall?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, the WAAC mess hall. Always the WAAC mess hall. We were not allowed into the men's mess hall at all. When we were

Q: Was this at Bushey Park now?

MRS. JEHL: Wherever we were, except

Q: Grosvenor House, was that the hotel building at Hyde Park? Where was that?

MRS. JEHL: Grosvenor House, Grosvenor Square. There was a Grosvenor Hotel and our, we had a six floor mansion that they had made into barracks for us, put four or five of us in each one of the rooms of the six floors of this old mansion. And then it was a long walk to Grosvenor House. I would say about six blocks. And I think they had a big mess hall, a combined mess hall in Grosvenor House and we ate there. But when we were in Versailles they had everything over by the Palace, the whole headquarters, except the General's office, which was next to the Petit Trianon where Marie Antoinette lived. And about a half a block from there was this

building that used to belong to the German Air Force and we made that into the General's office, our offices and there was an upstairs and the plane crew lived upstairs. Then there was a servant's quarters right across the way from there. And on the bottom floor of this servant's quarters was this sauna bath and a little reception room. Then there were six bedrooms upstairs and Kay [Summersby] had the largest bedroom and Pearlie [McKeogh] and Nana and Chickie and I lived in the other bedrooms up there. Well, it was too far for us to go to the WAAC mess hall over where the big headquarters was, it wasn't walking distance. And because we were enlisted, we couldn't eat in the officer's mess in the Trianon. So they opened up a little room downstairs and fed us there. When we were at the Advance Command Post we ate with the General, at his table, because there wasn't any place else for us to go. When we were in Rheims at the Advance Command Post it was on a golf course and the General lived in this big, big clubhouse and we had little rooms. I had this one little room and Kay was in the little room next to me and we had no heat. It was winter and they brought in little kerosene burners to keep us warm. And then we had a great room, I guess it was where all the golfers gathered at the "19th hole". And it had a fireplace that I swear was about half the size of this room. At night after--we ate at the general's table there--and at night after dinner we went up and either read, or Kay, Colonel Gault was with us, and Captain Butcher and the General, they played bridge. I would read or go to my room, turn that kerosene stove on and a little lamp I had and read

there. And it was very difficult because we were enlisted and they were officers. I didn't play bridge. It made it awkward. I remember the first time I went to that Advance Command Post in Rheims, they hadn't figured that there wouldn't be any place for me to eat and I was left downstairs with the houseboys, who were all black. And I said something about it to Kay, I didn't appreciate having to sit there and eat, and immediately I was invited to eat at the General's table. Kay was good to us, she really was. When we needed anything, we couldn't ask anyone, but we could ask her, she was good to us.

Q: Were Nana Rae and Chickie with you at that time too?

MRS. JEHL: No, he took turns. He never took all three of us.

Q: That's right. And how long would you be there at the Advance Command Post?

MRS. JEHL: A week.

Q: A week?

MRS. JEHL: Yes. It was funny. It was quite a long drive from Versailles to Rheims and we'd go in three or four cars because he took all the houseboys and Mickey and Kay and me this time. And we have to have a pitstop. And you stopped on the side of the road and the girls went behind the trees on one side of the road and the General and the men went on the other side of the road. [Laughter]

But it was still strictly official, I mean, you know, nothing funny about it.

Q: That's interesting.

MRS. JEHL: We were listening to the radio one night when it was real cold and this golf course had a lot of chestnut trees. And we were harvesting them, you know, picking them and we'd throw them into the fireplace and the minute they popped we'd get the poker and pull them out and eat them. That was fun. But anyway, Kay and I were listening to the radio in that room and we heard that Elliot Roosevelt had just married, was in the states, and had just married Faye Emerson. And Kay screamed and I screamed because he was engaged to [Major Ruth M.] Ruth Briggs, Beetle Smith's secretary. Given her a lovely ring and then he had to go to Washington on business and he married Faye Emerson. And we screamed and the General looked up, he was reading. He said, "What's wrong?" And we told him and then Captain Butcher and the General practically screamed too. And poor Ruth Briggs, I really, really felt sorry for her. Because everybody in headquarters knew that they were engaged and going to be married, and he came back already married to Faye Emerson.

Q: Was he a colonel or something?

