

---

Bette J. Barto correspondence

CAWL Archives: Cold War and Interwar Periods

---

2-2-1956

## 1959-02-02, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto\\_correspondence](https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence)

---

### Recommended Citation

Barto, Bette J., "1959-02-02, Bette to Parents" (1956). *Bette J. Barto correspondence*. 2.  
[https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto\\_correspondence/2](https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence/2)

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the CAWL Archives: Cold War and Interwar Periods at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bette J. Barto correspondence by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [laughtin@chapman.edu](mailto:laughtin@chapman.edu).

---

## Subject Terms

Women and the military, Women and war, United States -- Air Force, United States -- Army -- Air Forces, Photographs, Armed Forces -- Correspondence, Correspondence -- Vietnam War -- 1961-1975, Christmas

## Summary

This collection contains 139 correspondence from Maj. Bette J. Barto, USAFE to her parents while serving as a nurse during the late 1950s and 1960s. Also included are three photographs, one special orders document, and one marriage license. In several cases, Bette refers to her parents as "Lizzie" and "Hugh Elmer," or simply "Elmer." Three letters from 1961 or 1962 are undated and placed in a separate folder.

## Keywords

1959-02-02, 1959-02-03

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1956-02-02

## Copyright

The Center for American War Letters Archives promotes open access to its collections for "private study, scholarship, or research" subject to the intellectual property rights of others. Chapman University may not hold copyright or intellectual property rights to all items in the collections, and contents may be subject to restricted access or use. As a condition of accessing and using material from the Archives, you agree that you are responsible for obtaining all required consents of any copyright holder and to indemnify and hold the University harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, that may arise from any third party claims for copyright infringement, torts, or invasion of publicity or privacy rights. You further acknowledge and agree that photocopies or other reproductions may only be made with the University's prior approval. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis and approval will be in the University's sole discretion.

#5



UNITED STATES AIR FORCES EUROPE

2 February 59

7 PM

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm waiting for Joe to come by for dinner; so I thought I'd better start a note even if I don't write much. I have so started 3 or 4 letters, but got nowhere. This has been an extremely busy week for me.

3 February 59

4<sup>30</sup> PM

Joe arrived and we had dinner at the little officers' Club - "The Nomad" down by the Mediterranean. That will really be nice when it's warm enough to eat on the terrace. Joe had been to Egypt Sunday to deliver an airplane engine to one of our bases. He was a little peeved at me because I was at the Club Sunday night with someone else when he got back. So bad for him, because he leaves here in 100 days for Alexandria, Louisiana. So I can't see waiting around for him to call when he's off flying all over Europe.

Saturday night we had the reception for our new base Commander, Col. Griffith, who just arrived from Washington. Our Chief nurse didn't mention that it was mandatory until noon Sat. and I was on duty; so I didn't know about



### UNITED STATES AIR FORCES EUROPE

it until 3 pm. and by that time, Polly had loaned her blouse to someone else, and my white blouse is somewhere between Tennessee + North Africa in that footlocker. Polly got busy and borrowed me one from another Capt. who didn't have to go. Polly worked 3-11 as usual so she didn't have to. I had a really marvelous time, met hundreds of people and ended up at dinner with a detachment of fighter pilots who are stationed at Badbury, Germany, but who are down here for gunnery school in the desert. One of the wives was named Betty Harris (maiden name) so she took a fancy to me and introduced me to all her friends. There are several single men around here, lots more married and millions who pretend to be single, but aren't. That's not unusual, I suppose, but someone usually knows the truth because this is a very small town community though it is the biggest base outside the U.S.A.

Everyone seemed to know me and that I was coming before I arrived. I have had a pretty big rush as far as dinner invitations are concerned. I guess I have bought my own about 3 times in all since I arrived. Tonight I have a date to go downtown with a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Don Anapu (Anapod) - one of the permanent party jet pilots who are the protectors of our base. He was on my ward last week for surgery

- 2.



### UNITED STATES AIR FORCES EUROPE

on a ganglion of his left wrist. He is out of the loop, but can't fly because that is his radar cranking hand. The nose of the plane he flies is filled with radar equipment - (Relax, Mom, the F-86-D is a single seated plane. There are very few 2 seated planes here, as a matter of fact.)

The work situation is no better. I changed to a Medical Ward today to get oriented to a 5 day tour of 3-11 and a tour of 11-7 immediately following that. I'm still attached to my Surgical Ward, but will work relief quite often in the Medical area.

5 February 58

The last part of the letter was written under the hair drier at the local beauty parlor. It is run by Italians who speak very little English; so they fix your hair to suit themselves - very interesting. One of the young men did my <sup>hair</sup> really pretty the first time I went but I got a girl this trip and couldn't help myself because I didn't know the girl's name.

Don took me to "The Swan" which is a very nice restaurant run by Italians - (all food off base is handled by Italians or it would be dangerous to eat.) We had fresh shrimp cocktail, steaks with mushroom sauce and we had pure nuff <sup>fresh</sup> strawberries for dessert.



UNITED STATES AIR FORCES EUROPE

I slept most of yesterday - my first day off in 9 days - and the rest of the day I ran errands, got food from the Commissary and cleaned & re-arranged my bare little room. Sure miss my junk.

The Commissary is about 1/2 the size of our White Star and has very little variety except in canned goods.

They have only Tide soap powder, no Snowbleach, but the AFEX (same as PX) has Snow. They have no mayonnaise - only salad dressing & I hate it - they do have lots of fruit juices & canned fruit - plenty of cereal - plenty of frozen meat - steaks are the best thing to buy and since I have been here, the only thing the boys will let you order any place <sup>on base</sup> is steak because it apparently is all the cooks on base can cook without ruining it. We had stateside lettuce at the store yesterday and you would have been amazed at the actions of the people. One full Colonel stood there and glared at us while he picked over it all and filled bag after bag of the better lettuce. When we got to the bin there was nothing much left but we finally found 2 small half-way decent heads - all we could use before it would spoil. This is to be the last shipment the Libyan government will allow in here - you see, if we wont use their products they refuse entry on ours and we wont use theirs because it is fertilized with human feces & urine. Appetizing, eh what?



UNITED STATES AIR FORCES EUROPE

Last evening Don came by and we drove the half block to the beach and went walking in the sand along the Mediterranean. He got off early since his arm is still in a sling and he can't fly. The sea is lovely when it's calm as it was yesterday, but the beach is covered by big banks of seaweed that have to be pulled off before swim season begins.

Mom, I want you to call Grace one day soon (at Hamilton's) and remind her to be looking for a swim suit or two (Size 13 or 14) with little boy short pants - You know a leg & a cuff on it - instead of tight fitting around the bottom. If she finds them, <sup>please</sup> mail it on and bill me for it including mailing charge - It won't be too much longer before we'll need them.

Tomorrow Jeff & Jill go for surgery - I hope everything goes well and that Jody can care for Janel & for Helen.

I'm sorry your new furnace is giving you so much trouble, Mom and Elmer, and that it's so expensive.

I'm mailing some picture post cards & things I've seen - until I can get a camera & take some real ones. It's not quite this pretty, the dirt doesn't show, but they're reasonably life like.

Don't work too hard -  
either of you. Love you, all  
& miss you,  
Betty