

12-9-1959

1959-12-09, 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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Identifier

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9 Dec. 59

12 noon

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on the day off for
this week - work both Sat &
Sunday for a change. I don't
mind too terribly though
because I will be lonely
without Ray. He is scheduled
for a cross-country to Italy,
Germany, France and England
and will be gone from Friday
the Sunday Nite. Polly, St.
Mary and Emilee leave here
for the U.S. either Friday
Nite or early Saturday a.m.
They should be in Charleston
by Sunday Nite or Monday.
I don't know if they plan
to stay a day or so in Charle-
ton, but, of course, they have
to get discharged and that
takes time. So don't worry
about Polly until you see

her. She & Emilee may drive from Charleston with Mary who lives in Pennsylvania.

Last nite 8 of us drove down town to eat dinner at the Lanterns as a going away party for the gold. Ray was flying so he couldn't go. We got home at 10 pm and he was here curled up in a chair in the day room watching T.V. He was so tired he promptly went to sleep as soon as he knew I was back safely from Arab territory. He hates for me to go off base without him.

I just talked to him on duty and he has to fly again tonite. The gang of us are going to the Club to eat together, and he will join us after he gets down about 8³⁰ pm. This should be the last night he has to fly for 6 months at least.

The girls are out now clearing the base - takes about 2-3 days

3 to accomplish that.

I'm off because my ~~Mechanic~~
wants me on duty every day
from now on until we admit
the Queen of Libya (tomorrow)
and operate on her Tuesday.

I have orders to clean & clean
a 3-bed room with an adjoining
bath so the King Idris will
stay in one room & the Queen
and her secretary in the other.
There will be guards, interpreters
and the like also and military
special nurses 24 hours
a day. If anything happens
to her, will all hang, I guess.

I got Daddy a Christmas
present today but it will
probably be late by the time
I wrap & ^{air} mail it - yours
is on its way, Mom, but it
will be late too - I sent it
by boat - My clothes came by
boat & that is 30 days at least.
I mailed my Christmas cards
by boat too so don't worry

about them.

Mary Ann is 4 years old tomorrow so I hope her present got there in time - I mailed it some time ago -

I still don't have definite promise of my leave but I should know soon - Ray is still guessing too. I'd be almost afraid to try to come without him because of the chance of getting flights back. He knows the ropes and I'd probably get caught and have to pay my way back commercially without him; so keep your fingers crossed that we get our leaves OK together!

I want to get this in the mail even though I haven't said anything - I'm so tired of this place, I have nothing to tell anymore.

Love you.
Dede