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
1959-12-14

Identifier
2017-219-w-r_Barto_ColdWar_1959-12-14

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm at Rapp's house waiting for him to shave for dinner. He arrived until 6 p.m., so I was dressed by the time he came back for me.

I got your letter with the reply about the Mary's house burning. I also got the note this afternoon. I'm glad you wrote! They were seamless but not neat, but they're alright. I had been thinking年前 my hair here. This week, and you knew how I hate them.

Mary was watering already for the country barn— the well comes beginning to be excited about the coming trip. Neither of us knows yet where she'll be coming, but it's pretty likely that we will— about 15 feet.

I think Adam's offer was the best, but I don't think we should use his. If anything should happen to Mary, I'm in the middle of her. We have a lot of money to rent me to take— enough any $5,000 to pay the costs. It's all this to me. Of course, if the idea was clear, we'd be quite happy to use this. I'm just most happy to be improving on someone else— unless it's my own! Mom & Pop!
The enclosed letter from Pelly says just the same as yours about his not having heard from the Spanish captain in the air force and that she has not written.

Pelly, Emile, & Mary should be in Charleston next week as their plane got off on time (not December 24th). They left here at 11:55 on December 25th (6:30 A.M. Charleston time). I thought Pelly & I would cry before she got on the plane. I was all teary up to keep from crying. I didn't have time to fix anything. I didn't want to leave the plane. I didn't want out of the airplane. I surely wanted out of the plane.

Christmas parties are beginning this week. All the English girls are appearing outside. I still don't feel Christmassy. I already have my Christmas present from my friends—Judy, Emily, and J. B. I don't know what I'll give me. All I want is for her to be here and not somewhere else. I'm just a little out of sorts this last weekend. She should be here for Christmas. She is in the hospital today for her hysterectomy.
It's a very generous meal
for so few. I will be glad to
see you when I get home.

Suffice to say, I'm very pleased with
the American foreign
policy regarding Egypt.

They can shout at the arrest of
the Prime Minister, throw rocks at us and
sometimes act like agents to
an illiterate old lady. You wouldn't
believe it! It was all right.

Raji, are you ready to go to see
the play? You know I got your letter
yesterday. I hope I'll see you at dinner—yours
for today. [Redacted]

I hope I'll see you soon.

[Redacted]

Love and Miss you.

Better