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1959-08-03, 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.

Keywords
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Monday
3 August 59
3 p.m.

Dear Mom & Hugh Elmer,

For momentarily through with my work and the 20 g of my patients are sleeping—for a wonder. It has been so quiet tome I'm sort of waiting for the ax to fall. The ward is half-filled with 1/2's from the Continental squadrons—11 drift pilots— who have a very odd type of influenza—just a real high temp and a terrific headaches. Then on my ward I have 27 ankles, wrists or back sprains or fractures—in addition to 30 general surgery patients. This is my second and last night I'll relive for this go-round. I'll sleep tomorrow and come back on deep Tuesday. Just hashes up my day off for the week.

Barbara is on her way to the UK!! By now she should be 31/4 g the way to the Azores—she should be home to Charleston by about 8 p.m. Wednesday. She was so excited that she was dressed to go 4 hours before the plane left. I couldn't go with them to see her off.
and I'm certain Polly & Emiie were glad. Barb will probably call you in a few days.

Ray got in from Germany at 11 pm last night, so he came over here to the Ward to get my room key and brought me a couple of quarts of German milk. The carpson & I promptly drank that. When I got home this morning I had a refrigerator full of sweet milk—about 10 quarts, buttermilk—10-12 pints, dark lettuce, green onions, and the first celery I've seen that was decent since I left home. He came over about 8 before I went to bed and brought me a new bathing suit that he picked out himself. He did real well too! It was white with a gold buckle in the front and at the back of the waist.

He brought me a stack of plates & platters on dishes as Emiie Polly owns the dishes we have and she will be shipping
them home by 1 November. So if I stay in, I'll have to have something to eat from. I thought I might as well look at the lovely dishes they make in Germany. Since they are most reasonably priced in comparison with Statesidechina. It rained the entire time we were in Germany, so he didn't do much else except shop for me and go through the altitude chamber. He was glad to be back in the white heat and sunshine, I think. Today, tomorrow, I'm and I plan to run down town—before we drop in bed—to the dressmaker, who is fixing a dress or two over for me & making one new one—if I can find the right pattern. I want to have for some dolls and shoes for the kids. I thought I'd get some for Jeff & Jill, Helen, Craig & you. I don't think Elmer would wear a pair. You will probably like them. Tell you what, maybe you'd better ask Helen to send me patterns of their feet—tell her to draw around them.
just as you used to for getting shoes from Sears & Roebuck when we lived on the farm. Shoes here are handmade to order and are measured in litres rather than our American sizes. I wear a size shoe—big footed as usual. Send me your foot print, too. I doubt if I could keep the shoes on—they have no backs—just a flap.

Very highly decorated with silver or gold embroidery or brass brads—in red, black, white, or natural colored camel leather.

Well, I'm out of anything to write about except to wish you a happy birthday on your birthday, Mom!

More later,

Love you two,

Bert