1961-04-16, 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
1961-04-16

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1961-04-16

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Sunday afternoon
10 April 61

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I've just finished our usual eighteen hours of work and am now home and tired. Ray has had a little nap while I washed and rinsed my hair.

Our house is empty, raw, and they are scheduled to begin painting Monday or Tuesday. So excited, it's difficult to sit still and do nothing; when I know how much there will be to do as soon as we get in. We may get the steps by Thursday and perhaps get the smaller things in a few pieces at a time Thursday afternoon and Friday. Then perhaps the big things will come by next week. Of course it all depends on when they start
with the painting.

She bought 4 beautiful little gardenia plants yesterday to put in our yard. A friend of ours is going to give us some rose bushes. I have some red climbing flowers I'm going to plant in our garden, and then transfer to the yard before they start to climb. We have fertilizer for the grass, so we hope to have a pretty nice yard.

I wrote Jeff a little note and sent him some dinosaur pictures he found in our paper. He's like you, mom, I don't know what he wants with the ugly things.

Mom, I may want you to send me the bathroom set we ordered in white. I haven't been downtown to see what they have, but if it's like everything else, there probably won't be anything I'd want. I'll let you know though.
Our garden is really growing like mad. now. the corn, onions, tomatoes, radishes, cucumbers are all up and coming. the potatoes, lima beans, beets and canteloupes are a little slower but should perk up pretty soon.

Work-wise, we're both pretty busy. I teach my first class to the carpenter this Wednesday. I guess I'll be doing more of it once I begin. I'm in no rush to do it; I've gotten lazy in the last 2 years.

Well, I've really nothing much else to scribble. I want our house! it about all I think to help us with our way in this week.

Love & Miss you,

Bill & Ray.