
Bette J. Barto correspondence

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12-26-1959

1959-12-26, 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

1959-12-26

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1959-12-26

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MEDICAL DATA SHEET

4:30^{pm} Saturday
26 December 1959

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I hope you had a good day Christmas. I had a very nice one, but there wasn't much of a Christmasy feeling in spite of everyone's efforts to make it look like that time of year.

Ray and I dressed up and went dancing on Christmas Eve and had our own little Christmas Party. He had his Christmas present from me 3 months ago - golf clubs and bag. I got mine from him a day early - a lovely white golf bag with gold threads throughout the white and trimmed in light brown leather. He gave me brown leather covers for the heads of the 4 Wood Clubs - all in all, I looked like a real golfer when we started out to play on Christmas morning - even if my score didn't bear it out!

Jane and Chuck played with us. We had breakfast at the Club then played 18 holes - finishing about 1 pm. Then we went to the

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golf shack for hamburgers. Then came back to Jane's and had egg nog made with peach ice cream and brandy. It doesn't sound very good but, as egg nog goes, it was O.K.

After that Jane and Chuck went out someplace to dinner, and Ray and I watched TV and snacked on fresh vegetables and cheese until we ruined our appetites.

I gather from your letter, Mom, that Pally is in Knoxville. You didn't actually say so, but mentioned Liz and lettuce leaves. He do miss many of the nice fruits and vegetables and meats.

This morning, Ray and I had breakfast again at the Club - and we couldn't eat the sausage - it tasted like it might be 10 years old - its probably due to whatever oil they fry things in.

It sounds like Helen will be packing again soon - how will she manage with 3 + a dog - geez!

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Mom, would you call Edna & Ray sometime, and tell them I have written a card, a letter & a Christmas Card and got all 3 returned as "party unknown". I don't know what mistake I'm making on their address.

I'll tell you I got her box of cookie mix & goodies. I haven't made any yet because everybody has run us crazy with cakes, cookies & candies during Christmas.

By the way, Mom, if we get our leaves, we will probably be able to have a birthday celebration for Ray and me together - his birthday - # 40 - is on 11 January & then 11 days later I can't deny 32 any longer. My hair is getting grayer by the day - never saw so many patches of silver in 11 months time - if I keep it up I'll be up with you in no time flat.

Well, we can't go out supper until 5 pm. The Queen is in X-ray having a gall bladder exam. We were about ready to send her home from her hysterectomy and she

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started vomiting daily. I surely hope we don't have her stay for a cholecystectomy. If she does, I'm pretty certain my leave will be cancelled. We can't take care of her on floor care. Must be military special round the clock and we just don't have that many. So hold your hat & hope. Ray says the base may close any day and we'll all be scattered to the 4 winds. I hope all this Regular Commission mess works out on time; otherwise he will be sent one place and me to another - that I wouldn't like.

Monday 4^{PM}

Hi - another delay in finishing this. I have the day off today and maybe tomorrow - still no word on leave - soon I hope.

Ray's working today and she's been cleaning my duty room. I'll stop & address an envelope for this so we can mail it tonight.

Love you both,
Bette