1960-04-13, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto
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.

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13 April 1960  
5th Wed.

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm sorry to be so late in writing this week. I've been on duty 7-3 for ten days straight—no day off and I've had a meeting to go to nearly every afternoon after work. By the time I do my wash, set up another uniform, and dig up something to cook for Ray and me it's 1 a.m. and I'm too bushed to write.

I must have missed one letter from you, Mom, for I didn't get any note from Patsy. Maybe you left it out or something. I did get an April fool card and a big long letter from her from Richmond. She sounds pretty glum about most aspects of her new job. I guess she was so disappointed about not getting Denver first-off that the one at Richmond was a let-down. I wonder if Patsy would be happy anywhere.

Ray has been sick for two days, but finally got our shots all finished the other day and he is really allergic to Typhoid Vaccine. He was as sick as I've ever seen anyone be...
noon Monday and doubled up with your arm all over by 3 pm. He got a little better, but could barely raise his arm to spoon some soup by 8 pm. The next day, yesterday, he did go to work, but didn't do much. He could move his arms better last night, and so he flew today. He should be home soon for supper. I don't have much to cook - though I might make a fish casserole or something, if he wants it. I haven't been to the store in 2 weeks, on duty 'till after the commissary closes, so were eating all I bought 2 weeks ago Friday.

I have 3 days off this week, 5st & Easter Sunday. I hope to go to Church service @ 0830, have a waffle brekfast with Jane & Chuck, and then play golf. I can't go to Church latter for I have no hat - guess I should have mailed my summer bonnet over here - too late now.

No, I haven't gotten Liz's gift yet, but I will this week. Since we have only the one car, I can't go picking up base until Ray gets home & then Mr. James's shop is stuck - maybe this weekend I'll get it - go don't you.
I surely hated to hear of Mary Ann's illness. If you want to send her something for me, do - a dress or football or toy, I don't care and I'll pay you. I sent her a dinky little Easter card like yours. That's all we could buy. I sent the kids each one - I was ashamed of them all!

I'll get Jule something for her birthday too. I feel forgot it - even have it written down. Ray was so deep late on his card. Money order for his oldest boy also the last of March. Maybe when we get back home, I can help him keep up. I passed at him a week before it was due - he still was late. I think this country is conducive to tardiness.

To put in touch with the world of the U.S.A. We forget. It sure doesn't seem like Castertown.

I'm hoping, Elmer, you are better by now - and that spring will soon be there to help you with your breathing troubles. Go easy on the house work, Mom. Helen can help when she comes. She will anyway. I'll just start something to eat.

Love you both,

Belle