1961-01-01, 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
1961-01-01, New Years

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1961-01-01

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January 1961
11 pm

Happy New Year, Mom, and Elmer,
I had a lovely New Year's Eve stay with a letter from you and a big happy fat one from my husband. He evidently was trying to make up for all the ones he tore up while waiting for my orders to come through. Dear honey, he's had a bad time of it too. I hope all goes well with us now. He won't have a house right away, it looks like; we're still #7 on the list. I don't mind, because most of my stuff won't leave here until next Friday and since it will come by boat, it usually takes about 2 months. We'll make out alright anywhere as long as we're together!

I'm due to leave here on Monday 16 Jan. at 2:15 pm (that's 7 am your time, I guess) and I should be in Charleston
about 31-35 hours later. This, of course, can change from hour to hour due to weather and so on, so don't start getting until you hear from me. If a miracle occurs, I might even make it sooner, but I'm not getting my hopes up. She made it this far; I can do 15 more days with no sweat! Roy didn't say if you planned to come to Charleston to meet me with him, Mom, but I figured you might not yet feel up to the trip, so, if you don't, I'll call you as soon as I'm on the USS Foil, and will see you there. Therefore, I don't believe it yet; the wait is hard. I didn't even believe it when I saw the orders cut and half my belonging leave the other day as hold luggage.

I hope you have received your Christmases by now. Two of the girls parents haven't gotten theirs.
yet either. In case you don't, I had given you 2 a yellow Starter wiggle 6 yellow kitten shoes to match. 2) a toled leather writing portfolio with paper in it. 3) a bit of real ruy beads made like tulip buds with earrings to match and 4) an outdoor thermometer for Elmer to replace his old ugly patch thermometer. I think that's all; for I saved your other present thinking I'd bring it myself; now I'm unable to carry all I have left, so I've put it with my household goods. I have you a beautiful hand-made camel-suede handbag—big as you like.

Anne, my best buddy, had a bit of really sad news. Her folks were on their way to Florida to spend Christmas and someone broke into their wagon and stole all their gifts from Anne. It included a movie camera & pictures we spent ages taking for her Daddy. They & she were just sick.
I use the paper. I'm hung up on the ropes now—about to rotate? I used all my coffee today started using hospital towels yesterday, so I had stuff mine clean. From here on out, I'm a bum. Am wearing my roommate's uniforms and have to unpack, nearly to change underwear. Do you think it's not ready to get out of North Africa? I have step and get some sleep, I worked on clothes all day and didn't get any black-eyed peas! Isn't it plunk for Soldier's home? So I'm coming home! Could walk 5-6 more days before I bug out of this place.

Happy New Year and See you very soon.

Love you,
Belle