

7-22-1959

## 1959-07-22, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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### Recommended Citation

Barto, Bette J., "1959-07-22, Bette to Parents" (1959). *Bette J. Barto correspondence*. 30.  
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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.

## Keywords

1959-07-22

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1959-07-22

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22 July 59  
Wednesday

Dear Mom and Clove,

It's 6 months today since I arrived in this place - never thought I'd make it this far - Barbara is down to 12 days - isn't that unbelievable? She is little 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 feet are quite like ours. The arch of the shoe is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " more shallow than my arch. Luckily I don't expect to have to hike very far in them. They cost 5 pounds which 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 to have her make me a long woolen coat before I come home because you can buy English woollens here for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  what they cost Stateside. She charges very little to sew 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 Whoring women to clean up in addition to the rest of my work. We have aides only once in a great while who 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 he comes. I was sort of sick this morning but felt ok by lunch time - 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 pulled area in the pleat of one of my best dresses. There is no turquoise thread on this base! Just put a few feet in! Yarn! I just remembered where I saw that thread - in my sewing machine! I'm nuts - forget the thread - I just found it. Nothing like writing it down to make a fellow think more clearly.

My goodness, Mom, it won't be long until your birthday - + Jeanne Long Carlsons. If you want to send her a card her last address was  
Mrs. Jeanne Carlson  
% 1/27. Gerald Carlson



65<sup>th</sup> Sully Drive  
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

I bragged on my watch that I've been wearing since 1945 when Claud gave it to me; so it promptly gave up and died this a.m. - I'm going to try to get it repaired but I fear I may finally have to buy another. He can't get the new self-winding ones here so I may get one - at least before I come home. Has Helen said anything about getting 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 - one usually my reason is that I'm swimming or playing or sleeping - nothing like getting anything but the belly ache. I'm having a good time eating Concord grapes - Arab variety - of course they have to be chloroxed first, but they're still good.

I hope you get to go to Sister'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 in the lake. Ray's late - think I'll make cornbread tonight - he's a steak, taters and gravy man - emphasis on gravy.

Love you muchly -  
Mae Lata-Bette