

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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Thurs - 10 MARCH 60.

5 ¹⁰/_{pm}

Dear Mom and Elmer,

I'm sorry we've been so late about writing. We got back on Saturday morn and I slept all day Sunday, signed on Sunday morn and have been on duty every day except yesterday. I go on 3-11 tomorrow for a 7 day stretch and then probably I'll hit the night stretch again for 7 days. Ray, the lucky stiff, stayed off and loafed and played golf in 85° weather most every day. His little picnic ended yesterday and last night when he got home he was one more tired fellow - says 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 cleared up until yesterday. So all washed and polished, I served T-bone Steaks, Baked potatoes, Carrot and Cabbage, slow green beans and garlic bread that my civilian nurse brought me. He ate until he could not move, as usual.

I've been reading about the Moroccan situation. Our base offered aid, but there are 3 USAF bases close to the disaster area, so we weren't needed so far. Of course, if the typhus epidemic gets out of hand they may send some of us yet. I am due my shot this week; so thought I'd better get it. I took my smallpox and typhoid boosters last week. Ray is due all three of his tabs. He's like a 2-yr old about them - says he'll take them if I'll give them to him - guess I will, if I can catch him.

There's a big fat rumor going

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. I can't let my hopes build up, but it would be nice. The reason they say it will be cut is because the U.S. Oil Company are coming over here and paying these darned Arabs & Italian landlords 2 + 3 X what our Air force families can afford to pay for housing off base. The Oil Companies subsidize their employees so much on rent - which the Airforce 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 forecast for THE NEXT AIR COMMAND

which means he will be staying in jet fighters. The base itself is still a secret, but it will be one of 3 or 4 probably. It could be Seymour Johnson in N. Carolina, Luke or Wallis AFB, Arizona or Castle AFB, Calif. He are one or two ^{George} others, but he will be happy over any of them because its fighters. We finally convinced him and myself that he'd better take the assignment and not try to extend or no more with me. This way, if we aren't married before he rotates in August he will have a better chance of getting our problems all lined up and also can be in a better position to swinging my assignment to his base. If we know where he's going I, too, can request assignment there in preference to all else. Of course, if we are married before he rotates we will most likely get the same assignment with no difficulty at all.

See Pacey I haven't written
cause I thought she was gone
already, so here her to 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 Mom's operation. I'll
try to find a suitable card
for Convalescence if I can. I
can imagine how upset the
Longmire girls were.

Well, some of the gals are in
for coffee and Ray should
be by to go out someplace,
so I'll stop and do chores.

Thanks 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
Dede