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
1964-08-21

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Friday 6th
21 August 64

Dear Gramma & Grandpa of Dent,

Your spoiled, poodle-type grandson is trying to autograph this letter with dew-dampened palms. He just finished our morning romp up and down the block, and I will try to get this short letter in the mail on my way to work.

Ray never called or wrote until 0730 yesterday morning. He had waited daily hoping to hear something definite about his time down there. He still doesn't know, but is afraid it's all bad. A col. had gone to Nashville to ask, but had not returned; so Ray said he'd call after 9 pm Sunday night. He isn't sure he will be going to Columbus, S.C., instead of coming home. If so, I am going down there one weekend because it's not a bad drive.

Of course, Maj Sanders immediately monkeywrenches my weekends by telling me we were going on a 6-day week, so if that does happen, I can't possibly make it with only one day off. She has threatened us hideously, but it may happen this time.

I hope your trip home was a wee bit better than the one in the other direction, and that neither of you are any the worse for the
trip. I enjoyed your short visit very well and wish I could have kept you much longer. That’s such a terrible ride for such a little visit. Our house was really empty for Kent and me that night. I thought we could try to think of anything to do to entertain ourselves except go to bed early.

You have had a beautiful sunny week since you left with daytime and cool evenings—nice after you stood the rain.

My uniform company is going to send me a size 10 1/2 to try on before I have the 12 altered. I hope they get here before Sat. 29 Aug—the day of the parade. Otherwise I’d stick with the big 12.

I haven’t had any work on my new reel. It should be coming by next week. I’m getting excited to see it now, but I hope it works till Sept so I can feel free to pay cash for it. With Ray away, I don’t like to get my checking debts. The law for fear he may need to write a check unexpectedly. This good about getting me know immediately though; so we’ve never goofed. He have 2 sets amounts he wrote too, so I usually allow for the larger and go on as if he may have written one.

Well, mostly this, I haven’t done much since you left except I did get the freezer cleaned out for the year and, might before last, I dismantled, cleaned, & reassembled the exhaust fan above the stove. That’s 2 annual aggravations I’m proud to have finished.

Write again, it was fun to have you both here. Love, Bev & Kent.