1964-08-24, 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.

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Dear Mom and Daddy,

I just finished a letter to Ray, so I'll write a note to you to pass on what little I know new since Sunday evening.

Ray called me at 10:00 and still has no definite word on his stay there. The Colonel who went to Washington was back down there, but Ray hadn't heard from him when he called. I'm afraid he will be there till December, at least.

But, the good news: General Graham called me this morning to tell me that he had received word from Washington that Ray's transfer to 1916 Air Force had been approved. The only hitch is that his transfer can not be accomplished while he is on temporary duty elsewhere for the 444th Wing. So, if he can get his transfer through before the 444th Wing has a chance to ship Ray somewhere else, everything will be OK. So, pray a little prayer that he will get moved to 1916 before someone sends him to Vietnam. If the General gets him back on his work team, he won't be so likely to get a call to Vietnam. That General Graham couldn't stop.
I know Ray must be very pleased with the news. General Graham called him this morning to tell him after he'd told me. I wish I could talk to Ray tonight, but we talked too long last night, so I'm sure he won't call again so soon.

This doesn't mean we will move from here, Mom. Ray's job simply would change. He would fly only so much as he needed to stay current. He would go on some trips, mostly with General Graham, but I feel sure he would keep them to a minimum because he knows Ray has had more than his share in the last 10 years.

I will be at the Officers' Club swimmer pool at a hospital party Friday night and at a parade Saturday morning. Other than that, I will be home this week unless I have to work extra—either late or on.

Ray is going to try to come home one weekend soon. If he can't, I will go down as soon as he moves to Columbia, South Carolina, because I can make that in about 5 hours.

Thanks for the pictures. I think they are good. You & Daddy & Ben. I'll send Joe's picture back. You didn't say I could keep it.

I hope Helen, Jody & the kids have a good little vacation. They need one after all their work on the house.

Write soon. I will be soon as I hear from you again.

Love, Belle & Ben