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
1960-01-22

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Dear Mom and Daddy-

About 32 years and 9-10 months ago, your biggest worry began with a bang! Sorry it hasn't eased up much even after all these years. I'm still lovable when I'm asleep, though!

My patients surprised me by wishing me a Happy Birthday. When I walked on the ward, the evening nurses evidently told them last night so I had cards and little gifts all day. I was supposed to work 3-11, but me and the new girls, Ann Bullington from Cardin, offered to switch with me, so I could go out with Ray tonight. We won't do much except go to the Club to Happy Hour and then for Steaks.

I did get one marvelous birthday gift though. Fold your breath, for the Colonel bless the scally head, signed my lease.
request!! If nothing happens I should get to come home about 3 to 10 February. Lau hasn’t heard from the rest yet so I’m praying he will get his too. Don’t feel anything at all, now, mom because I know you can’t feel very cheerful with all your worries and sorrow over Claude’s death. I only wish I were there now to help you when you need me. Just call Rose and let her help you, mom. They will take much of the burden from you. Stop worrying about the bills too. tell them Claude intended that his savings should be used to keep them from ever being a financial burden to you. Don’t worry about Hazel and whether she’s arriving it certainly won’t be long that to you just something else to add to the confusion.

I hope your weather has improved since your last letter. We are having cool but sunshine weather here. Write its cold as blazed 48 - 49 most each nite with a cutting little wind off the Mediterranean.
Work 9–11 tomorrow, Sunday and Monday so I hope we will get to play some golf. It was too cold last weekend really, but we played 18 holes Sunday anyway—frozen fingers and toes.

Ray should be here anytime now. It's late already, but this is his first day at work after 72 hours off to prepare for the hearing test. He still didn't improve much on it, so I guess he must admit he has some impairment from the years it gets. If it won't gross him, thank heavens, for he would as soon be shot and not to fly.

I'll stop and address this so we can mail it today. I hope I get to come soon now!

Love & Hope to see you soon.

Sister