11-23-1958

1958-11-23, 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
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Capt. Bette J. Harris
Nov 8, 1114
FN. Class 58 F
38th School Group
Hunter AFB
Alabama

SAVE A/E EXAM BEG Airmail

Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee
Hi you two,

Before I forget, yes, I do take the quilts & blankets.

Silver is in a flat blue box, Mom. Should be with the stuff I brought home in the packing from Texas! I'm certain it is with the packing.

Party: the spreads should be either in the footlockers or one of the larger cardboard boxes that are all taped up with her junk up stairs by my bed. Some records are in a shopping bag or big grocery bag with the junk I brought home. Maybe in my bedroom, but I thought I put it all together in the record player.

I think you can just deposit it to her account by paying for deposit only. Her address is:

LT Pauline Lester AN 3079002
B7272 USAF Hospital
APO 231
NY, N.Y.

Another thing I think you can take if you don't care to use the fryer (electric fry pan). Better say I can hardly get in the main kitchen for the school teachers I mentioned before. I'd like to take my sewing machine, but I don't know what to do about that. What do you think? They pack pretty good, and it might come in very handy when these days! Think about it for me.
Mom, I haven't written Marie yet. I thought I'd wait until we knew more about our Christmas plans—whether we might be going to Helen's or not. I haven't written Mary Lou either—because I thought we could drop by there on our way home from here.

Tomorrow is our big flight. We go to Mobile Alabama, 2 hours away. Down on the Gulf. We have a full load of patients (our classmates) who will have special diagnoses, and we are all prepared to give their "nurses" a hard time. Guess who got first nurse? You guessed it. There are 3 planes to take us. I, nurses on each plane and 8 patients, one instructor and one medical technician plus the pilot, co-pilot and engineer. We work all the way down, then visit Brookley's Air Force. Snowbird, having dinner at their Officers Club, then we board up, change nurses and play home. Coming home I am to be a D3. Birth 2:30 Burns of the face, hands and chest. I'm better fast so I won't have to work—just moan and groan. I went out today and bought 2 dollars worth of candy to wrap for face up.

My patients are going to be a tough bunch. I have 2 psychiatric patients—one wild and the other potentially a suicide so I can expect trouble from them. We have an epileptic and an asthmatic both who will have fits if I know the gals who play the parts. We have one female the pt., a broken back in a full body cast, a far advanced Ca of the intestine, and an infectious mononucleosis. The idea is that we must anticipate the equipment these patients may cause us to need.
in this morning, you don't call CSR and have it sent up. you sweat as we been sweating 2 days on this. to read air evans you would only know your oil load about 3 hrs ahead or at the most 5 hrs ahead. it should be fun. they're also going to simulate a bail-out procedure, too - sometime during the flight, they will ring 3 short bells and we all have to get into parachutes and get over sick to in and live rep by the back door ready to jump if we get one long continuous bell. we're learning something every hour of every day. i got up at 6 am today and have been studying since then until 30 minutes ago. time but to eat at 9:30 and 5:30. i made 100 on our roughest exam last tuesday. i was really proud for everyone i was really sweating that one. the kids are all folding up to do better too. tomorrow will be a very big day.

love,

belle

tomorrow is the beginning of week # 4!!! a new class of basic students arrived today. it's fun to watch them and remember how i felt in january 58 about this time. i didn't shut my eyes that first night. only rate in my life i ever lay awake more than 30 sec. other my head hit the pillow!!