1959-04-11, 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. Baro, 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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April 59
Saturday at the beach.

Dear Mom & Daddy,

Don't mind a little sand in your letter; I'm at the beach - Poley and Barbara.

We all have been having a really good time. We got up at 7:30 and had pancakes in the dead of the room. Then came swimming and had coffee with us. Before he caught a Rheinstein (Get) shine for his 60-day leave on the continent, he surprised us to pieces by sending Poley, Barbara, Corrie, and me each one dozen of the loveliest red roses you ever saw. They are still quite pretty after 24 hours in the heat. As you have guessed, I quit on your letter nearly as soon as I started because the sand and situation made the pen stop writing. It's now 7:00 Sunday night, and I'm all ready for bed except for polishing.
my shoe and putting a pin in two in my hand. My new hi-fi is playing, my lonely records are sitting on it for a new $200 Egyptian vase I got at the AFEX store gift, the cuckoo clock is ticking away on the wall. He got it 2 days before the trip to keep me company for these 30 days I suppose. I miss him already. We had a nice sleep off.

Monday we shopped at the AFEX for the fun of it — picked out my bicycle — to get it tomorrow (only in to get one too, I think)

That Friday Nate Don and I went to dinner and came back to the quarters to get with the girls before he had to go pack. The Saturday we spent at the beach, and last nite we filled out at the picnic area at the end of the flight line. While you eat, you drink, for the jets are landing only a few hundred yards away. We saw about 24 take off together at one time last night — noisy!

Today Ally, Barbara and I drove to Penticton Magnus — another city of ICISA harbor the coast toward the Persian Bazar. We find
Chicken to take along and had a cooler for the food and drinks because there's no place to buy anything. I borrowed Paddy's Brownie and got some slide film to take several pictures. If they come out good I'll buy you a little $30 viewer and that way I can send you the slides and you can see them just like on a projector. The film purchase price includes printing the slides, so it should be cheaper than printing the photographs. Later on I'll buy a good camera, but the waltz until then.

The giraffe & ibex came Saturday morning. Thanks, doodles, Mom; the giraffe is a long one like I wanted, too! I'll mail you a check as soon as I get to the bank - I'm out of checks & I have to get a money order for you, anyway.

The hide, camel saddles should be arriving from Cairo, Egypt tomorrow. I got a telegram today from the A.I., who is giving them for me, telling me to meet the Air Attaché plane tomorrow - it's the regular Embassy
Home, that comes once a month. I hope they are OK. Get them on the 20th as I can get them re-wrapped and addressed.

You start that house Cleaning, Mom. You promised you wouldn't do the walls and the like. Herman can do that quite easily, so you stop and call him to do it. Now behave!

Well, I'm pretty tired after my drive to that land. Barbara's car is a '57 Chevy convertible, and it is really warm out - the sun's gone down and it is getting away whenever I see here. It's 90° in the shade now and I'm beginning to get brown already.

The quiet is so bad because we have a busy day tomorrow; after 3 days off, they place will probably be crazy.

Love you, love.

Bette.

Went to Helen's letter to get back my jeans pictures.

Judge the writing.