1961-06-06, 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
1961-06-06, 1961-06-07

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-06-06

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6 June 41.
1030

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I’m on duty and, for a wonder, we are down to 10 patients; so I have a little time between surgery patients to start a note. Ray and I spend so much time in the yard after work that it’s almost bedtime as soon as I do the dishes after supper. Ray barbecued chicken on the outdoor grill last night and we didn’t finish until 9:30. It was good though.

He plans to spacer up another area along our back fence to site for green peppers and some more tomato plants that we’ve been growing in the kitchen window. The ones in the garden are huge and are ready to bloom. Our corn we knee high and growing like mad. We may not have much more but we have vegetables ‘a-comin’!

There isn’t much else going on, just work and go home for me. Can’t think of anything else I’d rather do so long as I have Ray here. He will probably be going again this coming Friday to Egan for approximately 2 weeks. After that we don’t know. He hopes that will cancel the other trips I mentioned. If not, I will become a bona fide orphan.
Ray was so glad to be home. I think he must have gone hungry down there — just to save money, because he lost five pounds! He said the food wasn't good, so he didn't eat except breakfast and lunch. I was so upset with him — I ate only 2 meals a day, too, but I didn't lose a pound! It isn't fair.

He has to resubmit the paperwork to someone else on the furniture. Helms Transit Co won't accept the responsibility. We are going to write directly to Sears President. Ray has the address. If you want to, tell the Knoxville store, we don't intend to be treated like this; we aim to go to the front office! This is ridiculous! We enclose a check, Mom, for the rest of the furniture, and pay the rest for the lingerie, bathroom equipment, and various with pay day. I'm sorry to drag it out this way, but these trips keep us guessing on how much he must spend to live & eat. This is so good with his money; you know who's the spendthrift in the outfit!

Tell it's time to go eat a sandwich. One of the other nurses & I are trying to save money at lunch because we don't need the starchy chowhull food anyway — you pay 65c whether you eat a full meal or soup & crackers! We finish this tonite. Love you.

Besk —
7 June

We worked too late in the yard—
I planted all our kitchen garden
in the back yard—green peppers
and tomatoes while Ray cut the grass
and trimmed around the flowers.

We will have cold meat over for dinner
tonite, so I'd better finish this and get
it in the box or you won't get it this
week. I had no envelopes at home.

Here are the kids pictures. They are
fluttering about ever. I hope we can see
them one day soon.

Love you both.

Belle

How much do I owe you on Mr. Goddard's
flowers? I am so sorry about his death.