2-15-1961

1961-02-15, 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 Mom and Daddy.

This may be a scratchy note. I'm in the middle of a wrangling upstairs, so I'll have to run, when I think it's time to put my things in the dryer! There are 2 new pieces of equipment and really busy most of the time, what with two full-fledged bachelors, girls and boys using them.

Barry is watching the Lone Ranger while he reads a few minutes after a busy day's work. He hasn't been doing much flying but he is more work related when he does. He reminds me of a bored, I imagine.

I dropped down and wrote Helen a short note about nothing last night. She got a lovely Valentine from her and Jody. I couldn't find a good one for the Saturday when I remembered Valentine's Day. So I didn't get one at all. I'm a jeep as a letter writer, I guess.

It's #2 on the January list. Well, but that's close. I keep hoping for a miracle. My things haven't arrived from Africa, anyway, but if the post comes up, we will manage. It will be so nice to have extra space and a home of our own.

I'm really enjoying my job. I don't work as hard as I had to at the mill, but the work is so easy
to clean up and the equipment is plentiful. I can ask for things and get them. In still being trying to get my supplies cleared out and well arranged, but it's coming along nicely.

The nurses will move into their fancy new apartment type quarters behind the hospital this weekend. Then I'll be the only girl in this B/2 - but who cares? I never see anyone anyway - off duty.

I'm very proud of my husband today, in part for a very special reason. He received a Commendation Letter, a very coveted item, for his very exemplary handling of his job as crews judge at the gunnery meet in Nebraska in September. It was signed by no less than 3 generals & cabinets, and a major. This is a long way toward promotion, which someone that he's been trying to sit down and thank you on paper for a job well done.

He also has received, a beautiful Officer Effective Rating, from his present Commanding Officer for this first 6 mo. Here these are the ways we advance in rank! He is a good officer, and I'm so happy someone is finally realizing something of his value. He certainly had it, thanks for his work in N. Africa, as neither did I. Well, that's all done!
It's so wonderful to be back in the states. The weather is getting nicer and it smells so good here among these pine trees — instead of camel dung and abad camera houses (outdoor toilets — no roofs, that is).

She drove 12 miles south of here Sunday afternoon to visit these friends of ours — a Major and his wife + 8 boys (all under 10)! She planted the tops of one Marigold plant in their backyard, sat and watched their kids play and chase squirrels in the yard, and came home. It's really beautiful country.

The Congo situation is really getting desperate. I'm happy to be home now because no one knows how soon it will spread to W. Africa. Only wish Mary & Anne + the others went home, too. It may not be too long before Ray will be back over there for at short time — someone has to deliver these letters to the squadron's wives. Who need them, and who don't know how to fly them.

Guess what we are going to do? We are signing up for a garden plot on base. They have a large area about a block from the hospital for truck gardens. We want to raise our own vegetables. If you and Daddy have any pots to spare we'd love to have them — if not, we'll buy some when
we decide what will need. They
glow the first time for us. Then
we're on our own.

Don't plan on it for certain, Mom
& Daddy, but I have 3 days off
on March 10-11-12. If Ray can get
Friday, the 10th off, too. We may try
to come to K'ville to get a load
of stuff. If we can get our house
by then, of course, we'd have to stay
here and move then, but keep the
date in mind — But Mom, if you
are thinking of going to see Helen
Joy & the Olympics. Go on, because
it may be that we can't come
then — it's only a possibility.

I'll send you a copy of our first
order to come out in the same
page. Everyone got a kick out of
Capt. Berlin — many I rates,
enlisted men didn't know he'd
married a nurse. They gave
him a fit over who extricated
whom.

I must quit — get supper on. We
are having sheen — seed — apple
salad. That's all — we are limited
as to the number of things we
can plug in at the time.

Write. Love to.

Hope your
shoulders and
bod and
what did Dr. Davis say about your
arm pain? — Don't write again. We
enjoyed your letter... Love, Daddy.