1961-02-07, 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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Hi you two,

This will be short. Ray has already given up and is fast asleep with his favorite television channel blaring in very nearly as bad as he can already. Mom, you sent me my own old letter, so it's safe to assume that Helen is enjoying her old one, too!

Thanks for sending the kids picture. It's unbelievable that Jack is that grown up! I know Helen. They are proud of Jeff and I hope they can do something to supplement his formal schooling else he will be bored to tears in very short order.

The work situation is shaping up. I have an excellent staff, so far. I don't care for my two main ward physicians, but I can take their prurient ideas as long as the Chief Nurse backs me. She has done this very completely, so far.

Ray is a little more integrated with his new squadron. They gave him two young captains in his flight and he fast his own F-105 assigned to him. Som he will have his special squadron code for the flight commander and his name painted on the plane. This makes the pilots very happy - to have their own planes!

I mentioned that his old squadron, the 33rd, were gave me a kitchen stove last Friday night. I got many little things which I am using already. I'm using an old bowl, measuring cups, potato peelers, even tongs, rubber spatulas, spoons, got holders, baking sheet, pans, after all the little necessities that mount
up when you buy them all yourself. It was so nice. Also, the 535th man asked Ray what to give me out of their first pay. Ray was really touched, because no one at Titus ever did anything for anyone! He may be #3 on the list by next week—so we are very hopeful about getting a house.

It's raining here again tonight and may go to see a show tonight. I hope not because Ray is due to fly the 3rd F-105 flight tomorrow and then he will be fully released to fly the F-105. For the first 3 flights, another aircraft must accompany the new man—then he can go it alone.

We have 2 big evening this weekend. Friday night my outfit is giving a cocktail party with all the other organizations of the 415th Wing. That includes chip's outfit so we both have to go—even if we hadn't planned to anyway. Then Saturday night is the Valentine Dance and at last getting a chance to wear my white mask and tux dress. Ray will wear his fancy new formal dress uniform. I haven't seen him in it yet.

Well, Jack Park is on and I have to get to bed or I'll never drag my sleepy head out in the morning.

I'll write again.

Love to,

Sis.