1960-08-21, 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
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Capt. Belle J. Harris

Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville 16
Tennessee
Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm in Germany! I thought that would surprise you. I got called out on an emergency air Evac flight to go to Toronto, Italy to pick up a 3 week old infant with intestinal obstruction on the left at 5pm Thursday night and by the time we had radio trouble and had to wait in Italy for the infant to come by ambulance from a small dispensary, it didn't get to Weisbaden, Germany until 0645 Friday morning.

The child was severely dehydrated, so it was receiving lots of fluids all the way. The dispensary was so stupid they didn't even bring a bassinet and I sat in the cockpit of a big C-130 aircraft holding the infant on my lap all the way. I was paralyzed by the time I delivered it to Weisbaden Hospital.

I don't have a ride back to Belgium before Tuesday, so I'm staying with some flight nurses I went to
The countryside. The mountains in the background are about as high as 5km. Mountain in Hawaii. The grass is green, green, green and there are trees of all varieties as well as flowers. It is cloudy quite often and has sprinkled rain 3-3 times today.

I've been sitting in the community kitchen here among the flight nurses. There is a constant stream of them through here to eat a sandwich or for coffee. My room is too cool to sit in—after 112°F temp. It's freezing up here!

I went to the AFEX to buy an extra sweater because all I packed was a dress and a sweater. Everything else I had was in my truck, and I didn't have time to hunt it.

Well, it's getting close to dinner time, so I'll quit and go press something to wear. So nice up here but I'm ready to go. (Wheelus where my mailbox is, I miss your and Ray's letters!)

I miss you, [Name].