



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Martin P. and Doris J. Beifield
Correspondence**

Manuscript Collection No. 913



Collection Summary

Title	Martin P. and Doris J. Beifield Correspondence
Dates	1943-1945
Collection Number	MS-913
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Beifield, Martin P. Beifield, Doris J.
Extent	3.6 linear feet (9 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Doris Ruth Jacobs was born in Philadelphia on 22 July 1917 to Rachel and Frank Jacobs. She was the sixth of eight children. Her family belonged to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel where all the Jacobs children were confirmed.

Martin 'Marty' Perry Beifield was born on 20 January 1917 to Lillian and Charles Beifield. His twin sister died shortly after birth; another sister lived to adulthood. The Beifields belonged to Adath Jeshurun, a liberal Conservative synagogue in Philadelphia.

Jacobs and Beifield met as classmates at Germantown High School. After graduation, Jacobs attended the Berte Design School and Beifield attended Northwestern University. After the first year, Beifield transferred to the University of Pennsylvania. They were married on 10 September 1939.

The couple welcomed a daughter, Doris, in 1943, and a few months later, Beifield left for the army. He completed basic training at Camp Blanding in Florida and went overseas in February 1944. Being in the infantry, he had his first experience with combat during the landing at Anzio, Italy. Due to his typing and office skills, he was promoted to writing citations as his unit moved through Italy, France, and Germany.

The couple wrote to each other almost every day during the two years that they were apart. Beifield returned home in the fall of 1945 and went to work for his father manufacturing custom furniture. Their second child, Martin Jr., was born in 1949. When her children were still young, Jacobs started and operated a business called Flowers Every Friday. The business originally delivered cut flowers to people's homes and eventually expanded into designing floral arrangements for weddings and other large events. Beifield went into the direct mail advertising business, eventually owning his own company. The Beifields were active in their Jewish community as a member of the Sisterhood, and he became president of the Men's Club at Keneseth Israel, and later vice-president of the congregation.

The Beifields were married for fifty-seven years until his death at the age of 79 in 1996. She died in September 2015 at the age of 98.

Scope and Content The Martin and Doris Beifield Correspondence manuscript collection covers the time that Martin Beifield was in the U.S. Army. The collection starts in September 1943 and ends in October 1945.

Arrangement This collection is arranged in one (1) series: A. General.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Martin P. and Doris J. Beifield Correspondence and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-913. Martin P. and Doris J. Beifield Correspondence. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Martin P. Beifield Jr., Richmond, Va., in July and September 2021.

Processing Information Collection processed by Aliza Spicehandler, July-September 2021.

Index Terms

Subjects	Jews -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia / Military / World War, 1939-1945
Personal Names	Beifield, Doris J. / Beifield, Martin P.

Series A. General, 1943-1945

Scope and Content Note This collection is mostly composed of correspondence between Martin P. Beifield and his wife, Doris J. Beifield during WWII. In addition to the letters, the couple sent v-mail, photographs, cartoons, news clippings, and fabric samples.

Arrangement Correspondence is organized chronologically, followed by a folder with military documents of Beifield's achievements, another folder containing undated notes from care packages sent to Martin Beifield while he was in Europe, and a folder containing photographs which were at some point separated from the original correspondence.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1943 September-October

Box 1. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1943 November

Box 1. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1943 December 1-15

Box 1. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1943 December 16-31

Box 2. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1944 January

Box 2. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1944 February

Box 2. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1944 March

Box 2. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1944 April

Box 3. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1944 May 1-13

Box 3. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1944 May 14-31

Box 3. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1944 June 1-15

Box 3. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1944 June 16-30

Box 3. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1944 July 1-14

Box 3. Folder 6. Correspondence, 1944 July 15-31

Box 4. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1944 August 1-13

Box 4. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1944 August 14-31

Box 4. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1944 September

Box 4. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1944 October 1-16

Box 4. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1944 October 17-31

Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1944 November 1-14

Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1944 November 15-30

Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1944 December 1-15

Box 5. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1944 December 16-31

Box 6. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1945 January 1-15

Box 6. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1945 January 16-31

Box 6. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1945 February 1-14

Box 6. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1945 February 15-28

Box 7. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1945 March 1-15

Box 7. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1945 March 16-31

Box 7. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1945 April 1-15

Box 7. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1945 April 16-30
Box 8. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1945 May 1-15
Box 8. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1945 May 16-31
Box 8. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1945 June 1-15
Box 8. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1945 June 16-30
Box 9. Folder 1. Correspondence, 1945 July 1-15
Box 9. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1945 July 16-31
Box 9. Folder 3. Correspondence, 1945 August 1-11
Box 9. Folder 4. Correspondence, 1945 August 12-31
Box 9. Folder 5. Correspondence, 1945 September
Box 9. Folder 6. Military documents, 1945
Box 9. Folder 7. Notes from care packages, 1943-1945
Box 9. Folder 8. Photographs, 1943-1945