
Bette J. Barto correspondence

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5-22-1960

1960-05-22, 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

1960-05-22

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-05-22

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MEDICAL DATA SHEET

Sunday
7^{pm}

22 May 60.

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on duty (3-11) - have been for 3 miles and have 9 more to go! It's killing me. Tonight I am experiencing a little of what I've got to look forward to after July 6th. Ray is somewhere in the middle of the Mediterranean on a British Royal Navy aircraft carrier. He left this morning at 1030 in a J-Bird with another Capt. to fly to the island of Malta. There they were to be picked up by the British ship and then set sail for some place on the high seas. Tomorrow, at some undisclosed time, a squadron of our aircraft (F-100's) will pull a mock attack on them. Only their admiral knows about it before hand. If they detect the arrival of our planes and get theirs in the air to meet us, they will be told not to shoot. If they don't detect our planes, they are supposedly sunk. Ray and Lucky are supposed to analyze the success or failure of their showing. It should be fun - after it is all over, they will be brought back by helicopter

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to Malta and come back home Monday
nite or early Tuesday morning.

You've probably heard Ike's announce-
ment about an aircraft from Wheelus
being down in East Germany. There were
nine people on board - two of whom
were one of our flight surgeons - Dr.
McCask and his wife. I don't know who
else was on the plane. It was on a
moral flight from here - I don't
know the particulars as to why it
was forced down in the East zone.
Our base commander left here this
morning to begin negotiations to get
our people back. He heard they
were all dead at first - so I hope
the second report is the right one.
I was at Lockland with Dr. Green Cash.

I've been very busy on duty for
the last 2 evenings and only nominally
so this evening. Gene is on this
place specialling my only really
ill patient - a bleeding duodenal
ulcer. They went in on him last
night and did a gastrojejunostomy
to by-pass the duodenum so it could
rest and perhaps stop bleeding. He

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is much better after 23 pints of blood, but is still bleeding in both directions. They gave a base wide call for blood and got 53 pints. They couldn't accept a lot who came because it was Saturday night and the alcohol content was a trifle high. One drunk at the Officers club almost fell trying to climb into the ambulance to come to the hospital to donate his blood!

We have had 5-6 days of Temp. over 110° - and even up to 125° on the flight line. It was so bad that the base commander called off all flying and said "everybody, go home" because the crew chiefs that service the aircraft were dropping like flies from heat. Of course the planes are air conditioned in flight, but its terribly hot getting them ready to go. The temp is back to normal now - only about $90-100^{\circ}$. so its lovely beach weather.

We are all very brown already. Ray and I spent 3 hours from 9-12 yesterday morning on the beach and he refused to wear any lotion since it didn't feel hot - so guess who

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was moaning about the heavy, old rough parachute straps on his tender beet red shoulders this morning! He will learn one day, I suppose.

The Bureau of Int. Revenue got me for \$26.83 more this year. I filled out the short form - since I had nothing to be exempt for.

Mom, do what you like about the table cloth. I can't remember the green one at home - there's no rush anyway.

I'm sorry Minnie Howell is so much worse but I wouldn't want her to linger on & on if she is suffering terribly.

Polly owes me a letter - I heard from one of Emma's friends that she is definitely going to Denver in July. I hope Polly gets too also.

Well, I have a couple of chores to do before lights out, so I'd better stop for now. I hope you all are well - letters have been slow in coming - some days no one gets any. I got one from you 2 days ago - the first in 5-6 days.

Love you
 Mom later
 Betty