MRS. JEHL: Yes. When he had Telegraph Cottage, let's see, where were we stationed then when he had Telegraph Cottage? I'm trying to think, I believe it was at Bushey Park and he used to drive over

to Telegraph Cottage or maybe it was London, I don't remember. Anyway, Kay didn't live with us then, she lived with Ruth Briggs and one other WAAC officer, I don't remember who it was. Elliot bought Ruth an Irish wolfhound as a gift and brought it over. It was the size of a little pony. I had never seen--well, I think it's the biggest dog in the world. I had never seen a bigger dog. And they had their bedrooms upstairs and the first day she had him he followed her upstairs to her bedroom and in the morning he couldn't get down the stairs. So they had to get four GIs to come and carry that dog back down the stairs. [Laughter]

Q: I'm sure General Eisenhower had a busy appointment schedule. Who kept his appointments, was that Tex Lee?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, Tex Lee.

Q: Did you get involved in that at all?

MRS. JEHL: Occasionally, yes.

Q: You were sort of the reception point, too?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, but he did

Q: What was a typical day for him, would you say? It's hard to say what typical is but

MRS. JEHL: Well, most of it was receiving messages and sending out messages and sending reports to Marshall and seeing generals and the office staff, his G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4 that reported to him every

day in person. And he stayed busy, very, very busy. He worked hard.

Q: He would usually be in the office until six?

MRS. JEHL: Six at least, if not later, every day, seven days a week.

Q: And you would quite often stay later than that if there was something?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: I think I saw in one file, one of the letters indicated that the diary copy was--I was wondering if there was a diary being kept all along?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, this is it.

Q: G-3 War Diary.

MRS. JEHL: Oh no, I don't know anything about that.

Q: That's probably something that

MRS. JEHL: That was G-3's whatever it was.

Q: G-3 is ops.

MRS. JEHL: The only diary was Captain Butcher's and that was with Eisenhower's help. A lot of times when Butch was in doubt about something he would send the draft into the General and say, you

know, "is this okay?" and Butch was a very articulate man. Did you know he was vice-president of CBS with Bill Paley? Yes. And he'd have Eisenhower okay every page of that diary. And we kept that in the safe too because it did have a lot of strategic things that the General was planning and doing.

The first thing, when Roland [Jehl] brought those German generals to sign that first surrender, we were in a little red schoolhouse. I have a picture of the red schoolhouse and the last two windows on the second floor were the General's windows and our office was behind that. And Captain Butcher tells in here [page 825, My Three Years With Eisenhower] how Chickie and I were hanging out the window watching those generals come in, let me find that. "Shortly after five o'clock I saw Sergeants Chick and Sarafin [sic]," he always misspelled my name, "were craning their necks out the window, and, sure enough the Germans were arriving. They were met by Brigadier Foord, G-2, and Lieutenant Colonel Mornice, assistant secretary of General Staff." And the ones that came were, as I say, the Von Friedeburg and three of them.

And then, let me see here, page 867, when we came back across the ocean. Here it is. "Ike growled. He had no ghostwriter, why should anyone think he had?" This article had been put in that he had a ghostwriter. "This hasn't been a pleasure trip for the Supreme Commander. He was faced with an exacting task. He has to address the Joint Session of the House and Senate, enough to disturb the peace of mind of any man. He has been working on the text, the only address face to face with an audience that he will

have read since I have been with him. He wrote his speeches but he never read them except this one. This fact itself bothers him. Sergeant Sue Sarafian, one of the WAAC's who has faithfully served him since Algiers has been taking his dictation and typing and retyping his speech. As we cross the ocean she worked most of the night. Ike slept less than two hours. We reached Bermuda before dawn."

Q: You slept less than that, probably.

MRS. JEHL: I didn't sleep at all, but I did get into bed and feel those satin sheets. And then he was really upset about this because otherwise he would have had his speech memorized and he wouldn't have had to read it. He had a marvelous, marvelous way of speaking. And during the night, he sat up, he was in his bed and doing most of the dictating and you know, the drafting and everything. And he sat up and he looked at me and he said, "What do you think of this speech?" And I was speechless when he said that, you know, he never really said any personal things to us, ever. And I said, "I think it's a wonderful one, and I like it better than Marshall's," and of course, that's all he needed to hear, to get a little assurance.

Q: And this was on the plane?

MRS. JEHL: On the plane, yes.

Q: So you were taking dictation, he was sitting in bed.

