1958-11-12, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto
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
1958-11-12

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Capt. Bette J. Harris
3352 School Group
Boy 8114
F.N. Class 58-7
Hunter AFB
Alabama

Airmail

Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville
Tennessee
Dear Mom and Daddy,

I know you think I'm terrible because I haven't written as often, but believe me, there isn't a minute to do anything for ourselves. We have to run to and from class and the post office to get our mail. We buy our food and head back to the barracks again. Tonight we had been in class from 6 am until 7 pm. We just got back from eating and I washed my clothes, pressed my flight suit for tomorrow's flight to Mobile Alabama and as soon as I drop you this note I must get back to the notes I took today and get them straightened out. He got our grades back today and I made 95 and rank #3 in the class. I don't know who is #1 or #2, but they only make one less error than me (I missed 3 by pure carelessness), so I'm not too unhappy. We have our second big exam on Friday and I will be studying tomorrow studying that.

I got a letter from Sally. She can't get a flight from Bluefield to S. Carolina so she will be back in Knoxville Sunday to fly from there. I don't know what time, but maybe she'll call you. See her she's all excited.
He had a very nice Memorial Day. We slept until 10:30 am after practically closing the Club the night before. After breakfast we came back here and studied in the doorway so we could at least see the sunshine and then we went over to the Shopping Center about a half mile from here and went to a Circle Complete with various wildlife and animals and legions and elephants. We stayed about an hour and then came back to study again. Charlie called after that (Sgt. Battle) and that made it a very nice day.

Bette has invited her favorite aunt to come for graduation and I hope you’re still planning to come too. If you could, you’d have a good time with her while we’re in class. We have a final exam the day before we graduate.

Well, I know this is boring because it moans, moans about the studying but I’m still very pleased to tell the, and it’s all very interesting—but it’s still lots of hard work.

I’ll try to do better next letter.

Love you,

Bette

Helen was a big girl day (Kelly is 31 on 21 November, also)

I didn’t send a gift—just a card.

I’m asleep but I sure am swamped.