
Bette J. Barto correspondence

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2-7-1961

1961-02-07, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto

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Barto, Bette J., "1961-02-07, Bette to Parents" (1961). *Bette J. Barto correspondence*. 85.
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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

1961-02-07

Identifier

2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1961-02-07

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7 February 61
Tuesday Nite

Hi you two.

This will be short. Ray has already given up and is fast asleep with his favorite television channel blaring. I'm very nearly as bad as he is 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 & Jody 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 prima donna ideas as long as the Chief Nurse backs me. She has done this very completely, so far.

Ray is a little more satisfied with his new squadron. They gave him 6 young Captains in his flight and he has his own F-105 assigned to him. Soon he will have his special squadron color 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 333rd - wives gave me a kitchen shower last Friday nite. I got many little things which I am using already - mixing bowls, measuring cups, potato peelers, can tongs, rubber spatulas, aprons, pot holders, baking sheet, pans, sifters - all the little necessities that must

up when you buy them all yourself -
It was so nice. Also, the 33rd men
asked Ray what to give me out of their
pilot fund. Ray was really touched,
because no one at Hulus 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 shut or show tonight. I
hope not because Ray is due to fly
his 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 a big evening this weekend.
On Friday night my outfit is giving a
cocktail party with all the other
organizations in the 4th Wing. That includes
Ray's outfit so we both have to go - even
if we hadn't planned to anyway. Then
Saturday night is the Valentine Dance
and I'm at last getting a chance to
wear my white mesh and knit dress.
Ray will wear his fancy new formal
dress uniform. I haven't seen him in it
yet.

Well, Jack Parr 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 M.

Belle