1959-09-19, 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
1959-09-19

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1959-09-19

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/36
September 19, 1959

Dear Mom and Elmore,

I'm just finished with a late breakfast. I slept until 11 am because I go on night duty again tonight. Ray played golf this morning with some of his cronies and I had to get up early because we are going to study all afternoon. He has had to work so hard this week that he's behind in his school work so the going to help with some of the Frontline Work. His Commanding Officer was pleased he was going to orders, but hasn't kept his promise to keep his school assignments light, and his Calley getting off from work in time. His duties I have to class at 7 pm.

I am so sorry that little Robbins died, Mom. I was fond of him even if never saw him and I know how much he meant to you. I'll write Mary Lou for you — probably tomorrow 11-7. I guess it was meant to be, for you've had such bad luck with them all along. I hope you can go see Uncle and the kids.
I don't know anything about Polly's trip. She left without my knowing when she was going and they haven't even sent me a postcard — big friend I had wasn't it?

We have almost a complete new crew & nurses. Then, to Mary, Polly & Emilee go in December. I will be the only one of our bunch left. The new ones are OK but I don't imagine we become fast friends with any of them. One of the ones who is due to arrive next month was a lot of fun at flight so maybe she'll have someone to talk to occasionally. Of course I spent most of my week duty time with Ray if she's not walking. Still it's nice to have some girls about too. Ray, so, Mary and I run around quite a bit together. They feed us or we cook for them. Mary, Ray & I went to Happy Hour at the club last night for a while — I saw one of my 1/2's I had at Lackland this in flying status at Rhein Main, Germany now and comes here about once a month — first time to see her though.

I only work 11-7 tonight, sleep tomorrow & go back on 2-3 Monday so I won't sleep in the AM but will play golf with Ray, I guess.
you can stop fretting about my flying lessons for a bit. Our aircraft is grounded for a routine checkup so we can't fly right now. Don't worry anyway, I'm in a long way from solo work and I'm in the best hands in the world as long as I fly with Roy. He flew that noonie she in this case would before being flown to Chatanooga. He has been 3 weeks getting it ready to fly and probably flies it a little late getting some work. I asked why and he told me he was to fly the sick bird. I dropped the phone and headed for the flight line. He waved from the plane as he taxied it but an old P-108 that hadn't been off the ground in 2 1/2 years after he got to the runway I moved the car to the run way right by me. He kicked in the afterburner right over my head and the old plane shuddered and rose up in the air to 30,000 feet without a hitch. I stayed out there until he disappeared from view and then hit my nails for an hour until he came rolling into view again a far. This is about ready for
The trip to France. Of course he will have another plane flying on the wing - they flown in the water flights by single planes, those thousand - so he'll deliver the plane and come back in the 2-seated F-100. The same day Jeff probably gets a big three out walking that mile all by himself. He's a bright boy now and his certain Uncle has cautioned him about riding with strangers. Have you heard anymore from Uncle Claude? I'd write him again soon. Know his day drag for him about now.

I bought a grill like Daddy's yesterday - cost only $4.95 and even has a wheel on 2 9 leg. It got a thermos jug with a spigot there's no safe water supply away from the B.O.2's and it's all the humming charcoal lighter, the like for a cheap grilling almost tomorrow night - after we finish studying. Son at Ray's house now - he had a good 18 holes of golf - won over the other guys with an 84. That's marvelous on these Sandy Courses! I shot a 128 my first 18 holes - which is good for me - and for a beginning female.

Hell, I'd better stop. Ray is ready to start studying -

More later,

Love you both -

Betty