MRS. JEHL: Yes, and reading it and re-reading it and trying to memorize it. It was hard on him, but he did have to read it to Congress. And then when we got to Bermuda, we were all in winter clothes and they had summer chinos, or whatever they were, khakis, for everybody on this convoy, except me. And there I was in Bermuda with 90 degree weather in June, in winter uniform. And I think his name was Miltenberger, I think that's who that Milt was on that thing, he was the general in charge of supply. And I've forgotten what supply was, I don't remember whether it was G-4 or G-5. And he looked at me in Bermuda and he said, "Didn't you get any summer uniform?" I said, "No, sir." And I said, "I don't know what I'm going to do when I get to Washington." And he said, "Don't worry about it. I'll take care of it." And when we got to Washington, whoever came out to meet us, he found somebody, I don't know who, some officer, a major, to take me to the supply depot for the WAACs and have alterations people there ready. They had to alter a whole new uniform and I didn't leave the place until they finished it and I put it on and walked out. And that was because of General Miltenberger.

Q: You had to go through quite a bit as an enlisted person? A woman and an enlisted person. All sorts of hardships.

MRS. JEHL: Very, very, very much so. Very much. And especially because I was the only woman on that trip and it was hard. And then all the wives, including Mamie, you know, came running to the airplanes. I remember Betty Hansen, Larry Hansen's wife, and Betty

turned out to be my best friend. Our son Larry is Larry Hansen's namesake. And all through the years we kept in touch with them and I love Betty. But anyway, all the wives ran out to meet everybody and there I stood. I didn't have anybody to meet me. But General Miltenberger came up with this major and said, "He's going to take you" Oh, and that's another thing, I didn't have shoes to wear with this new uniform. So this poor major had to take me to a shopping center so I could find some brown pumps. It was weird.
[Laughter]

Q: At least they took care of you finally. I was going to ask you some of the more detailed questions about the filing system in Eisenhower's office and we'll see how memory serves on this one but as Tom Branigar of our staff indicated, Ike's personal papers were kept in four series of binders: official cables, personal cables, official correspondence and personal correspondence. Typed summaries of all the documents were kept in the front of each binder and he was wondering, first of all, who decided whether a document was official or personal and what criteria were used?

MRS. JEHL: Well, I kept all the personal myself. The rest of it went to SGS and they did it all, the cover sheet and everything. We never saw them after that. And then when we were in the Pentagon

Q: As far as deciding what, that it was personal, was that just an obvious thing?

MRS. JEHL: It was obvious because I was the one who answered the letter or typed it and had the General answer it and I did fan mail. I called, what did I call my files? Some slang name for the fan mail and the personal mail. And I kept that and haphazardly. You know, alphabetically, and then when it got too bad where I couldn't file it myself, Colonel Tex Lee had a boy, a sergeant, Arthur VanOstenburg, he was, you know, my man

[Interruption]

MRS. JEHL: He was sort of an orderly for Tex Lee, even though Lee wasn't entitled to an orderly. I got Van, we called him Van, to start helping me file. And then I told Tex Lee, "I can't keep up with this, the fan mail is getting too much, I cannot file anymore." So then he got Pearlle to help with the file. So it was Van and Pearlle filing. Mickey never, never worked in the office. Mickey never did anything in the office except court Pearlle, but his work was all at the house.

Q: What had Pearlle been doing before this? Was she also?

MRS. JEHL: I have no idea, I don't know.

Q: What was her maiden name, do you know?

MRS. JEHL: Hargrave.

Q: Hargrave, that's right.

MRS. JEHL: And as I say, we saw a lot of them on the trip. We requested rooms next to each other and then she called me last week and we talked. We've kept in touch through the years because of this original company from Algiers. Now the SHAEF headquarter girls, I don't remember any of them. We had nothing to do with them, but the Algiers girls, we've had reunions every two years for the last four years. We have one coming up in North Carolina in May and I'll be going up to that.

Q: Does Inez Scott go to those too?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, Inez Scott. Now, Inez was in the driver's pool and, poor Inez I think, has Alzheimer's, I don't know whether she's going to be able to come to this May thing or not. Inez never had anything to do with the office at all. I don't think she ever stepped foot in there. Pearlle started coming into the office only No, as a matter of fact, I believe we took my files out, those metal drawers out, and put it in the drivers pool office and Pearlle started filing in there. And Van would go in there and file the things for me.

Q: So it over flowed from your office into the

MRS. JEHL: Yes, into that office.

Q: The incoming fan mail, who sorted the incoming mail? Did that come from the SGS or did it come right to the General's office?

MRS. JEHL: It came right to the General's office in sacks.

