1960-11-06, 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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6 November 60
8:30 pm Sunday

Dear Mom and Daddy,

No letter from you this week. I hope you are both well and not too busy to write. Ray and I have been going and doing things all week. I got my novel all ready and sent it off, but now I need my fountain pen and stationary either.

I love winter all week and Ray has managed to stay pretty busy all week. He is going to train on Sunday. He will be there only one more week and then we start the training again. It has been a wonderful two weeks for me and I am actually glad now that it was necessary for us to move over here. It has changed things for Ray quite a bit and a lot of the hard feelings he had for some of the people here have disappeared. Everyone has been wonderful to us. Ray got the paperwork off to get my military release changed.
to Reds. Bette B. Barto, as does, I can be Capt. Bar. The kids at work are calling me Capt. Bar. We owe them the phone about one out of three times as Capt. B., but it's still not supposed to use my name until I have ordered out.

The Libyan dinner given for us by the Arab Restaurant last Saturday night was a huge success. We ate Chicken Armed, setting on woven mats listening to a 6-piece Arab orchestra (drum and little high-pitched drums made of goatskins) very picturesque. As ever drank their whole sweet hot tea (stay he). My favorite we weren't all of them. Eileen, the girl who offered us her home, left for Nigeria on a Safari Monday, but Ray thought we'd better not stay out there all week since I had to be at work at 9:45 so we went out yesterday afternoon and had 2 more couples out for Charcoal Steaks. We had the grill in the middle of the open patio and pulled the woven mats up and waved the steaks while we watched. The Arab cook, Ibrahim, made us a green salad (we took the Chinese for cleaning the vegetables first) and it was a very nice dinner. The
Others went home, but Ray and I spent the night. He borrowed a car and we drove up this morning with coffee. He has passed through a few more and enjoyed the motor house until 1/2 p.m. Then we came back to ordinary living in our E.O. on base—ready for another week. Ray will probably fly some this week just to keep his hand in if it also to get current in the 100 c in case this base cables him that there is one in trouble for him to fly home. As it stands now, if he doesn't get such a cable he will probably go home on about 1/2 Nov. on a regular passenger car.

If Ray hasn't heard whether my orders for Kansas will be changed, but Ray is confident he can swing it; so I won't worry about it. If they fail to change it, I will resign my commission rather than spend 18 months somewhere else without him. I can get a job at 10 to 15 more money as a Civil Service Nudge in a military hospital. I don't want to do this, but I will if I have to.

He has many wonderful pictures of the wedding. I haven't seen any because I didn't want them later until I'm certain we love
Ray will bring a full set and we are having some of the best ones enlarged. They will go on and we will get them to you.

Ray will probably come to see you and get some of our stuff out of your attic. One of these days soon we already have one house and he will probably move into it when he gets back. Then he can better tell what we need.

I'll try to make a list of the stuff I remember that is stuck around 17 17 Highland, and let him bring it to you. I imagine he will have to get it sent by a car, since I would like to take my cedar chest and my dishes and your pots and pans if you still want to give them away.

Ray says the Cape that house we have has everything except a dining room suite. And we can do without that for a while. With a garbage disposal and a dishwasher, she'll be nice. After all anyway.

Well, the guilt running out of us—we're not too well equipped in this household—4 blocks from my room.

Love you both.

Belle & Ray
Mom, if you want to, you can see if the News Sentinel can use this writeup—
I didn’t know what they’d want—

Fred Back
'60