1960-08-29, 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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Monday Night
29 August 60
11:30 PM

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I just finished a long letter to Ray and I imagine you'll get a shorter one because that bed is beginning to beckon to me. Six o'clock comes pretty early. I had to write Ray frantic because I wanted to tell him all the stuff I had learned about what it would involve for us to get married over here in October. In order to ensure my getting assigned to Tiffany's, I put my case now, like we can accomplish that most of the paper work before Ray arrives so he won't have to use all the leave time chasing down the legal angles. He would have to be married twice — once down in Tripoli by the Libyan Consulate and then again on base at the Chapel by a Protestant Chaplain. I asked Ray if he thought he could take getting married twice in one day to me. He seems agreeable. Don't get excited about it until I tell you to. We are just thinking over this in order to ensure our futures. It may be more difficult than
it appears to be at first study. I've been buried in all three Regulations governing married men. So decided it would be easier to marry an Arab than for me as an officer to try it.

I got the fabulous tablecloth today. Mum, Mrs. Freesby, will love it. I wrapped it up pretty in white tissue paper and tied pale green ribbon and sent it to her at work. Fonte by Anne still hear how she likes it tomorrow— but I know already she will be so surprised. She'll think you— never think anything for herself— just does for someone else. How much did that one alone cost? I'll send you a cheque— these things run into money!

By the way, I'm confused. What am I supposed to do with the gold thread you sent me with the beige for my clasp. I thought it was solid beige— did you not notice the gold or have I jumped on my clasp?

Mom, don't worry about the tiger I asked for. I'm not as eager to
mail Ray this very pretty new piece. I can't wait. I also sent the tiger in later. So if you haven't bought the gridle, don't put it off any longer. I'll need it soon anyway.

I hope your knee is better when you read this and I hope Budgie doesn't go on suffering too much longer.

Have Helen & Judy rented the house yet? I hope so. That's sure to love that view at the last moment.

By now, you know Ray's Ok. I got a letter telling me he had just talked to you. He said it made him feel better just to hear you. I didn't make it seem so far away. It is a good day, Mom, and I think you just about flew the mom, but I knew you did. So here!

Well, Elmer, you're about to have a big birthday. I haven't mailed your package — its awfully hard to get to the post office after I get it wrapped. I hope you'll get it soon. I'll just read it twice more before I send it. Love &忠实, Bud