6-18-1960

1960-06-18, 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.

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Dear Mom and Laddy,

I suppose I should be taking a nap before going on duty at 11 pm but I can't seem to get sleepy now. I've had two days of 3-11 and work 11-7 today and tomorrow night, so I guess I can stand 2 more without much sleep. Ray has been in Germany since Wednesday and is due back tomorrow probably about 11 pm after the 2 work. I have really missed him, but I've managed to keep busy. I've gotten a lot of chores done that I've put off for ages.

I mailed the suitcase full of winter clothes to be cleaned. Please keep account of what it costs you. Mom feel you never told me what the summer ones cost last year. I also put the white shoes in, that I couldn't wear. I probably should have air mailed them to you but I didn't for them to last anymore. I enclosed the
Ticket too. I'll send a check in this letter to cover the balance and also an extra $3.00 for you to send the Hanchees for Edley. We've been very concerned about their kindness in keeping my pup.

Tomorrow is Father's Day. I hope you get my card, Elmo — I mailed it early but I was afraid it'd be lost if I didn't. I wonder if Helen, Joey and the kids are with you now at down in Etna. I'd love to see them all.

I finally ordered the tray for Liz Long Ascensio and am to pick it up tomorrow or Monday and maybe I'll get it mailed to her soon — in time for her to pack and mail it to Spain — I guess!

I don't think I ever commented on the drapery material you sent. It is lovely, Mom, and I know you have the house all pretty for Sister. I'm glad you painted the outside — especially the porch floor and gutter. Elmo is getting tired of the red as I suppose the neighbors were to.

Well, I sold Ralph's television and air-conditioner in his room today.
One of the nurses goes with a patient and she wanted the room ray to be on, she'd like the TV + air conditioner too. That will take a look. If I keep mind so the do we have to spend our last few days hunting a trigger.

My new job in medicine is running me nuts. The doctor we work for is real sweet, but he is very confusing in the manner he writes his orders. I had a diabetic come in in decompensation and he changed I.V. fluids and insulin, ordered every few minutes until neither the nurse nor I knew what he was doing. I hope I can eventually straighten out some of that mess when the Capt. is replacing. Finally gets out from under foot. But the forgetful, a lot of medicine while I've been on Surgical ward - so at least my walk hours will be consuming of time and interest after half leaves me. I have no time to think about anything but the job these days.

All the girls are getting ready to go to the club or out somewhere - except me or two of us who work at 11 p.m. I'm not
Ordinarily I'd like to see any of this. If Ray is off and I am, we're usually gone by this time. I'd better be getting used to it though as I'll be seeing it right after soon.

She started reading again a bit and I probably will sewing soon too. If you think of it some day, send me my embroidery hoops and the back bowls or something to work on. It isn't too anything like that over here.

Ray got his pictures back from his trip on the British aircraft carrier. They are really good - he borrowed a slide projector to see them on. I hope I can get one on before I leave here. They cost about 1/2 what we paid. Flatlander.

Still, it'll put you rest and maybe make a line off to Polly. I love her one.

Love you both.

Bette