7-22-1959

1959-07-22, 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.

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Dear Mom and Clove,

It's 6 months today since I arrived in this place and never thought I'd make it this far—Barbara is down to 12 adipose! Isn't that unbelievable? She is better with us anymore—just floating around looking pleased about everything.

My trip to town was pretty successful. I at least found some white lace shoes—Italian they are lovely but I don't think Italian feel quite like ours. The heel of the shoe is about 2 1/2" more shallower than my own. Luckily I don't expect to have to wear them far in town. They cost 10 pounds each and is approximately $14.00. I also bought a piece of imported English cotton embroidered material for an Italian seamstress to make me a dress. She can look at a picture of a dress, suit, coat or anything and make an exact duplicate. I want her to make me a long woolen coat before I come home because you can buy English woolens here for about 1/2 what they Cost Stateside. She charges very little to do for us all.

Today was another busy work day; we had 38 patients when I left and were preparing to send one to the OR for an emergency appendectomy.
I have 3 for surgery already for tomorrow, so I hope I get a red cross aide in to help because I have 6 whining women to clean up after. The nurses aids only once in a while. I come in from about 8:30 to Noon. Some help and others are really a bother.

Ray is coming by for supper. He had to fly a late mission today and had a squadron meeting to attend after that. I'm trying hard not to take a nap before the dinner. I was sort of sick this morning but feel OK by lunchtime - something I ate, no doubt.

Before I forget it, Mom; would you look in your sewing thread and my little pink sewing box and see if I left a spool of turquoise thread there. I need a few feet to sew a small pull tab in the pleat of my dress. There is no turquoise thread on this case! Just put a few feet in there! I just remembered where I saw that thread - in my sewing machine! I'm nuts - forgot the thread. I just found it! Nothing like writing it down to make it seem more clearly.

My goodness, Mom, it won't be long until your birthday - 1 Jeanne Carlson. If you want to send her a card her last address was

Mrs. Jeanne Carlson
3012 South Gerald Carlson
654 S. Mill Drive
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

I checked on my watch that for ten awaiting service 1945 when Clark gave it to me, so it promptly gave up and died this am. So I got to try to get it repaired but I fear I may probably have to buy another. If I get the new self-winding ones here I don't may get one--at least before I come home. Mrs. Feller said anything about giving me the stuff from me yet? It should be there soon, I think.

I haven't had any letters since Monday of last week. I hope you all are ok. I see how you worry if I don't write--only usually my reason is that the penmanship isn't perhaps as sleeping--nothing like getting anything but the belly ache. I'm having a good time nearing Concord. Pecan--nut variety. Of course they have to be cleaned first, but they're still good.

I hope you get to go toinder's house soon now--you should be on your way shouldn't you? Perhaps that's why I haven't heard from you.

Well, I must do a chore or two--polish shoes on the Ike, wait later--think I'll make cornbread tonight--keeps a steak, tater and gravy man--e emphasizes on gravy.

Forever Muchly
more later--better