3-9-1961

1961-03-09, 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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March 9th
Thursday Morning

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm at home, propped up in bed watching Love Laneaway's show. I had to take the Thurs off this week, in order to cover my ward this weekend. I don't think this will happen too often, but Ray is having a fit, wondering what to do with himself Saturday and Sunday all by himself. I imagine he will either spend it on the end of a golf stick or a fishing pole.

We both have gone the fishing bug. Last Sunday we drove about 30 miles to a Long Lake and washed our little tug car on the bank. Then I could reorder my fisherman no longer, we got a boat and went fishing like everyone else. It was a bit early for plugs, so we only got one fish, but I had a wonderful afternoon at the end of the pole! Ray thinks he has a stout-in boat paddler, but I intend to wake him up when I get my fishing license. I'm waiting until I can get a bit of practice with the new spinning rod he got for me. So far, all I do is tangle up the line, so Teacher Ray has his work cut out for him. But, we have fun!

Mom, I'm glad you feel better and glad that Dr. Doe thinks your heart looks good. So keep
up with your medicines. I hope Daddy's shoulder will improve soon. I know how painful arthritis seems to be.

Thanks for handing the money, Mom. We hope to save more, but it will be slow for a while because of moving, and things we will have to leave in our house. Ray says probably you will not buy our furniture for us. He says you love that. We won't have to buy a living room suit new, so all we need is a dining room. We haven't made up our minds, but it's about ready to buy only a table and chairs new. The china cabinet is absolutely out of this world, both in looks and price.

Good news: Ray found out yesterday that we should be in our house by 15 April. Of course, it may be a bit earlier or later depending upon how much renovation (cleaning and repainting) is done after the family moves out, and before we accept the place and move in. They are pretty strict about the housing facilities, which is good—because some people simply don't appreciate what lucky deals these homes are. I'm getting excited about moving now, since my household goods are downtown waiting on me. I'm hoping folks wanting to sell it will have. Ray was very lucky with his; so maybe I will be. Except that I had so much more fragile things to fret over.
I see by the weather that you are having rain too. We had severe storm warnings yesterday but they didn't materialize, thank goodness! It's supposed to be clear today, but is much colder. Ray is supposed to fly his beloved F-105 today. I hope he gets to, because he has really been blue lately. They have so few planes that when he's scheduled to fly, either the plane is out for repairs, or the weather is bad. This is happening to all the pilots; so he's not alone. This plane is so huge, with so much complicated electronic equipment that it is hard to get it in the air with everything functioning properly. He is night flying tonight, too, but it's a T-33 (T-Bird), just to meet his night-flying requirements. They have to have so many hours of night-flying, instrument flying, weather flying (rain, clouds, etc), too many hours per month, etc. It's a constant type of thing, so that they all stay proficient in all things. Ray would fly anything, anytime whether they made him or not, though.

I wish you could see my beautiful flowers that one of my girl friends brought me last night. She and her family & 8 boys live down in the country about 15 miles from here! She brought jonquils, gorgeous pink Camellias, dark red Camellias, and some kind of little white bell-shaped blossoms I've never seen before. I haven't very fancy vases -- which
bottles, a small pottery coffee pot, a metal water tumbler—anything! But they are pretty anyway.

I'll include the signature card as soon as Ray signs it and then you have to sign it in B column on both sides.

Mom, as for the wedding gifts—save your money, and maybe you can get us a bedspread or a lamp or something like that. After we are in the house and know what color scheme we will need to buy. They are all different.

We still have a date on the 25 March weekend. Let's try to take one day as a free weekend that I have off to well—I don't clean or stock groceries because something may happen to keep us from coming.

I'll stop for now. I have to write to Ray's mother to thank them for a money order. Ray was absolutely floored by the gift. He says they have never done anything just like that before!

The kids Easter things sound cute. I can't imagine Joppie size.

More later!

Love you,
Belle
Have some of our luck, Mom! Elmore, we found 16 in one afternoon in our B.O. yard. I sent Helen and Jody one too!

9 May