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 Mom and Daddy,

I'm sitting on my bed listening to Peggy Lee play her newest records. She got in a new shipment today, but it didn't make it down there. I was sick all day on duty. I don't think I've ever been any more ill and still stayed on my feet. It apparently was a 212 report from something I ate at a birthday picnic. We went for Mary last night. Barbara fell cold too so I guess that was it. I was so nauseated that my stomach heaved every time a newly reacted patient gagged. I was never so glad to die.

At 3 pm, Peggy fed me some poutine soup (after I finally had to stop in the middle of my report to go vomit my guts). I was kinda empty. I ate her soup and went to bed and I feel better now. I had a slight diarrhea but
that too seems to have stopped.
So now I guess the officially had
the "Trieste Test."

I got your letter with Mary
Ann's lovely picture and see
the write up about the ERN. Everyone
on duty enjoyed them today.
Gardner made a lovely bride.
I hope she will be a very happy
married lady; she is a nice
girl.

You needn't have worried about
my wheat cloth. It is my very
favorite one, but I don't need
it and Martina and Joe will get
much pleasure from it. I was
pleased to hear that care is
happier and getting interested
in his grandchild Ray, too.
It will be good for both of them.
How is Claude? I haven't heard
from him and you haven't mention
ed him in a letter or two?

You worry me, Mom, with all
your cleaning. I know it hard
is live in the dirt, but you
need someone to help you.
I would like to see the
new couch covers.

By now you will be
getting your new puppy.
I'm pleased even, if it will
We take trouble. Your letter will be along. It promised to
mail it for me today but Polly says she forgot it, so it
will not be till tomorrow. I went to mail it
hers. & the P.O. was closed.

Our new chief nurse is
here. Her name is Major Mckeech
(My-koo, as pronounced). She is
married to a civilian who works
in the air force. He will be here
in a couple of weeks; so maybe
she will be easier to work for.
She is younger looking than Maj.
Marquis and talked very friendly.
like but time will tell what
she can do for us. It can't get
worse; so it will have to be
better. We also got the new Lt.
who may replace me. She looks
and acts like a bull
dog. She's nicer than I am, I
think, and is real rough. If
that's what they want, they
can have her. I don't care for her
at all, but she has to work
with her, I guess.

We've had another week
of funny weather. It was 85
yesterday and tonight it's going
to rain. I hope tomorrow will
be pretty. I have to work an hour
You go on a report but I went some fun time. It rained last weekend after I brought about the sunshine to you. Barb and I went on our bikes and got drenched about half-way round the base. We looked, and drenched people in our way back. People just openly laughed at us. It was fun anyway.

Son should be back about next Saturday. I've missed him but wished go for him and me too, I guess. He won't be there much longer now.

I hope the 5th brings the kids! Came to tell the next week. If he doesn't see have Son send them from a place he knows. I think they'll get a boost out of them.

I would like very much to see them with the little devil. I know they're cuter than ever.

When are you going up?

Sadie, why don't you go see Mr. Wash about your trouble. Don't be so uncomfortable for no necessity.

Tell girl next, I'm feeling a bit roly-poly again. Love to Miss you.
Bette