1960-12-25, 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
1960-12-25, Christmas

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1960-12-25

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Merry Christmas, Mom and Daddy,

I'm on duty and have several little jobs today. I'm Chief Nurse, Charge Nurse on my ward and the Dependent Surgical Ward, and I'm on call from 5 p.m. on when I get off duty. This is what happened to married Captains whose husbands aren't with them. I don't mind, for I would have had a lonely day if I hadn't had to work. As it was, I got my time schedule done and wrote one of the last two reports on my lieutenants before I leave here.

By now, Ray has probably told you the good news about my assignment change to North Carolina. That's all the Christmas present I needed! I will be home for my birthday early. I leave here on 16 December - don't know the date, but I'll see you when I get there.

I'm glad you are feeling better, Mom; you, too, Elmer. I enjoyed both of your letters, and I hope your Christmas presents got there, Mom. I mailed them early enough.

We have had a pretty nice Christmas even if it has been a lonely one. All the girls
Our room was decorated with items - trees and all. I even did a last-minute surprise. We had an invitation to a party on Friday or Saturday night and had a big home-cooked Christmas dinner last night (Sat.) in the quarters. Each of us contributed an item to the menu. I made sweet potatoes and marshmallows. One of the best courses was turkey. We had 20+ people and still had food left over. It was fun.

In the evening, I got gifts from the kids. They gave me gifts today when I got off. Anne saved her Christmas until I get there after work. We hope to go to church tonight. There are so many Catholic masses that Anne and I about the last two. They are all going to miss mass last night.

I will stop for now and get ready to report off on both wards.

More later.

Love, Belle