3-28-1960

196-03-28, 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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23 March 1969
3 am Monday

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on night duty - 3rd rice with
4 men to go before I get a day off.
He pull this every 5 weeks now, so
I know what I have to look forward
to.

We have had 4 days of "ghibli"- solid
sand to breathe, so Ray hasn't had much
work to do all week - then they had to
fly all day Saturday to make up for
last time. Then the sand is thick in
the air, the jets don't fly.

He had a real lucky streak
yesterday. Ray made a deal to see
the little Volkswagen for a very
good price. He didn't expect to see
it for some months yet, but it was
too good to miss. So, after tomorrow, we
have only the old Buick to drive, and
we hope to sell it, too, very soon.
My bicycle may be our best mode
of transportation again before long. Ray
has applied for permission to ship
a new Volkswagen directly from Germany
to Charleston. When he comes home it will be
waiting at Charleston for him. I want
to buy a Karman Ghia, which is a Volks wagon convertible, before he leaves, so he can make certain he isn't being gipped. Then, later, when we decide which thing we want—probably a year from August, we want to sell his Volks and buy an American station wagon to travel in. Anyway that's what we think now—what we will be able to afford by Aug. 6th is a Duesenberg or another C авт.

Tell Helen there aren't any studios here for making good pictures, and I don't even own a camera, so I may have to wait a bit for a good picture of Kay.

I thought I had written you that the suitcase and the shoes from Europe arrived Wednesday of last week. The suitcase was in perfect shape, so I plan to mail you a load of my best winter clothes to have cleaned for me. I'll let you know when I get it mailed. I think, if you will, Father have Swan Smith Cleaners do them. I will write notes on the various garments that will tell them what I want done on each. Now, when I get my clothes from Hamilton's, I'll be set set with all my packages from the U.P.
Ray is supposed to come by for me to go eat breakfast with him at 7 a.m. I hope he hears his alarm. He played golf all day while I slept, so he was warn out before. If the weather clears, he'll have a full day of work while I snooze today.

I got stuck with making out the time schedule for this month; I've finished all of it except the emergency health roster and it has me stumped because I can't figure out any system that she has used to select the girls. I think she just pulls a name out of a hat and uses it. Not way some girls pull one 2 or 3 times in 2 weeks while others never pull it. Don't think it's fair, but then, lots of things here aren't.

I hope your health has improved. What happened to Hazel & Sandra & the high waters in Panama? How she will really have a sad tale to tell if it got their house. Don't you dare sneer and give her money! Mom, for she doesn't deserve Claudia's hard earned money. Mind what I say, now.

I'd better quit for now and do some chores. I have a pre-operative exam to give shortly & some epidural medicines before another time.

Glad you feel like work again, Eleanor.  

More later, love ya.  

Betty.