1959-10-13, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence

Recommended Citation
Barto, Bette J., "1959-10-13, Bette to Parents" (1956). Bette J. Barto Correspondence Collection. 4. https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence/4

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 Collection by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact 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
1959-10-13

Identifier
2017-219-w-r_Barto_ColdWar_1956-10-13

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.

This letter is available at Chapman University Digital Commons: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence/4
Dear Mom and Elmer,

I'm sorry to write on the back of my last letter but I'm sitting in our car on the edge of the parking ramp by our biggest maintenance hangar. I've already watched some particular work on his plane (the one he's been struggling to get ready to go to France.)

He flew it yesterday twice without mishap except that the air conditioning worked too well and when he got down his feet were almost frozen inside the big heavy flying boots.

The plane is rear, taking him all the way to 50,000 feet and she purrs like a kitten until he came in for a landing; then all the brakes broke loose and nearly every system failed on him. He got it down beautifully while the crash ambulances and fire trucks streamed out to the rear way to pick up the pieces if he wasn't successful. So now it may be a bit longer yet before he flies it again.

I just got off duty—clean day again with my kid crash volunteer nurse's aide. I went much more smoothly today and I hope tomorrow's ride will even better—its the baby bath day.
Boy is coming now so maybe I can finish this on clean paper.

I was wrong, they only came to talk while they loaded the plane but in front of the hangar. He is back but there with them now while they run it through a series of checks. It all seems to me but I love to watch and listen anyway. I spent a lot of time waiting on the ground for him, but if I'm waiting and he's off, he's watching at the door when I come off the ward so it evens out.

I got your letter from Cincinnati. As usual, you stayed a little too long and the newness of the little monsters were off. Arent you glad you two are very nearly off your heads? I don't realize that I ever gave you lots of headaches when I was little - except fingers - but, of course, you headaches with me came at a later date - to relay and let other get grey over here then. If she spoils them she will be the one who regrets the results. However, better for both are pretty smart boys the critics of their work soon.

I'm glad you're going to light an oil lamp for a while too.
Don't spend any money on me at Christmas. You can tell them I don't need anything except pajamas or self-pair. We are lucky enough over here and bitch than that, just save your money and Ray and I will eat it. Give you when we get their real steak, real chicken, and green vegetables & fruit. That we don't have to star on cheese and real milk and lettuce & celery.

Ray is beginning to get worried about coming to visit. She hasn't seen the kids in over 2 years—so we will have to let him loan about in Tennessee. I gave him that Christmas idea—a new set of golf clubs; of I could have that suit to learn on— and he already plans for me to take out clubs with us—even if we're nothing to wear—so be prepared.

Love, Rose

Sister

Yvonne Reps

Conrad Cölmen

1229 30th St N.

1956