7-6-1958

1958-07-06, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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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
1958-07-06, 10 PM

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1958-07-06

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Hi you two.

Polly is getting her clothes on to go to
work and I'm about ready for bed.
She works tonight and tomorrow night
and then back on days. I'm barely her
mights hit on my days off for I couldn't
move around here for fear I waking
her.

The Shipwreck party was a huge
success. Barbie, I had two of the cutest
Costumes in the whole place and there
must have been 5,000 people in the
place. The big main dance place 9 the
Kelly Club was covered with 30 twelve-
man circular life rafts. They're easily
big as our living room and stand
about 3 feet tall when fully inflated.
These were our seats. The only space
left was a fairly large circle in
front of the orchestra - for dancing. The
whole place was decorated with palm
trees, banana leaves, and big, real
stems of bananas hanging from the
balcony.

The Security Service took up about 3
rafts all together and we had a really
good time. I got quite a bit of attention
in my quasi-musical outfit. I wore
the remnants of that strapped jumper-like
civilian uniform - without the jacket.
Polly cut the bottom of the skirt in a
fitted, irregular line → (Sara) and cap from one of my girls - when I got it ironed and folded it looked so much like your cap, Mom, I felt right at home. One elderly lady said "only, you look like a real nurse." I said "hoo, that's the effect my steaming for." Toward the end of the evening I surprised the whole security service only I didn't know why until the incident was all over. I was coming back from the powder room and passed through a whole group of people, said excuse me, and walked on. I remember passing this particular man because Charlie had pointed his wrist that out earlier saying that he was the Commander. The next thing I knew the same man was sitting by the in our room, asking my name and introduced himself as Gordon Blake. He made no mention of rank, just gabbled like anyone else, asked me where I wanted, how I liked Fort Worth, Texas, and so on. He stayed about 20 minutes and I noticed Charlie and none of my new friends came up. Finally a woman in a sailor suit came up and practically lead him off by the ear. Then my whole room depended on me to tell me that he was Brigadier General Blake was never made friends with anyone! To the rest of the night they all teased me telling me they wanted to go to Germany or Japan or Spain if I could arrange it with General Blake. The next afternoon Charlie took me to the Recovery Party which was given by one of the Colonels in the department.
This was a cocktail party and started at 5:30. The drinks, the punch and I was ready to leave but the bars were good so I ate. The general came and again called my name right off and was nice as pie again. So Charlie said he thought it would be better for a marriage to me because undoubtedly I could be very good for his air force career. The general invited me to be in some kind of a job for one of the retiring colonels at Kelly. I told him I might—don’t know. When I tell if I could without permission, so we’ll see. Anyway, after the cocktail party was over—by the way, I ended up drying dishes in the kitchen with the bartender who was a ten, blond, blond. Airman first Class from Tennessee!!! Small War! Charlie the host & his wife and I went out to dinner at La Louisianne, one of the very fancy French restaurants that I went to once with Colonel Tom. What’s his name from 75 years—When I first got here, so my weekend was very varied. I stayed in bed till 12:30 today. Because I couldn’t get up, rather dressed with Polly trying to sleep. Finally my back hurt so bad from playing in bed I got up, grabbed my bathing suit and headed for the Club pool and stayed till Polly got up—then came back & we went to a movie to see a picture with Natalie Wood “Margorie Morningstar” one we had missed. It was very good.
and we were back by 7 pm.

Thanks for the check Liz. I

should send it right back. But I

can pay you in full on 1 August,

so I'll wait.

You and Elmer come in out if you

want to, it's hot as blue blazes but

we could show you the sites anyway.

It'll definitely get her vacation in August.

I definitely do not - until about 15 Sept.

We're really short I help now. If they

keep on drawing me, I'll probably have

to start working 7 shifts or something.

We'll be better stop now and get

my hair fixed up and get to bed.

It's raining a marvelous rain right

now - much needed to lower the tem-

perature from 95-97 to something more

bearable - for the most anyway.

Last rite I rode in an air-conditioned

car for the first time - really marvelous

out here - wouldn't be practical anywhere

else.

Gotta wash,

Love you

Write & Come in out

Liz