Q: If it came in those sacks, was it already, sort of, fan mail, or was there official mail mixed in it?

MRS. JEHL: Oh no. No. At the signal center, wherever, anything that was official was put into different sacks. So, in the Pentagon, I didn't do any filing. I would send it in to the civilian secretary, anything of the General's that I had taken dictation from him, and the fan mail that I had written, I would send to her. And they had the Dewey decimal system, which I didn't even know. And files were kept, all his personal letters, in that office with the aides and everything, in the files there. And then the official mail went to Colonel Bowen [Lt. Col. John W.], who was SGS in the Pentagon and then later on when we were stationed at Pope Air Force Base, he was the commander of Fort Bragg and he was a three-star general. And I never had the nerve, I went to several receptions and I never had the nerve to go up and say, "Hi, General Bullin, do you remember me?" I never did.

Q: I bet he would have appreciated that. There were some summaries that were typed up, that describe the contents of the document and I don't know whether that's

MRS. JEHL: You know, we didn't do that, we didn't do at all. None of those summaries.

Q: Was that done by the SGS or something?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, the SGS.

Q: And then the log, did you have copies of the log in the office though if you needed to refer back to things?

MRS. JEHL: No. We called them and asked them.

Q: So if you needed something retrieved from the SGS files you just picked up the phone and called?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, called them and they'd send it over to us.

Q: With a messenger?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: Were they in the same building?

MRS. JEHL: They were right next to our offices. Right down the hall. SGS and Chief of Staff was always right next to us.

Q: So you could keep the official files to a bare minimum in your office?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, yes. And when

Q: Did they use the decimal system there, in that?

MRS. JEHL: In the Pentagon.

Q: Do you know whether they used it over in England?

MRS. JEHL: I have no idea what they did. I truly don't know. When we were doing the plans for Overlord, taking dictation on

that, it was at Bushey Park. And we kept, as I said, everything in the safe and we didn't know it until after the invasion. They confined Chickie, Nana and I to Bushey Park, we couldn't go out into London. About a week before we moved down to Portsmouth, they made us stay close to home. We didn't know it, but we found out several weeks before that if we ever went into London we had the equivalent of SOS, or Secret Service, or whatever it is, following us, for our safety, I guess. And then in Portsmouth, the same thing. But of course, we were in a camouflaged forest in Portsmouth, we never saw the sunshine. The trees were so densely overgrown that from the air you could not tell there was anybody down there. And at night we had to use flashlights and do this [hand covering motion] so you couldn't be seen from the air. And even there we were followed all the time so that no one could get to us.

Q: When you went down to Portsmouth, did you know then that the invasion was close at hand?

MRS. JEHL: Oh, of course, of course, oh yes. We had been taking dictation on it. We knew the date, of course. And all three of us moved down there with him. As a matter of fact, the whole headquarters command, SGS, everybody and it was a big tent city. And we never saw the sunshine. We were there about a month. It rained a lot and it was muddy so they finally built wooden walkways from our tents to the showers. And they gave the WAACs the shower privileges twice a week. And we put our bathrobes on and walked

down this wooden plank to the showers and all the GIs would be looking at and yelling at us. It really wasn't fun and then we'd wash our underwear and hang it and it wouldn't dry for days. You know, for days we'd have to put wet underwear back on.

Q: Because it was so damp.

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: There is some indication that there was duplication between the SGS and Eisenhower's files, due to production of extra copies of the same item?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, well see, in that case there were. I don't know whether they are talking about official or classified material but the fan mail would have been duplicated because I had sent it to them. I had written a letter to the family, acknowledging it and then sent a copy to them to investigate it. And then they would answer the family and we'd have a file in our copy and they'd have a file in theirs. So that may be what they're talking about as duplication. And the General very seldom ever followed through on those. He knew, he was confident that they would take care of it. And he never wanted a reply from SGS saying we took care of so-and-so. In some cases where I had a personal interest in the person, like friends of my family wrote to the General, their son was lost in action and they wanted to know some more about it, two of them. And I told the General, I said, "These are my friends and I would appreciate it if you would sign the letter instead of me signing

it." And he signed it and then I followed through on that to see whether, and of course, they had both been killed. But the General never saw duplications, okay, he saw it once and that was it. Unless it was a personal friend of his then he'd follow through.

Q: As far as access to Eisenhower's personal files, or I guess even his official files, that was just limited to people there in the office?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, that's absolutely all. The aides and the three secretaries, no one else.

