6-11-1959

1959-06-11, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence

Recommended Citation

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the CAWL Archives: Cold War and Interwar Periods at Chapman University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bette J. Barto Correspondence Collection by an authorized administrator of Chapman University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact laughtin@chapman.edu.
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
1959-06-11, 1959-06-14

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1959-06-11

Copyright
The Center for American War Letters Archives promotes open access to its collections for “private study, scholarship, or research” subject to the intellectual property rights of others. Chapman University may not hold copyright or intellectual property rights to all items in the collections, and contents may be subject to restricted access or use. As a condition of accessing and using material from the Archives, you agree that you are responsible for obtaining all required consents of any copyright holder and to indemnify and hold the University harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, liabilities, and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, that may arise from any third party claims for copyright infringement, torts, or invasion of publicity or privacy rights. You further acknowledge and agree that photocopies or other reproductions may only be made with the University's prior approval. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis and approval will be in the University's sole discretion.

This letter is available at Chapman University Digital Commons: https://digitalcommons.chapman.edu/bjbarto_correspondence/28
June 57

7:30 pm

Dear Mom & Daddy,

I'm waiting for my dinner date to arrive. We are going out among the crowds for dinner to downtown Tripoli; don't know which restaurant, but it will be Italian, you can bet. My friend is a 1/2 lawyer-type, whom I met last week at a party. He seems like a nice fellow, not all blond like lots we met the week out and played golf this afternoon — he played, rather and I peddled along. He is trying to teach me, but he has a real job on his hands! All this was after I had worked a full day so I probably will have some need of those muscles tomorrow. This aging process gets to you, you know!

Tomorrow night I have to attend a mandatory cocktail party at our hospital executive office (with the same as an administrator) — for the
Commanding General of the
U.S.A.F.E. (U.S. Air Force European
Theater) who is touring our troops
from the Continent. He is
here today & was to make
rounds on the wards about
4 p.m. (I left @ 3 45); so I guess
I'll meet them tomorrow. Pauly
is working 3-11 on my Ward so I
guess I'll meet him.

No letters from you all in
several days - of course I look
for one every day; so I know
I don't receive one - the way
I go off from writing. Ray,
your jet pilot, came by and
brought the packages for
Henri, Joey, & the girls. I guess
I'd have been another week
doing it without him.

---

Sunday, noon
14 June

3 days later & with a new
borrowed fountain pen
(I dropped mine on its point
on a concrete floor at work,
hence no pen until store
open Monday) Ray is still (the jet pilot)
He had breakfast and the reading the papers while I finished this letter, then we are going to the beach for a picnic. I fried chicken, made potato salad and deviled eggs last night. Deviled eggs aren't as good here as they are at home just taste slightly different to me. We will probably go off base to a beach a few miles from here. It's not too dangerous as long as you have a man in the outfit.

I got your letter written two days ago. Maud has been broke - how come? The little baby I mentioned is now gaining weight like a pig - a big 5 1/2 lbs. and growing like a weed - looks like a baby now instead of a wizened little old man.

I was mad about the check to Forduff's, so I'm sending you the same amount. I want you to pay for your gifts, honey. Daddy, I haven't mailed you a Father's Day gift because they don't have what I want for you.
Here yet—don't give up, I'll send it sooner or later. At any rate—
Happy Father's Day.

Mom, I guess they mailed the girdles by regular mail as we have had them by now. Don't worry, I'm not desperate for them yet.

So is my griping about Wheelus upset you, Mom? I just hate everyone else who is away from the U.S.A.—tired the same. We'll all talk about what we miss—
the stores, the drug store, a real supermarket! Green grass, trees & hills and rain!!!
It sprinkled yesterday and it almost smelled like home in the spring—until you passed a camel under a palm tree.

The Cape Cod vacation sounds lonely for Helen & the kids and Dody. You'd have loved it too.

About Eliezer, Mom, I'll just wait until I decide what I'm going to do about the U.S. Air Force. If I stay in I may be anywhere—but if I go, I'll be home for leave about December even if I stay.
I can see the Continent later
so don't worry - I'll be home
to visit in about 6 months,
I'm not as unhappy now
as I was in all that mess in
Knoxville - I just miss you
two.

Ray says to tell you hi. He
looks & talks like our Ray,
believe it or not. He's not as
heavy as Ray was when I last
saw him, but the resemblance
is striking.

Hell, the sun is high & hot
and my tan is fading fast;
so I'll quit, so we can go.

Love & miss you
two & Rubbin.

Bette.

Got pictures? Market day -
will send a few at a time -
I hope to have a view soon!