1962-01-24, 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.

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm wondering how you and mom are. Are you well and at home or still in the hospital? I got mom's letter today, and it's about the back of diarrhea + tummy pains. I hope that's on by now.

Ray is Airman Officer today, and he can't come home until 8 PM, so I'm going to base operations to have a sandwich with him for supper. He has had a busy day with several high ranking officers landing here because of bad weather.

I hope Ray gets some sleep tonight, the last time he was up he got only an hour's sleep.

Tonight I'm busy washing rugs and clothes getting ready for my one day where who comes tomorrow. I hate to think of it, but Mary finished here tomorrow. She is going to New York to enter practical nurse school and so I'm out a maid. I will try to find someone again, but if they
can't or won't even 1m me going to fool with them.

I can keep my house half-way clean without too much work, but I simply can't spend every off-duty minute ironing. I spent precious little time with Ray as it is besides, I hate it, as you know.

We are having much rain tonight and probably cold weather again this weekend, but we've started our kitchen window garden and can hardly wait for warm weather so we can start the yard work. Now Ray is busy watching to see if the tomatoes come up before my petunias!!

9:00 pm

I'm back from a hamburger & french fries with the major, and he looked tired & sleepy, so I hope things stay quiet for him.

My clothes are dry and ready to be sprinkled; so I'd better stop this and get busy or I'll be up all night polishing white shoes yet, either.

Stop worrying about Helen's fining. If she counted dollars as well as she does nickels, she'd be fine. They will do alright.

Write when you feel like it, Mom. I hope you and Daddy are both better now.

Love you,
Belle and Ray