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Bette J. Barto correspondence

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5-16-1961

## 1961-05-19, 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

1961-05-19

## Identifier

2017-219-w-r-\_Barto\_ColdWar\_1961-05-16

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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 set down since Ray left Sunday.

That's the only way I can stand the empty shack. 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 + his room 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 Apica - it's bathing suit time. I eat breakfast at home, skip 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 rites because I get so busy I can't stop to eat. I've already lost 4#.

I have the drapes finished and I had the whole piece that was on the front door left over. They really do look nice,



and when I think of how much we've saved, they even looked better. Ray will be really pleased. He enjoys the house and thinks anything I do to it is just marvelous.

Naturally that makes me work twice as hard to love it nice 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 have the yard to do, too - plus the garden. I got myself a dandy blister from mowing the yard last night. Then I dashed over and watered the little cabbage plants I set out 2 nights ago. We haven't had our usual quota of rain this week and the garden shows it. He thought we'd have no need for fertilizer, since ours was 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.

8:00 Saturday

I'm up early - going to skip housework and play golf today with Col Mergo 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 sunshiny as it is now.



I wanted to get this note in the mail so you'll get it Monday. I'm sorry we been so bad about writing this week.

Mom, I can't buy my grades down here I wonder if you'd be so kind as to get them for me I'm almost in shreds. I need two of the Peter Pan Tiger long legged ones and one short Peter pan Tiger - large size. I'll pay you as soon as I get them. They have some <sup>small ones</sup> in one store but that was 3 wks ago & they still haven't reordered the large ones. Don't rush about them & mail them to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tac Hosp. because that way I'll get them at work & won't have to worry about pre-delivery when I'm not home.

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

Love you both,  
Bette

Ray's address:

Capt R. H. Barts  
A. G. O. S. Bldg. 5025  
KEESLER A. F. B.  
MISS.