1-28-1959

1959-01-28, 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
1959-01-28

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1959-01-28

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Dear Mom, and Elmer,

This will be short because I'm due on duty at 2:45, and I haven't gotten my shoe strings in and my chores done. I have a time getting uniforms ready, because they have to be unpacked and pressed, as yet Kelly works 3-11 today too, so we just finished breakfast here in the room—eggs, bacon, toast (ugh) covered with jelly (to hide the toast) and coffee. Coffee is the only thing that tastes like home; so I drink it black mostly to avoid the milk. We can get Carnation cream sometimes, and sometimes we can find fruit juices, but you have to be on your toes! When the shipments arrive at the wives' grad it all up while we work. They have plenty fresh oranges, lemons & apples though.
Before I forget, Mom, Polly wants to know if you ever got and deposited a check for her balance from the National Bank of Commerce, San Antonio. She said she should have had about $70-80 left in there, and she'd never heard from them. I couldn't remember if there were one or two deposits you had made. If you haven't heard, let us know and we'll write them about it. We never gave my cancelled checks and $1.25 to go from them, either.

This money situation here is something. In base we use paper money called script. Off base we use Union pounds (like English), one pound is equivalent to $7.83 our money. Then in the Officer's clubs we use coupons or Chit Boats — very confusing. So far, I've never had the right legal tender for the right place — guess I'll learn, eventually. If all seems so silly to you now.

Tomorrow I work 7-3 (after getting off at 11:30 or 12:00, maybe) and Joe, the pilot, has invited me to dinner, so at least I'm fed. I had only lunch yesterday because I didn't get to supper in duty, and Polly and the rest had gone to bed when I got home and they have switched all the refrigerators (each has one) so I have none and all my food was locked up in their rooms — guess I'll lose a little weight except when Joe's here between flights.

More later — I got the picture they're cute; I'll return Love & Kiss u — them in about a week or so. Bette