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.

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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 Christmas feeling in spite of everyone's efforts to make it seem like that time.

Ray and I dressed up and went dancing on Christmas Eve, and we had our own little Christmas Party. We 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!

Ray and Chuck played with me. We had breakfast at the Club, then played 18 holes - finishing about 1 p.m. Then we went to the
golf then for hamburgers. Then came back to Jan'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 Dally is in Knoxville. You didn't actually say so, but mentioned Liz and lettered Leaves. She is miss many of the real fruits and vegetables and treats.

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

It sounds like Helen are be packing again soon—how are the manage with 3 + a dog—going!
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.

Tell Helen I got her box of cookie mix & groceries. I haven't made any yet because everybody has run us crazy with cake, cookies & candies during Christmas.

By the way, Mom, if we get our leave we will probably be able to have a birthday celebration for Ray and me together — his birthday — 4 to 6 on 11 January & then 11 days later I can't deny it any longer. My hair is getting gray 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.

Here, we can't go eat supper until 5 p.m. The Queen is in very having a gall bladder attack. We were about ready to send her home from her hysterectomy and she
started vomiting daily. I surely hope we can 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 Specials round the clock and we just don't have that many. To 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 the been cleaning my duty room. He stoped and addressed an envelope for this so we can mail it. Write.

Love you both,
Dale