3-22-1959

1959-03-22, 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.

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Dear folks,

One more 3-11 shift after this, and I'll have 2 days off. I'm ever so happy. I have an appointment on Tuesday to have my hair cut and a permanent. It's a funny feeling to depend upon an Italian boy who speaks almost no English to do your hair. He does a beautiful job, but there's no conversation in the beauty parlour among the patron and operator. I'm a little leery about the permanent, but everyone says they do very well.

The curfew on off-base travel was lifted this morning, but there's still quite a lot of unrest in the main part of the city, and it will probably clear up as soon as Ramadan, their sacred holiday, is up. They get pretty rowdy during this time of year as they are about half back from
The American National Red Cross

Observation. They pack for 3 days, eating no food and drinking no water until after sundown, and very little is eaten even then. Our maid in the quarters is off sick. I don't understand too much about it, but I suppose it makes sense to them.

It's raining hard again and is even glistening than usual. This is the third evening that I have sat upon my backporch the greater part of the 8 hours. We have a full house of patients, but they aren't too ill and about 8 are out on faze until 10 pm - I suppose I could find something to prepare for them, but I'm not too eager.

The weather has been very odd for the past two days. I think it was probably about 30° this morning and the sky was quite blank. We have had thunder and the same storms they call "giblets" - though the real giblets are in that much weather.

I'm completely covered with sand from the etc. I have
me area in which there are 36 in a space about 4" square right under my belt line in the back. They itch so I can hardly keep from scratching. As I told you I gave me some carboline ointment to use when I'm off but I can't grease up in uniform so I just suffer when they get warm. I'm taking the tablets the doctor supposed to take the Vitamin B that is excreted on the skin. I guess I haven't been taking the capsules long enough either that as these pills I have are food for it. Perforate, I should work a little bit so I'll quit and wait until I've something to say.

Love,

Take it easy Sime. Don't worry about this stuff over here, back.