Q: Was there an official filing cabinet and then the safe or was everything?

MRS. JEHL: No.

Q: The fan mail went in these filing cabinets and some eventually

MRS. JEHL: Yes, filing cabinet drawers and you know, it didn't matter who saw those. But I remember that we had keys to some of the files and those must have been some official papers that he decided to keep in his files instead of sending them off because there were keys that we had to put in the safe at night. But I've forgotten what it is that went into those files.

Q: They were locked filing cabinets. Would those have been located in the office with the three of you?

MRS. JEHL: No, they were in the aide's office. These wasn't room enough in our office.

Q: The aides office, was that Tex Lee's office?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: And was he in with Butcher?

MRS. JEHL: No, in Algiers, Tex Lee had his own office, which was part of that reception office. Butcher had his own office.

Q: You know what I might ask you to do, do you think when we are through here you could sketch just roughly a floor plan of the different places?

MRS. JEHL: I think so.

Q: I don't know that we have that or not but I think it might be interesting to know who was in the office with whom and maybe where, just very roughly

MRS. JEHL: It was this big Saint George Hotel that we were in, in Algiers, and this must have been a very, very large suite that we were in. Either that or they tore down walls and made it into a large suite, I don't know. But I do remember that it was the corner office of the Saint George Hotel and then along this way were Chief of Staff and SGS and then right next to it was a tiny, little room. And that Van, Colonel Lee's orderly, had double bunks and he slept there. And then across the hall was another room that

was about twice the size of his and that was the room that the car pool people stayed in, men and women. Oh, and Sergeant [Leonard] Dry was another driver, he drove the General more than Kay did.

Q: I think I've heard that name.

MRS. JEHL: He went to the White House with the General. And he was also from Detroit.

Q: Did you have much contact with Ruth Briggs when you were?

MRS. JEHL: Yes. I think I'd see her at least once a day. Either she'd come into our office or I'd go into her office and then when she and Kay lived together, we used to go over about once a week and visit with them at night.

Q: What rank was she?

MRS. JEHL: Captain. Very, very smart lady, very. But you know, socially, it was just that once a week we'd stop over or something and probably to ask Kay to do something for us. [Laughter] But as I say she knew me and I knew her but I can't say we were close friends like we were with Kay.

Q: Since you've mentioned Kay, I was going to ask if you wouldn't mind just talking about your relationship with Kay and how you found her to be and how

MRS. JEHL: Well, the first time I met her, I thought she was one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen, and very gracious.

And then it was shortly after that, she got word that, I forgot what the, Arnold, Lieutenant or Captain, her fiancée was killed. And she was a human, you know, she cried on our shoulder and we cried with her and it took her a long time to get over him. When she finally started dictating some of the fan mail to me. As a matter of fact, there was one letter in there that I thought, if the General ever saw that letter. It was not grammatically correct. He would never have affixed his signature under that letter, but everyone loved Kay, all the Generals, everybody who came. When we were in Frankfurt, she was his receptionist. She had her office across the hall from ours and then access to his office from her office, plus the main entrance, the big double doors down this corridor.

Q: Was that at the I.G. Farbin Building?

MRS. JEHL: I.G. Farbin Building. And every person who came to visit the General would always stop in and see Kay first. They all loved her, she was a very likable person. She was good to us and if we needed little things we always went to Kay. In front of us the General was very official with her, but we do know that she had dinner--ate at his table a lot, played bridge a lot, rode horses with him. Oh, and his dog Telek was more her dog. I mean she had entire care of Telek. I don't know what else to say. All I know is that whatever was in that book was not true. She was his official hostess. When we were in London, John had just graduated from West Point and came over to London as a brand new lieutenant

and the General never accepted any social invitations, ever, ever. He didn't go anywhere socially. He had to have something to do. And that's why he would have her over and have the bridge games and things. He had Ruth Briggs over quite a bit too because she was a good bridge player. But John came to London and they decided they wanted to see a play and this is the only time I remember the General ever going anywhere socially in London unless he was invited to the King's or Queen's or Winston Churchill's. And Kay went, but her mother went with her, and John. It was perfectly harmless, and the General

Q: And that's the scene they showed in that movie.

MRS. JEHL: That's the scene in the balcony. You know, they show it and they made a big

Q: The crowd goes ah, or something. But Kay's mother was there, and Eisenhower's son was there?

MRS. JEHL: Kay's mother and Eisenhower's son was there.

