

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

1960-03-28

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25 MARCH 1960  
3<sup>am</sup> Monday

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on night duty - 3<sup>rd</sup> rate with  
4 more to go before I get a day off.  
I pull this every 5 weeks now, so  
I know what I have to look forward  
to.

I've had 4 days of "ghiblis" - 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. When the sand is thick in  
the air, the jets don't fly.

I've had a real lucky streak  
yesterday. Ray made a deal to see  
the little Volkswagon 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 Volkswagon directly from Germany  
to Charleston. When he comes home it will be  
waiting at Charleston for him. I want



to buy a Karmen Ghia, which is a Volkswagon convertible, before he leaves, so he can make certain I'm not being gipped. Then, later, when we decide which kind we want - probably a year from August, we want to sell his Volks and buy an American stationwagon to travel in. Anyway, that's what we think now - what we will be able to afford by Aug. 62 is a horse of another color.

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

I thought I had written you that the suitcase and the shoes from Spence's arrived Wednesday of last week - 15<sup>th</sup> March. The suitcase was in perfect shape, so I plan to mail you a load of my best winter clothes <sup>in it</sup> to have cleaned for me. I'll let you know when I get it mailed. I think, if you will, let rather 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 with all my packages from the U.S.



Ray is supposed to come by for me to go eat breakfast with him at 7am. I hope he hears <sup>my</sup> his alarm. He played golf all day <sup>yesterday</sup> while I slept, so he was worn out ~~last~~. 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 call 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. That way some of us pull call 2 or 3 times in 2 wks while others never pull it. I ain't fair, but then, lots of things here aren't.

I hope your weather has improved. What happened to Hazel & Sara & the high waters in Campa? Now she will really have a sad tale to tell if it got their house. Don't you dare weaken and give her money, Mom, for she doesn't deserve Claud's hard earned money. Mind what I say, now.

I'd better quit for now and do some chores - I have a pre-operative enema to give Shertly & some piddlin' medicines before quithin' time.

Glad you feel like  
work again, Elmer.

More later; Love U.  
Betty