1961-05-19, Bette to Parents

Bette J. Barto
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.

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19 May 61.
1130 - Friday

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm sorry I've let you down on the letters this week, but I haven't sat down since Ray left Sunday.

That's the only way I can stand the empty check. Poor thing, he's already called once and I called him once, so our telephone bill will be a monstrous one before this three weeks is up!

He is eating and playing golf and going to class; that's all. He will lose money on the school too, because he only makes $4/day for going and it costs $6-$7/day for meals and his room and plus our usual expenses here. Of course, I'm saving money on food because I'm trying to lose the 6-7 # I've put on since I got home from Africa — it's baking that time. I eat breakfast at home, step lunch which is 65¢ whether you eat soup, salad, or the entire meal. Then I cook supper at home, if I want it. I haven't eaten supper for the last 2 nights, because I get so busy I can't stop to eat. I've already lost 4 #, I have the clothes finished and I had the whole piece that was on the front done last week! They really do look nice!
ask when I think of how much we've done, they ever looked better. Ray will be really pleased. He enjoyed the house and thought anything I do to it is just marvelous. Naturally that makes me want twice as hard to love it more for him. He's a big help too, because I never have to pick up after him and, in a pinch, he will even help me with the house chores. Naturally, with his absence, I love the yard to do, too—plus the garden. I got myself a handy blister from moving the yard last night. Then I dashed over and watered the little cabbage plants I set out two nights ago. We haven't had our usual quota of rain this week and the garden shows it. We thought we'd have no need for fertilizer, since we're in a new garden area, but we apparently will need it after all—N. Carolina's soil isn't as rich as Tennessee, I guess.

I'm in a Nurses' Meeting now after work. We have one about once a month and we hope they won't keep us all afternoon.

3:30 Saturday

I'm up early—going to skip housework and play golf today with Col. Monroe and two civilian ladies. He decided to play early and avoid some of the heat. I want to work in the garden this afternoon if the weather stays pretty or sunny as it is now.
I wanted to get this note in the mail so you'll get it Monday. I'm sorry I've been so bad about writing this week.

Mom, I can't buy my grades down here. I wonder if you'd be as kind as to get them for me. I'm almost in threads! I need two of the Peter Pan T-shirts long legged ones and one short Peter Pan T-shirt — large size. I'll pay you as soon as I get them. They have come in one store but that was weeks ago and they still haven't reordered the large ones. Don't rush about them and mail them to the 4th floor hop, because that way I'll get them at work and won't have to worry about re-delivery when I'm not home.

I'll quit mail this as I go to the golf course.

Love you both,

Bette

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MISS.