Q: You had mentioned that Mickey McKeogh got Eisenhower out of bed in the morning and put him to bed at night and would have been very

MRS. JEHL: He would have known, and if he told anybody at all he would have told Pearlle and Pearlle would have told us. And to this day Pearlle and I talk about it and you know, get upset about it when people say things. And I really get upset about it because

I truly feel that--and how could they lie and say the General wrote to General Marshall and Marshall wrote to Truman and, you know, tried to put a stop to this. That was ridiculous. There was never any letter written.

Q: I think that's been pretty well discounted. What was the, were there feelings about this at the time? Or talk about it?

MRS. JEHL: No, in headquarters, no.

Q: No eyebrows were raised?

MRS. JEHL: No, not in headquarters. At least not in front of us, never. Nothing was ever said, no one ever asked us, is she sleeping with him or anything? And there was a lot of that going around too. I mean, most of the officers removed their wedding rings after the first year and would try to date us. And we'd have searches made of their background to make sure they weren't married, before we'd even consider dating them. But as I say, in my office we had to be especially careful, we were examples. We were Eisenhower's girls and we were examples. At the I.G. Farbin compound we lived in the houses that the Germans who worked for I.G. Farbin had to evacuate. I think they were given like two or three hours notice and they were allowed to take one suitcase out of their apartments, out of their houses. And these are the houses we lived in. When we first moved in, out of the kitchen there was a door and a stairway into the basement. And all that was in the house were cots for us to sleep on. But we went down to the

basement and oh my, you know, every belonging they owned was down in that basement. Silver, china, whatever, furniture, everything. And a lot of the girls, in their houses, took souvenirs, but not us. Not one thing. Never. And the only way I got this Hitler stuff was because Craig Cannon gave it to me.

Q: At the very end?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, at the very end. As a matter of fact, I think he packed the box and Charlie Bennett was coming to the states and he gave it to Charlie and Charlie brought it to the states and mailed it to my family. I didn't even bring it back.

Q: Well, then, in retrospect, I'm wondering what you might think of Eisenhower at that time. I mean, later on he became President and so forth, but at the time you were working there for him, what was your view of him? As an individual? What were his attributes, what were

MRS. JEHL: He was intelligent, honorable, a wonderful strategist. And yet knew how to get along with everybody. And it was a hard position for him because he had the French and the British. And Montgomery was a thorn in our sides. He fought the General all the way and the General would get so upset over it, but never to his face, he was very diplomatic, very diplomatic. He was a brilliant man and I think there wasn't any one else who could have been the Supreme Commander, except him. Montgomery would never had made it,

he would have had wars between the French and the Americans and the British.

Q: Did you experience Eisenhower's temper first-hand?

MRS. JEHL: Oh yes, a lot. And he swore, he loved to swear. Oh, yes. Very much. When he got mad he would swear, and, in front of us. But that was the army. And we got used to it, we never paid any attention to it. But as I said, it was strictly formal, strictly business, strictly army, official. But the few times that we ate with him he was charming and he told jokes. He was a good storyteller. But we were afraid of him. Not exactly afraid, but shy in front of him. I don't know how to express it. But I remember at one of the Advance Command Posts Chickie was with me and we were sitting at his table to eat. And the soup cars came out and they had melba toast. And we each took one. It was passed around, we each took one, ate our soup and no one else took another one. And after we finished eating and we were out of the room Chickie and I both said, "Oh god, we would have loved to have eaten that whole plate of melba toast." We hadn't seen melba toast in two years, you know, things like that. It was hard on us really.

A couple of weeks ago, one of my bridge-playing friends whose husband is a retired officer, and I don't know how she ever made it through the military as a wife, said something about, she was talking about this. I don't talk about working for Eisenhower. I'm very reluctant, never mention it. And she said, "Sue, when you

worked for Eisenhower, what did you call him?" I said, "What do you mean what did I call him?" She said, "Did you call him Ike?" I almost fell out of my chair. How could I ever call him Ike? I said, "Millie, you're out of your mind." It was either "yes, sir," "no, sir" or when he spoke to me I stood at attention. And that's the way--even when he came up his elevator in the morning he'd say, "Good morning, Sue," and I'd stand up and I'd say, "Good morning, sir," and he'd walk into his office. At night when he left he'd say, "Good night, Sue," and I'd say, "Good night, General." And he'd leave. And we referred to him as "the boss," to this day, Mickey still calls him "the boss."

