

# Guide to the David J. Piel Papers

MS 1892



compiled by Carol King

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Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1892

**CREATOR:** Piel, David Joseph, 1923-2004

**TITLE:** David J. Piel papers

**DATES:** Circa 1930s-1949

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are primarily in English with some Chinese and Japanese.

**SUMMARY:** The papers include sketchbooks of watercolor drawings and captions by David J. Piel depicting military and civilian life during World War II in the South Pacific; and related correspondence, memorabilia, and photographs.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1892>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1892>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. David J. Piel and Paula Piel Rudolph, 2007.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

David J. Piel Papers (MS 1892). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

David Joseph Piel was born on July 10, 1923, in New York City. He attended Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, and entered Yale in July 1942. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, went overseas in November 1944, and became a combat radio correspondent with the 1st Marine Division, 5th Battalion. He served in the Pacific Theater, including Okinawa. After Japan's surrender, he was assigned to Special Services in Peiping. Discharged from military service in March 1946, Piel returned to Yale. Upon graduation, he worked in advertising and television in New York and San Francisco, producing story films for the Captain Kangaroo show, as well as acting in television and radio commercials. Piel died of lung cancer in Carson City, Nevada, May 2004.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers include bound sketchbooks of watercolor drawings and captions by David Piel depicting military and local civilian life during World War II in the South Pacific, as well as related correspondence, memorabilia, military transmittals, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by type of material. Sketchbooks are listed alphabetically by title, and oversize materials are at the end of the inventory.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Correspondence A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1942-1948
Currency		
b. 3, f. 1	Japanese	Circa 1930s-1940s
b. 3, f. 2	Local banks, possibly North China	Circa 1930s
b. 3, f. 3	National Central Bank of China	1940, 1943-1945
b. 3, f. 4	Shandong Province	1941
b. 1, f. 2	Design for a jade pendant Pendant design contains the date November 4, with no year indicated.	Circa 1940s
b. 1, f. 3	Diary page of captured Japanese soldier Published in Japanese. Has English description explaining the concept of "bushido," a Japanese code of conduct.	Circa 1940s
b. 1, f. 4	Map of Peiping	Undated
b. 1, f. 5	Menu of food dishes in Chinese	Undated
b. 1, f. 6	Newspaper clippings Many from <i>The Peiping Chronicle</i> .	1945, 1949
Photographs		
b. 1, f. 7	Entertaining the troops, Okinawa	1945
b. 1, f. 8	Miscellaneous Includes photographs of sites in Peiping; Chiang Kai-shek, David Piel, and a drama production.	1943, 1945
Sketchbooks		
Bound sketches of watercolors by David Piel with his captions.		1942-1945
b. 1, f. 9	"Late Liberty: The Art of Going AWOL"	1942
b. 1, f. 10	"Liberty in Savannah"	1944
b. 1, f. 11	"Okinawa Sketch Book"	1945
b. 1, f. 12	"Semper Fi! A Souvenir of World War II, Pacific Theater, Okinawa Campaign, 1945"	1945
b. 1, f. 13	"Sick Bay: The Art of Goldbricking"	1942
b. 1, f. 14	<a href="#">"A Story About Boot Camp," Paris Island</a>	1943-1944

b. 2, f. 1	"The Turtle Who Lost His Shell: An Ageless Fairy Tale," Okinawa	1945
b. 2, f. 2	"What You See on Okinawa"	1945
	Sketches, loose Includes copies and some originals of watercolors and ink sketches by David Piel.	
b. 2, f. 3	Scenes of daily peasant life in Okinawa	1945, undated
b. 2, f. 4	"Trying to Talk and Remember" Ink sketch of wounded soldier in a field hospital, Okinawa.	1945
b. 2, f. 5	Watercolor sketch (copy) done by Cyrus Leroy Baldridge for <i>Rickshaw Boy</i>	Circa 1939
b. 4, f. 1-2	Oversize pages Loose pages, most likely from a scrapbook, including photographs with handwritten text and illustrations by David Piel, recounting the arrival of the First Marine Division, Radio Team, in Peiping, China; the signing of the surrender of North China; views of the Summer Palace; V-J Day; Special Service bulletins listing social events for soldiers; and related memorabilia.  Pages with missing photographs were received as such from donors.	1944 -1946
b. 4, f. 3	Commendation to Piel for his role in the operation of Armed Forces Radio Station XONE.	1946 February 19

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

World War, 1939-1945  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Campaigns -- Okinawa  
Islands  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives,  
American

### **Geographic Names**

Beijing (China)  
Okinawa-shi (Japan)

### **Names**

Piel, David Joseph, 1923-2004