11-5-1962

1962-11-05, 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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5 November 1962
Monday a.m.

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I'm still a lonesome orphan. Roy had a couple of fellows call me—one Saturday and one Sunday night—each one had just talked to him in Florida. He said he might get to come home Wednesday, so I hope things continue to improve down South.

We are still on an alert status here, so there is no chance of my getting over to Knoxville for my long weekend 10, 11, or 12 Nov. I wish you and Daddy could come over to visit us. All leaves and passes have been cancelled until further notice here.

I mailed a birthday card to Helen today, so I guess it will get there for 10 November. I imagine she wonders about not getting presents from old Belle anymore, but old Belle doesn't spend her money like it was going out of style—she doesn't have it.

We won't be getting a car right away.
Mom, so don't fret— we feel as uneasy about the future as you do. but we can't stop living can we?

We still haven't ordered anymore living room furniture except our divan and chair. The cocktail table and end tables we wanted to order we haven't gotten yet due to being unable to see samples of the wood. So we'll just wait on that. But the divan & chair should be coming in another week or so. I sort of lost interest in it during all this mess.

8/15—Tuesday

Since I talked to you last night, I may as well tell you about our alert we were on. There were 6 Flight Nurses and 18 medical technicians alerted to go as a field hospital unit. We were told to be ready on a 2-hour standby. We were issued a complete field pack with blankets, mess kit, flashlight, and helmet. We were ordered to try fatigues like the army
and Castro are missing. When Roy got home the day I was alerted, he almost had a fit. I guess it was the first time he realized I was in the military for better or worse too. Anyway we sat on the telephone for nearly two weeks and they finally let us revert to a 48-hour alert, which we're still on. Roy is still on a 100-mile where he is – so I don't know how much better our situation really is).

He called me last night as did his mother and father. He still doesn't know if he will be home soon or not. I begged for this weekend since we have the 3 days off, so he's going to try. Marie's husband is still away too – they were supposed to see each other (he and Roy) today.

I want to get this in the mail so I'll get before another day passes! Please come visit if it isn't snowing on the mountain!

Love,

[Signature]