Q: And that's what you referred to him among each other, "the boss?"

MRS. JEHL: Yes, and the aides did too.

Q: And you went back with him to the Pentagon after the war. You worked on Crusade in Europe there

MRS. JEHL: Yes, I took all the dictation. He had started after the war while we were in the I.G. Farbin building. He had started it then.

Q: Had he been approached by Doubleday then already, I suppose?

MRS. JEHL: No, I don't think so. Not at all. And he would dictate to all three of us. And then in the Pentagon it was me, strictly. And sometimes I think about, there was nothing secret

about it, it wasn't classified and I think about these pages and pages of his corrections and his double-spacing, all his writing. And everything that I had thrown in the wastebasket. If I had foreseen, I should have kept a few of those pages, just to have all his little scribbles. It would have been worth something of value to the Library, if nothing else.

Q: We do have some manuscripts like that.

MRS. JEHL: Oh, do you?

Q: But I don't know if it's Crusade in Europe it's probably the later volumes, it's probably

MRS. JEHL: At Ease?

Q: At Ease, and then his two volumes from the White House period that he wrote at Gettysburg, but you're right, it would have been of value historically and

MRS. JEHL: Yes, my wastebasket used to be full every night and I always took them to the center where they shredded them, you know. Never let the janitors take those wastebaskets. But it never occurred to me to take one sheet.

Q: When did you become a warrant officer?

MRS. JEHL: At the Pentagon. I came back as an enlisted, I was a tech sergeant.

Q: And was he involved in getting you the warrant commission?

MRS. JEHL: Oh yes. Who else! It wasn't the aides or anything, they couldn't do that, it was him. I know why he gave me the warrant officer. I was at Fort Lee, they had a WAAC company and all I did was sleep there. You know, at night go to bed, in the morning get up and leave. I didn't know anybody or anything that went on there. But one day they said I had to have orderly duty, you know, stay up all night in the orderly room, company office, or whatever it is. And so I told the General, "I can't come to work tomorrow, I have to pull orderly duty." He said, "Like hell you do!" [Laughter] And he really got furious. So he went in and talked to the aides. He said, "What can we do about it?" They said, "Well, it's the army, you know." And he said, "Make her a warrant officer." So they made me a warrant officer and I moved out and got a little apartment. And then worked my seven days a week. [Laughter]

Q: And then how long were you a warrant officer before you got a lieutenant's commission?

MRS. JEHL: I don't remember.

Q: Several months or a year?

MRS. JEHL: A few months. A few months, and then I got tired of that and I said, "No, I'd like to be a civilian. Civil service." And that's why he wrote up that job description or had SGS or I

don't know who, and I was going to get that civil service rating. Which at that time was going to be a seven [GS-7]. And then by the time they finished, Colonel Bowen said, "I think we're going to get you a nine [GS-9]." And I was very excited about that because that was pretty good beginning civil service rating. At the last minute he called me in and said, "I can't stand the civil service workers." And that included Mona Nason. He inherited her from General Marshall. She was General Marshall's secretary and he had specified that he didn't want anybody fired. He was considerate that way, he didn't want the whole office force to go just because he was coming in. Like the SGS, it wasn't his SGS, Bolen was General Marshall's SGS. Anyway, he'd get mad at Mona Nason too because she didn't care. She was civil service, she wasn't military. She folded up that typewriter. She was a little, I shouldn't say sloppy, but careless with her letters, her erasures, her corrections. He couldn't stand it, but she was civil service, there was nothing he could do about it.

Q: And that's when the solution was to make you lieutenant?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: Still have you twenty-four hours a day? [Laughter]

MRS. JEHL: Yes. And only once he came down to my level--should I put it that way, I don't know quite how to say it. It was spring, and he said something about, "Sue," he said, "I know how hard you've been working, you haven't had any time off, your cheeks are

pale." He said, "Why don't you go out and play golf tomorrow?" He knew I loved to play golf. I was a golfer before I went into the service. He said, "Why don't you go out and play golf tomorrow?" And I said, "Thank you, I would love that." But that's the only time he ever, ever did anything like that.

