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1960-09-04, 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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Dear Mom and Hugh Elmer,

I have just finished my usual afternoon chores, and am ready for work again in the a.m. Seems that about six I do anymore. It's a lovely Sunday—almost feels like fall even if everything still looks like midsummer here. We do love a bit of a breeze today and we noticed the autumn is a little more getting here after I got up in the morning, so I guess it's getting along toward bad pumpkin time for me, even if I do feel the calendars and clocks have gotten up on me. One hundred and thirty-seven days are or less and it isn't as long as it has been.

Tomorrow is Labor Day for most folks and it is Labor Day for me but on duty. My holiday will be Wednesday instead. I don't have much like for days off anyway, because I spend them here in my room. Working on something anyway. We are to have 7 nurses added to our new ward being opened that none
of my crones are off where I don't care much.

He didn't get any mail until Tuesday because of the holiday, so I haven't had a letter from you or Ray since last Tuesday. I got your letter with the TV thing in it and mailed it back Mon.-11/18. I have the letter - I haven't heard from Ray since he returned from his first cross-country to Waco, Texas. He wrote me from there - had a good flight out and expected to be back at Seymour by 6 pm last Monday - our mail is getting slower and slower.

I have Daddy's birthday package about ready to go but I won't get it mailed before I'd probably let you know when. Let's not be too fast - just something to show I didn't forget.

Ray should be getting the key I made for him to weld onto his flying suit. I'm eager to hear if he likes it.

There's not much news worthy stuff here. We got an emergency air-raid alert here full by our troops who were beat up in the longs - they stayed overtime and really had some tales to tell
I wasn't on duty so I didn't see any of them - they left in the early part for the Continent.

Mom, I have a few Christmas gifts for Helen's brother and I want to get them mailed as soon as I can so as to avoid the rush at the post office around 1 November - so if you will send me Helen's new address as soon as you get it I'll try to send them on - I don't want to have everything till the last minute because if Ray and I do decide to marry here, I'll be busy with the Arbyrana and won't want to keep Ray mailing packages while he's here. I'm going ahead with a formal request to my Commander to be married so by Ray gets the leave, things will be ready - way completed. I have an apt. with Col. Cade due to sign the request - from them on it's up to the Military machine at the Arbyran tape Tangle!

Mom, how much do I owe for both my table cloth & Mrs. Salzburg? I want to pay for them.

Anne and I are going to the Club for dinner so it better
quit paddlin and find something to wear—all my summer clothes need cleaning and I'm just going to wait till I get home if I can last with nothing to wear. It's to date to pack—wardrobe time, I should make it since I seldom wear a dress now. I'm back to wondering what I wore before I got my blue jeans. That sounds familiar, Mom?

I'll include a cartoon that Ray sent me from Teisco—it does look like you two with your 2 television sets.

I'll quit for now—try for more Tuesday—hope I get a letter too.

Love you
Miss you—

Betty