1963-06-24, 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.

Keywords
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Monday noon
June 24, 1962

Dear Mom and Daddy,

I have a few minutes before I'm due back at work so I'll start your letter that I usually do on Sunday.

She had intended to spend all this weekend working on the lawn but Col. Ike and his wife called us late Sat. pm with a sudden idea to go to the coast at 5:00 on Sunday. Since "no" is not in the Barto's vocabulary, we went and were drowned all day. Mrs. Ike, "Helen," also caught one 3/2# flounder and the rest of us caught cold. It was fun anyway because we beached on an island, built a driftwood fire and boiled coffee. Bert had a bath and came home looking like one big mud one; so he had his second bath in a day. He was to have had his clipping yesterday too; so that's on Triton's agenda.

I assume you don't have all the Js and Js now, but guess I won't get a letter for a day or so yet.

We bought the camping tent Ray told you we wanted and it's up in our back
yard. We plan to sleep there tomorrow as there is not enough room in the tent. I guess it was nuts to buy it now with Rafe leaving 15 August to 15 January but we have 2 months and he wants to enjoy it; so I couldn’t refuse. He wants so little for himself.

The tent is a Sears product with a tripod-type arrangement of tubular aluminum framework on the outside so there are no poles or any other obstruction inside.

[Diagram of tent]

The flooring is sewn onto the tent so that its tarpaulin-proof and practically bug-proof except for small mosquitoes. Rafe told them the tarpaulin would have a place. He again — So after walk and Ray, Bert and I are sitting on the grass in front of our tent. Bert was a good pup today, no more chewing except on bones so perhaps his day confined to the kitchen taught him something. Tomorrow will be another day though and I hope the stays good because it really upsets me to have him regret after he had grown up so much while we were on leave.

Well, I’d best stop for now and do a few chores before supper time.

Write! Love, Bette, Kay