2-15-1959

1959-02-15, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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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.

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

Excuse the penmanship, I'm lying on my stomach trying to relieve my backache. This is day five of the Mumps! I am feeling pretty good still much swollen but probably beginning to recover. I had two very rough days with a fever of 103° that wouldn't respond to aspirin at all so they finally gave me 200cc 20% dextrose and broke it up! Dr. Walker was worried that I might have meningitis during that time, but he says that is no possibility now. They still plan to keep us until about next Friday in order to be certain there's no danger of ophthalmia. I.e., it really swollen today too. She had male #2 swelling in the submaxillary region so she got fat neck and I have fat jaws.
They are starving us to death. I was so nauseated with the fever
that they put us on liquid diets
and—that here means only one
thing. Pineapple juice, beef (dish-
wastes) and a half gallon of cherry
jello. He refused food for
two days and Chiefie's roommate,
Mary, have been bringing us
fruit juice, cakes, cracked
soup, and today Mary brought
us two fish sandwiches. She
ate like starved children with
our sandwiches hidden under
our blankets, giggling and
munching before we got caught.
All our gang, Emilee, Billy, Dixie,
Barbara and I have been wonderful, coming
by when they go on or come off duty
bringing clean p.j.'s (we decided to
wear our own since we're isolated)
and taking dirty ones home. We
squeal our grumpy letters out
and mail them too. As is the
one who was married just before
the came here in November to an
enlisted man—who will not be
allowed to follow her. She's writing
him now, too.