12-14-1963

1963-12-14, 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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Hi Mom and Daddy,

Overlook my not writing this week. I wrote so many Christmas card notes, and finished all my package wrapping and mailing, and I was plumber write out!

Only 17 more days before Ray should be putting in an appearance here and that doesn’t leave me many hours to get the house into shape. I had all my chores carefully planned in July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. It’s amazing but there seem to be a few left for December!

Thank you, Daddy, for the lovely Christmas check! It’s already on the way to Fort Sam Houston Bank to be deposited. It’s already spent anyway. You may consider that you bought me a new pair of socks and a shirt and that Ray’s pleasure will be in not having to see me slop around in an old baggy pair of black denimiont socks which were nearly menus the trees and seat.
We are having buckets of rain this weekend. I’m happy already now and I was lucky it wasn’t too cold because my well pump quit on me Thursday. Jeff Donald came to my rescue and got one of his friends to come over during my lunch time yesterday and fix it. I didn’t want to freeze my 1 year old Poodle as well as my house full of flowers!

Dino’s birthday was Thursday 12 Dec. and he had a tiny iced cookie with a candle for his birthday cake. I had to be quick because he wanted to eat his candle along with the cake! He has really enjoyed his new raincoat today. It’s long enough to partially shelter his fluffy tail so he splashes right on out now as if he’s taking a bath like any other day! We used one big towel already today for foot and head-drying.

Speaking of package, I sent you another one – with a smaller gift from Ray in it – it came from Spain too late to get it in your first package, Mom.

Helen Eichelberger is loving the squadron wives over for bridge.
tonight. I don't play, but I'm going to. I also continued work on the Thanksgiving table cloth. I have my name of Ralph done, and I've begun on one of the bachelors. The other wives are supposed to do their own, but they are lagging behind.

I've been busy today cleaning out shelves and reprinting them with yellow gingham shelf paper. I have all the kitchen ones done, except the can goods and cleaning supply closet. I got sidetracked and did the hall closet where my towels and bathroom supplies are. I also covered the rest of my boxes that Marie gave me with yellow gingham. Now I have to shine all my boxes, so I can put them in the boxes. Always something!

I made just a red felt overcoat last night. It's adorable, but I must do button holes yet. Helen B. said she'd help me brush up on it for I haven't made any since high school. I plan to make him a green and white one too — only takes less than ½ yard for each — and two thicknesses is really warm. It's lots
cheaper than trying to buy one except since I ordered it in July and it hasn’t come yet. I had a little left over from the red one so I made a pillow cover for one of the small pillows in Gents’ locker. He carries them all over the house. He promptly chewed one corner off – less than 3 minutes I’d judge. Oh well, I gave it to him and told him it was “Gents’ pillow”; so he took me at my word and ate it.

I wish you all could come for Christmas but I know the roads are terrible as well as the weather. If I had more than one day to come over there, but I can’t ask you because I love the civilians who got the holiday time all tied up with annual leave. I hope Ray and I can come after he gets home and we get the big car. It should be here in another week or so.

I’d better stop and write Ray a note before I get dressed to go to Helen’s.

Love you, Belle.