

3-20-1959

## 1959-03-20, 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

1959-03-20

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1959-03-20

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THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

20 March 59

7:30  
pm

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on duty and, for a wonder, we aren't busy. This, of course, is inviting trouble - writing at work. Will probably admit half a dozen before 11 pm.

Visiting hours are from 6 to 8 and that occupies most of the patients for that period. I have only 3 or 4 comparatively ill ones - 2 who were injured in an auto accident - the rest are sprains, strains, fractures or lacerations. Then, of course there are the wives with their very of real or imagined gyn complaints.

Don just called that he's back safely from Italy. I was glad because the weather outside didn't look good. Storms down here are brief but they come up so rapidly and are ferocious



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while they're going on.

In case Chet & David tell you before I do, I'd better tell you that we are having trouble in downtown Tripoli in the form of riots against the Russian Embassy and for Nassar's latest stand against the Communists. They have been stoning the gates down there for two days. They won't let us off base; so there's no danger here.

The married people who live downtown are in a bad position. If they go home, they can't get back to duty and if they don't go, they may be separated from their wives and children for days without knowing what may be happening. Most of them are being relieved of duty if at all possible so as to go protect their families. The Libyan police, Arab guards, and English Army troops are all out downtown. This may keep the mail from running as far as regular mail & food that comes



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by boat. The air mail will be ok, though.

Don't worry about us and Germany. As a matter of fact besides I don't believe the Russians are in a hurry to tangle with us. They quite an air force up there. Of course if we go to war over Germany it will be over there where you are as well as here. So it makes little difference.

My bathing suits arrived yesterday and I haven't had time to try them on. Call Grace, if you have time, and tell her I'll find the money on the suits right away. I like them both, although she sent me a red gingham just like the blue gingham I bought year before last. However I like the suit if it fits I'll keep it. I'll want some cotton dresses before long since it's 75° in the daytime already, but I'll write Grace a note.

Gotta go work a bit now; so I'll write you later. I miss you two. Love, Betty