1962-01-31, 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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8:30pm
31 January 1962

Dear Mother and Daddy,

They just finished steak and broiled green salads for supper and I hope the dishes are going. We were late tonight because my birthday flower pot arrived last night and we had to get all the plants re-planted. At least, I thought it had to be done right this minute!

I have a big tangerine colored plastic planter like yours I gave you ages ago - only mine is only 6 inches off the floor. I put my French flower cart together last night and had it loaded by 7:30 this morning with punch and grape plants! So now I'm growing tomatoes and peppers in my living room - not to mention the chives he planted tonight. I also have a new planter made of brass that is as long as one entire bookshelf. I have it already filled with philodendrons, and it looks lovely. I hope more planter coming this one like your pole lamp! I hope to grow hanging begonias in it.
I tried begonias last year, but I didn't do very well; I'm going to try again.
The weather over here this week has been ridiculous! First we freeze, then we burn up. Everyone either has a cold or the flu. Hazel has been in bed since Saturday and only came to work for about an hour today. So far, she's escaped and so has Roy.
I still don't have another once-a-week maid, but I'm O.K. for this week. Roy had to fly until 7 P.M. last night and I scrubbed & wiped the floors. All I lacked was the furniture dusting and a little ironing. Next week when the ironing begins to pile up, I'll be singing a slightly different tune!
I hope this finds you feeling more normal, Mom. I don't want you to hurry back to work, but I do want you to feel like it anyway.
We are planning on coming to visit you two either in late February or March, but don't plan on us until I give you a firm date. I
have one of my best licensed practical nurses had to take sick leave for a total hysterectomy — (ovts), at least so I'm pretty short-handed right now. I have to work one weekend to help cover and will be due a 3-day weekend later, so how about trying to line up Homer or someone he would recommend to do the heavy scrubbing and we'll get your house into line while I'm there. Don't pay no, Mom, I want to help. You can't do the heavy work alone and Roy and Homer could turn it out easily; so call Homer and then when I let you know what Tuesday I'll be there, you can let him know.

To better stop and get my back at 6 am will arrive all too soon. Be careful, both of you and we will be thinking of you. I'm glad today's home, I know Helen & the kids are!

Love you,

Bette & Roy.