

4-5-1959

## 1959-04-05, 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

1959-04-05, 8 pm

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1959-04-05

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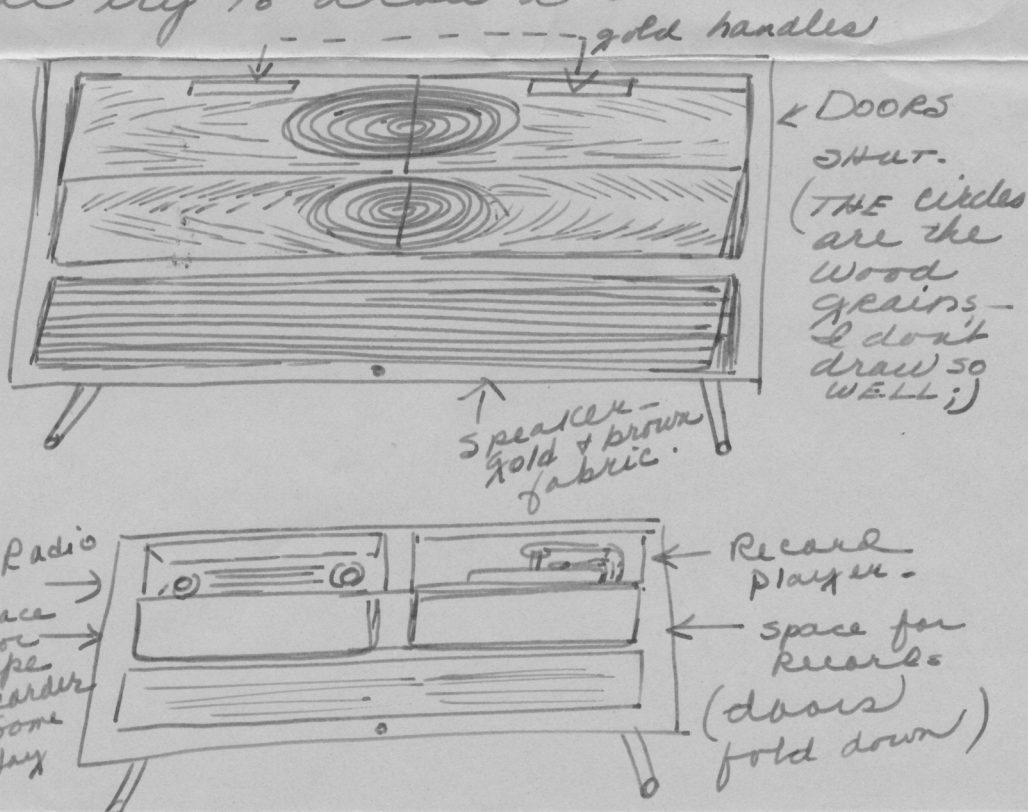
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5 April 59  
8<sup>PM</sup> (Sunday)

Dear Mom and Daddy,

Polly, Emilee, Barbara, and I have just finished a light supper of soup and tuna fish sandwiches. We were all too lazy to go out and eat and no-one had any food to cook. I have let my supply dwindle because I'm in the process of moving into my room next to Polly. I painted the floor Thursday night, moved in Sat. morn, and painted my bathroom just a while ago. It isn't the prettiest brown I've ever seen but it looks 100% better than the horrible green that was on there. The walls need it badly too, but they probably won't paint for years yet. I decided to paint up to the window-level in the bathroom because the walls were so spattered and dirty. I'll use yellow towels for bathroom curtains and it should be half-way decent looking. I still am pretty stacked up because I have a 3-4 shelved cabinet that I snatched for the bathroom to keep soap, canned goods, + pots and pans in. It's sitting in the

middle of my floor. The long  
 awaited hi-fi arrived Saturday  
 and it really is a beautiful  
 thing. It plays all the speeds  
 of records as well as the new  
 stereophonic sound records. I'm  
 the envy of the B.O.Z. right now  
 because I'm the only one who can  
 use the stereorecords and the  
 AFEX has oodles of wonderful  
 recordings. The marvelous part  
 is that this new stereo mechanism  
 cost no more than their hi-fi  
 sets did. The radio is wonderful.  
 It's a lovely piece of furniture.  
 All try to draw a likeness:





# -3-

It cost \$179.95 and it probably costs about \$600 in the States. Records Costs exactly  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much as States-sides. I'm very proud of it. I will pack my portable away and if I can't sell it at a good price I'll bring it home. Jeff and Jill will eventually need it anyway.

Your Easter Dinner sounded wonderful. You really went all out - table cloth and all! We didn't have much here. I worked 7-3. Pally was off, and ~~she~~ the other kids went to Sunrise Service. He were out late at Ernie's party, so I got only 2 hours sleep before going to work, so I came home at 3pm and went to bed. I'm on my 2nd week - only one day off and I'm tired. I have Friday, Saturday, & Sunday off for the moment. I do hope she doesn't change it because Tom will be leaving Friday or Saturday for 30 days on the continent. He doesn't get very excited about the trip, but then he was stationed in Germany for 6 months before he was transferred here.

I nearly cried when I read your letter about Mary Anna's little leg. I knew they'd be stiff and wasted, but if it will allow her hips to stay in place then it will have been worth it. I miss the little booger very

much. I had a little boy come  
in today that made me think of her.  
He had fallen out of bed & hit his  
head & I had 5 15 min. blood pressured  
on him. After the first time or  
two he would put his little  
arm out & try to roll up his  
pajama sleeve for me each  
trip I made. (Just had to go  
refill my pen). I'm in Dolly's  
room - mine smells like turpentine.

Don is on alert to write - last  
night, too; so I've been home both  
evenings - otherwise, we never have  
gotten moved in, I suppose.

Two of the teachers who I mention-  
ed before (one named Bobby Dye?)  
and the other a patient, Nina Wilson,  
have invited me to a hot dog  
feast at the beach next week. It  
sounds like fun and will be  
different - this outfit won't get out  
of the quarters if they can help it.

I'm getting sleepy and have to  
borrow somebody's shower - can't  
get into mine for the paint.

Sorry I've been slow to write but  
I'm nearly dead when I get off  
duty, plus the painting & moving.  
Our census is way up! I had 46  
patients by myself & one corpsman  
today - been that way all week.  
Mom, you need love you & Miss you,  
a break!! Betty both.