3-10-1960

1960-03-10, 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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Dear Mom and Elmer,

I'm sorry I've been so lax about writing. I got back on Saturday night and I slept all day Sunday, signed on Sunday and have been on duty every day except yesterday. I go on 3-11 tomorrow for a 4 day stretch and then probably the hit the right stretch again for 7 days. Rose, the lucky stiff, signed off and length and played golf in 85° weather most every day. The little picnic ended yesterday and last night when he got home he was one more tired fellow. He likes the leave life better. I was off, so I cooked supper here for the first time since we've been back. My room was 3" deep in pure sand when we got here and I was on duty so soon I didn't get
it cleaned up until yesterday. To see water and polish I served T-bone steaks, Brussel
potatoes, carrots and cabbage, green beans and garlic bread that my aunts made me. We ate until he couldn't
move, as usual.

She's been reading about the Moro situation. Our base
offered aid, but there are 2000 miles close to the disaster
area, so we weren't needed. So far. Of course, if the typhus epidemic
goes out of hand they may need some of us yet. I am due my
shots this week, so thought I'd better get it. I took my small
jew and typhoid boosters last week. Ray is due all three
of his tab. He's like a 2-year-old about them - says he'll take
them if I give them to him. Guess I will, if you can catch
him.

Here's a big fat number four.
about that our tour will be cut back to 18 mo. as it was before I came. If that were my true, I'd rotate in August as we had planned. It does let my hopes build up, but it would be nice. The reason they say it will be cut is because the U.S. Air Company are coming over here and paying these damned Neds & Italians landlords 2 x 3 x what our Air force families can afford to pay for housing off base. The Air Companies subsidize their employees to much on base which the Air force does too, but not so much - so Air force families are being forced to pay rent in excess of signed contracts which means they have no protection at all. Anyday the landlord can say, you pay or move. Rentals have doubled in 2 years!

Anyway, Ray received his pardent for the next Air command
which meant he will be staying in jet fighters. The base itself is still a secret, but it will be one or two probably. It could be Seymour Johnson in New Carolina, Luke or Willie A FB, Arizona or Castle AFB (Calif). He are one or two others, but he will be happy in any of them because he fights. The finally convinced him and myself that he'd better take the assignment as a last resort to avoid being here with me. This way, if we aren't married before the holidays in August, he will have a better chance of getting our problems all worked up and also be in a better position to doing my assignment to his edge. If we knew where he's going, too, can request assignment there in preference to all else. Of course, if we are married before the holidays we will most likely get the same assignment with no difficulty at all.
Dear Pearly, I haven't written cause I thought she was gone already so I'll let her drop me a note from her new address as soon as she gets moved.

Mom, I wrote Marie and sent you a P.S., did you get it?

I'm sorry to hear about Marie's mother's operation. I've tried to find a suitable and the consolation is I can. I can imagine how upset the long-faced girls were.

Well, some of the girls are in for coffee and Ray should be by to go out somewhere so tell stop and do Chas.

Honest again, Mom, for a wonderful leave—all things considered and I don't think you will receive any more long-distance calls for awhile.

I love you both.

Sue