And another thing, Mamie resented me and I can't blame her. She resented all of us when we came back because of all the rumors that had gone on about Kay. And we were connected with Kay. The General decided that he wanted his library in his quarters at Fort Lee cataloged. So he asked Craig Cannon and me to go over there and catalog it. When we got there--I was commissioned then--I took my cap off and my gloves and left them on the table in the foyer where she had her card tray. And we went into the library and we worked on it about four days. But that first day I heard her voice and she always called me "sergeant" even after I made lieutenant. I heard her voice and she said, "Whose cap and gloves are those?" And the houseboy said, "Lieutenant Sarafian's." And she said, "Get them out of here!" So from then on when I went into the library I took my cap and gloves with me.

And then the General received an invitation from the Chamber of Commerce in Detroit to make a speech there. And he took Sergeant Dry with him, who was from Detroit, and didn't say a word to me and that hurt my feelings so badly. Sergeant Dry's name was scattered all over the papers. It wasn't that. It was for my family's sake. He had to get the equivalent of the War Department in Detroit to send him a secretary while he was there, he was there

three days. And when he came back he called me into his office. And my family was upset about it, they said, you know, "How come he has a WAAC secretary here and didn't bring you?" So he called me into his office and he said, "I have an apology to make to you, Sue." He said, "It's not exactly an apology, it's an explanation. I want to tell you that I realize what it would have meant to you and your family if I had taken you to Detroit with me but because Mamie was not invited, I couldn't take you." So I said, "Yes, sir," and walked out. What else could I say? But it did hurt me terribly.

Q: And when did you leave the Pentagon?

MRS. JEHL: When I became pregnant and couldn't get into my uniforms anymore, then I had to leave.

Q: So this was '47 or '48?

MRS. JEHL: It was '47, April of '47. We were married in September of '46 and April of '47, I left.

Q: You resigned your commission?

MRS. JEHL: Yes. I went back several times to the Pentagon to visit the aides in the office and they had a couple of parties they invited me to. But I never saw the General again after that. When we was campaigning for the presidency we were stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina and the general was coming to Columbia, which was about forty miles from Sumter. And Roland

said, "You ought to call Bob Schultz and ask him if the general will see you for a few minutes and take the children and go and see him. You should do it." And I said, "Nope, I can't do it." And to this day I have lived to regret it because I know Bob would have told him, "Sue wants to bring the children to see you," and he would have given me some time. But I didn't want to impose. And another thing, so many people have said, "Why haven't you written a book?" The last thing he said to me when I was ready to leave him was, "Please don't write a book about me." And I said, "I have no intentions of writing it." And as I say, I never tell people I used to be Eisenhower's secretary. If they find out and they ask, you know, I talk a little bit about it, but very reluctantly.

Q: Well, we're glad you did an interview even if you didn't write a book.

[Interruption]

Q: Get back into the

MRS. JEHL: Okay, well, we were finished with the ticker tape parade in New York. We spent the night at the Waldorf and then went to West Point and they had a big parade for the general at West Point. That night I had no place to sleep and the escort officer, whoever he was, said, "What are we going to do with you?" Here's this enlisted girl and she's at West Point, where are we going to put her to sleep? And there were several WAACs working there at that time and there was one WAAC who worked all night at

the message center so they asked her what time she was going to get out of bed and she said, "Eleven o'clock." So I had to go to a movie until it was finished at eleven o'clock and then go get in her warm bed. [Laughter]

Q: The old warm bunk concept.

MRS. JEHL: Warm bunk and sleep that night. And then what was the other one, I forgot it. I thought it was a good story. Oh, when we left Washington, Mamie Eisenhower was scared to death to fly. She never would fly. When we left Washington to go back to Germany we were going to stop at Hyde Park to call on Mrs. Roosevelt and visit the President's grave. And Mamie, they finally talked her into flying with us. And that was a real big thrill for me. Mrs. Roosevelt was the most generous, hospitable, kind person and when she took my hand in both of hers and shook it and said how glad she was to meet me and then took us all over and around Hyde Park it was a real big thrill. And then we left Mamie there to take the train back to Washington and John was with us and we went back to Germany with John.

Q: Back to the I.G. Farbin building?

MRS. JEHL: Yes.

Q: This would have been after the ticker tape parade, after you had your five days in Detroit, maybe?

MRS. JEHL: Yes, four days and then I was called back to the Pentagon and worked. I went back, I think it was with just John and the General. Colonel Stack was staying in Washington, but he wasn't the general's aide then, and we left Captain Butcher there too. Ruth and Mamie lived together and Captain Butcher asked Ruth for a divorce so he could marry this Red Cross worker, Molly, so he stayed on and didn't go back with us. So there was just the three of us on the airplane. John and the General and me.

Q: Thank you very much.