1964-05-26, 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
1964-05-26

Identifier
2017-219-w-r-_Barto_ColdWar_1964-05-26

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26 May 61

Dear Mom & Daddy

This will probably be interrupted every few minutes, but I wanted to at least let you know I am here and thinking of you. I had hoped you would call by now that you are coming over for this week.

Roy is still uncertain about his status in returning to Florida. He may go again about Monday and if he does he should be home in time for us to take leave 15 June. If they are to be grounded for a longer period, we may get leave as early as 8 June. You can see we stay very versatile and generally uncertain in this business.

What I was thinking is that if you and Daddy want to go on to see Helen and Joey and the tides, you might start off that first and then plan on being home by the latter week of June. When Roy I hope to be camping near Knoxville. I hope to come our way through the Smokies and end up over your way. That would save you a trip over here on the bus. This may not fit your plans.
So if it doesn't, let us know. As I say, we can change our course easily because they are very loose anyway.

He had a nice lazy weekend doing just what we pleased. Loy had the lawn all mowed here & Friday and so my Saturday was free to loaf. He got up early anyway and sat on the patio with our morning coffee & watched Bert keep the birds out of his yard. Then we put the top down on the convertible and took a run 20 miles to Mount Olive—a small country town south of here. We went mainly to buy strawberries if they were pretty and to run down the carburetor of the truck engine. I have been driving it for 6 weeks at 15 to 30 mph and the truck has a big engine. We ended up at the Dry 번기's house—the Sweetwater Barn Major with 9 toys—and had a visit with them. We came home about noon and still hadn't seen any strawberries that were any prettier or cheaper than we can buy on base. If one wishes to pick them oneself, they are 15¢/quart—otherwise 45¢/quart. So what the heck—just for eating.
I wouldn't get a backache and surgery to save 30°—except in my own patch. We have 3 strawberry vines out of 8 we planted so I doubt if we will bower on our own crop!

1230

Back from lunch at the Club with Ray—this is Bomber Commander's School for 3 days and gets off at 130 to eat. The airplane is ungrounded now and, if all goes well, he will go back to Florida Monday. 29 May. I hope that means he will be done by 13 June.

I received your letter at noon telling that Daddy has already gone against his doctor's warning and is on alcohol again. I am afraid you will be having nothing but rehospitalization very so often until he can't leave the bed at all. Once the liver damage from alcohol starts, it's a straight downhill drag. There is no more certain poison, and there's no substitute for the liver. For a man who is afraid of cancer he certainly is picking a terrible death for himself.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Medical Data Sheet</th>
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<td>I guess this means you will have to go visiting by yourself, since he can't leave liquor alone.</td>
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<td>Hell, I can't get much written with all the commotion going on. So I'll quit for now and try to write some more later.</td>
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<td>1030 P.M.</td>
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<td>I didn't get a minute to sit down until now. We had no food in the house so I went grocery shopping after work. We had our green beans, I've been craving since I talked to you (along with fresh roasting ears). We both ate until we were miserable. I have a lecture to some Red Cross Volunteer workers tomorrow so I had to get up a clean cap &amp; wash my hair after I did the dishes. Naturally Ray and Don have already gone to sleep on me. I'll stop and get to bed too. I hope to see you soon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belle, Ray &amp; Bent.</td>
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