1959-05-18, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto
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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Mr. - Mrs. H. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville, 16
Tennessee
19 May - 1/4 of 1 yr today!

'59
Dear Mom and Salley,

In waiting my turn at the beauty parlor, I barely got off duty in time to keep the appointment. Today has been a usual Monday at the office for me.

The kids' camel saddles are now in my possession, but I need boxes in which to mail them now. They came from Cairo with my papers wrapped around the cushions. They are lovely little pieces of furniture, and I'm sure Helen would be ashamed to have them in her living room. They are goldbrige (almost white) leather hand-tooled and sewn. The legs are light-colored wood trimmed in gold brass, made by doing — not gaudy like they might sound. I bought a matching hassock to pair to Helen's day. It is not the largest size but I do think she'll probably come close.
I was sorry to hear about Mrs. Goddard. I will try to get a card to send to him as soon as I can get to the AAF. I'm out of all supplies & groceries after my 3rd stint. No time to do anything but sleep to get ready for work. He had a wonderful air show Saturday. I think I mentioned it in my 2 previous letters. I have a date tomorrow night with a pilot who flew in the Aerobatic gang. He's stationed here as a liaison officer between the rotation, he's grouped on the continent and our gunnery range. He's the one who took me up with him to El Dorado. He's a captain, with 20 years flying and quite nice. I went to a movie with one of my Daddy patients and her husband. They have also invited me to dinner and bingo Thursday night, so I will be quite the gadabout this week. I'm off Fri, Sat. Sun. this week too, so I will have time to really do some fun baking. I'm pretty dark now - most tan she ever had; I guess and a really captivating color - guess the African sun agrees.
with me of nothing else here does. I'm under the dryer now. My young Italian hair stylist got out his pressure today and she made quite a large 7 of my curls & hair! I guess we have to have another permanent soon, if she keeps on cutting this is the third. Since I had my permanent I like the way she does my hair but I don't like to come down here and sit. It's almost better to do my own actually. I have to wash it at least twice/wk anyway because of the sun & park.

Daley is still on 3-11 for 2-2 more (1 day). She gets bored that to she really enjoyed my 3 days at it too. I guess I'd feel the same way if I were in her shoes, though.

Sister's hair sounds cutch by the day. I know how eager you are to see them again. The flowers at the house must be shaping up nicely also. Better take a pocket full of color films when you go.

Yes I got a bond a month starting in April so you will get another soon for they I think
It may be that you got the one for May and the next one will be for June. As to the allowance didn't start until May. I can check if you can't tell by looking at the one. Daley says thanks for coming over to see him.

Well, our major has been to prove that she wants to help us. As you are spending your time in Germany thank to her so the rest of us will get a chance to see some country, too. I hope it surely raises the morale of the troops. Even though we weren't the ones that bring us something from there. I went to the store camps, so I hope they are able to find them. They are very expensive in the states and quite inexpensive at their source.

They are practically selling me from the shop - in their last customer so. I only hope they let me dry my hair before they shave me out. They don't speak any English.
Chin up and press on with young Husband, Mom; he will learn soon. I know he must be lots of fun for you even if he's a messer. What does Charlie say about him? And Elmer, what do you think? Is that little lad (Eubs, hide, and bark) I'm sorry if I fouled up on the leash color, mom; we in '42 Africa have to weave dog leashes out of just what the Red Cross has at hand!

Won't be long now; the stop & address in envelope.

Mom Dear:
Love you

[Signature]