1961-04-30, 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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30 April 61
1030 p.m.
Sunday 10th

Mom & Daddy,

Overlook the green ink; my pen is on the blink — no refills for it!

We are in our house and Glory can be almost settled. All our belongings arrived between 3 & 4 pm Friday and I haven't sat down, since I talked to you then. It is such a lovely place, we are so fortunate to have it. I wish you could rush right down and see it — even before I get my curtains up! There are white partition blinds on every window. They're not really dirty, but aren't clean; so I want to wash them before I put up my drapes & curtains.

The decor the tile floors but decided to let my workmaster
and several large men come over and do my pleases next Saturday. I lack only my two trunks and for all unfurled. Since I don't have the china closet, or short or desk space in the kitchen, and she probably has short or storage space for linen, since I don't want to leave any thing in the outside storage units. They'd be safe enough as far as being locked up, but everyone says it's so damp and humid here in the Summer that any clothing or sheet not kept in air conditioning may mildew. Ray says not, but I don't. Don't want to risk it.

We have had a lovely time on our patio barbecuing fresh chops. Tomate, steak, latex roots. Ray's beer, my cook. While I put things in order. The need to wash your hands
throw up a salad, set the table, and have your dinner served by the
man of the house! He doesn't mind
the cooking, but quickly disappears
at dish-washing time. That's even fun
though with the dishwasher. That's a life-
saver. I was able to love my whole
kitchen in order in one evening. All
dishes washed and put away and used
only one dish towel. The dishwasher isn't
fool-proof. It almost as soon as my
cooking gets us to fool with it, you must
practically wash them before putting
them in, otherwise they come out with
food almost baked in. I tried a greasy
spatula to see - that's how I'm learning.
Silen's can opener + salad maker
is the heresy too. To come on
down, your room's ready anytime.
Gotta go to bed - tomorrow's a work
day. Keep mugging on the chair now.
More later. Love you both.
Bye.