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Bette J. Barto correspondence

CAWL Archives: Cold War and Interwar Periods

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10-24-1960

## 1960-10-24, 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

1960-10-24

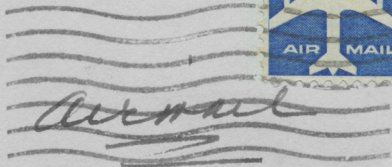
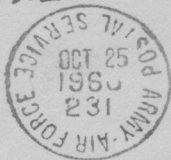
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7272 215AF HOSPITAL  
APO 231 USAF  
NY NY



Mr. & Mrs. H. E. HARRIS  
1717 Highland Avenue  
Knoxville 16  
Tennessee

11<sup>10</sup>/<sub>pm</sub> 24 Oct 60.



Dear Mommie + Saddy,

This won't be very long because your youngest doctor has had a busy day!

Ray is lying on the bed reading the paper and telling me this and that about his day downtown among the arabs.

He got here at 7<sup>10</sup> pm Sat-  
urday eve. I was getting ready to go meet the aircraft just in case he should arrive, when I got a call from the Radar Station telling me that MATS aircraft #271 had a passenger on board who would like me to meet the plane. I almost drowned trying to finish my shower and I had to go down the hall to get one of the other girls to hook up my dress - My fingers wouldn't work!

-2-

I made it on time and it seemed as if people got off two hours before I saw him. I found out later, of course, that he flew the aircraft the greater part of the way - just to be busy during the trip.

He has spent all day today completing arrangements for our marriage by the Moslem rite of Tripoli. I spent all day Saturday job-bowing with their ruse!

The end results of our efforts we will know for certain by 10 am tomorrow. We go together to see the mayor & sign a paper posting our bans. He is going to set aside the usual waiting period because of Kai's short time here. If all goes as scheduled, we will be married between 9 + 12 am Thursday, 27 October by the Moslem - this ceremony will be after Italian law - it's Italian. We will then be legally married but we want our military ceremony too; so we will again be married

by a Methodist Chaplain  
 in our base Chapel at  
 2<sup>30</sup>pm Thursday - in our  
 uniforms! So, by the time  
 you receive this, there  
 will be two Captain Barto's  
 in the USAF. Don't use my  
 new name for mail yet,  
 though, Mom, because I  
 have to have orders cut  
 before I can legally be  
 called Barto by the air force.

Well, Mary, Mark are here  
 (Mary worked 9-11 today) so I'll  
 stop trying to write Grace.

Somewhat we will be  
 busy getting our uniforms  
 and clothing ready - plus  
 our morning trip downtown.  
 I also have to work at 7am  
 but will get off an hour to go  
 down and sign this one paper.

Goodnite for now, and we  
 will be thinking of you, and  
 wishing you could be with us  
 on our wedding day.

Love you,  
 Betty



Hi - Well I finally made  
the flight after two tries, the  
first Airways I was on had to  
turn around and return to  
Charleston, had trouble with one  
engine.

Your Daughter has lost some  
weight, looks real good, don't  
really know why she puts up  
with me, but I'm glad.

I'm finally here, we should  
be married by Thurs, and I hope  
and and sure we will be  
happy, very happy for the rest  
of our lives. Love  
Loy