1960-06-11, 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
1960-06-11

Identifier
2017-219-w-r_Barto_ColdWar_1960-06-11

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm on duty - but I'm supposed to have a free day - after I relieve one of the other nurses on a seriously ill patient. Ray is playing golf and doesn't know that I'm to be off early so I guess I could do a few chores in my room before he comes over at 5 pm. We were hoping to go to the beach this pm, but the weather has been really unreliable today. It's hot as hades, but no real grey looking - fine rain - not much beach weather.

6 pm, 12 June 60.

Hi again, I didn't get very far on the letter yesterday - had a patient admitted. The weather cleared by 11 pm so we did go to the beach. I'm very brown and Ray is just catching up with me. He goes to Germany day after tomorrow to drive the new little car to the spot where it will
He shipped to Charleston and be there waiting on him when he arrived. I am at his room watching TV. I played golf from 8 am to 10 am. Went to the beach from 2 to 4 pm and then came back here to eat cold fried chicken and green salad.

I got your letter yesterday saying you hadn't heard from me in over a week. I've written, but I don't remember what day it was. My letters will be more frequent very soon, I imagine. Then Roy comes home to the US. We'll have a lot of free time that I haven't had in the last year.

I heard from Tally this week. She will be going to Denver 28 June due to go to work 5 July. She said Emilee heard from her father that he had lain in his one remaining lung and had only a little while to live, so Emilee is not going to Denver with Tally just now. I guess Tally will live in Barbara if Barb wants to move off base with her since Barb is still in the Air Force.
I haven't mailed the white shoes back yet - should get them in the suit case in the mail this week. Don't try to send me any more sandals, Mom, for I'm too hard to fit. I found a pair of 3.45 sandals (made in Europe) that will do, so I hope you can get a refund on the white ones - tell me the price & the size and Carol will pay you for them.

I'll send you Roy's address, but you'll see him before you'll need his address. He leaves here 6 July and should be in Charleston 8 July and from there to his folks & then back by your house sometime around 18-19 1/2 July.

I received word day before yesterday that I've been selected for regular air force - this was what we've been waiting for for 6-8 months! I'm not regular until I'm sworn in, but I've accepted the commission so it's only a matter of time. Ray is more
11 June 60

Excited about it than I am, you didn't much think they'd want me from the way Major Methaika had treated me here. They said she was only a small segment of this air force and I guess he was right. Anyway, soon we'll have a new serial number— a short one with a "W" on the end of it.

Things have been very quiet here since the C-477 incident. The 9 people on the plane won't even be coming back here. I imagine they will be sent to the USAF hospital. The 2 pilots were grounded permanently so they are finished with the Air Force as a career. There's a lot more to the incident than appeared in the newspapers.

By now Allen, Jerry and the kids should be there with you. I hope you will take some pictures. I heard they've grown like weeds.

John Benny is on TV so I'll quit for now, since I haven't really anything much to write about—back to work in the morning.

Love & see you write

Date

More next time