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

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

Polly, Emilee, Barbara, and I have just finished a light supper - 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. It painted the floor Thursday night, moved in Sat. nite, 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-jedge in the bathroom because the walls were so spattered and dirty. All use yellow towels for bathroom curtains and it should be halfway decent looking. I still am pretty shelled up because I have a 3-4 shelves cabinet that I snitched for the bathroom to keep soap, towel, soap, etc. 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 includes the speakers as well as the new stereophonic sound records. In the long run the B.O.B. right now because I'm the only one who can use the stereorecorder and the AFEX has orders for a wonderful recording. 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. Try to draw a likeness:

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doors

(Doors are the wood grains. I don't draw so well.)

Radio

Speaker - gold & brown fabric

Space for tape recorder some day

Record player

Space for records (doors fold down)
It cost $179.95 and it probably costs about $600 in the States. Pearce costs exactly 1/3 as much as States-side.

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—tablecloth and all! We didn't have much here. I worked 7:30-6 and Kelly was off, and all the other kids went to Sunrise Service. We were out late at Ernie's party, so I got only 2 hours slept before going to work. So I came home at 3 pm and went to bed. I'm on my 2nd week of 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 act 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 legs. 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 soogie very
much. I had a little boy come in today that made me think of you. He had fallen out of bed & hit his head & bed 7:15 this morning. Blood pressure 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). Tan in Dolly's room—mine smells like detergent.

Now is on alert tonight - last mile too, so I've been home both evenings. Otherwise, I've never been moved in. I suppose.

Two of the teachers, who I mention ed before (one named Bobbie Dye?)

and the other, a patient friend, have invited me to a hot dog feast at the beach next week. It sounds like fun and will be different - this will fit in at out of the quarters if they can help it.

Still 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 on nearly deck when I get off duty, plus the painting & moving. Our census is way up, I had 75 patients by myself & one corporal today—then that way the week. 

Mom, you need love, you & Megan a treat!!

Bettie