1965-06-27, 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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27 June 65

Dear Mom & Daddy, Helen, Army & the kids if they are with you,

Ray just called me from Denver. The plane he was to take to San Francisco was being called as he talked. He had talked to Kelly only a few moments before. She didn't know who he was for a little while. Her apartment mate is from Helena, Kansas too. Kelly said she might come to see me in a month or so. I guess she isn't married yet and is still working at the V.A. Hospital in Denver.

Ray left here at 5:40 on a twelve jet. He will spend the night in San Francisco (he will go from Denver on the 707 Stratocruiser and leave from Travis AFB outside of San Francisco and from there to Wake Island and from there to Bangkok. The Island and from there to Bangkok. His badge of Thailand is classified.) I guess. But you will know that the F-105's are still doing Vietnam. The squall is over Vietnam. He expects to be in his squadron. He expects to be in combat by Wednesday. I pray he is able to do his job and come home.
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Don't mention anything about where he is to anyone else because it is difficult to know what little bit of information may help someone piece together something detrimental to the safety of our troops. This place out here is so pretty. Everyone talks about anything and everything so it's hard to know what's to be discussed and what's not. I'm sure it's OK just to say Ray's in southeast Asia.

I did pretty well until this afternoon and then I cried a bucketful. Even if I knew it made things harder, I just can't turn it off for Ray. I just can't turn it off. The pups are snapping now. They've spent most of the evening watching for Ray out the front window. I stopped by the grocery store to get them some new puppy treats to take their mind off watching for him. He took a long walk behind the house before we took him down the street. Dad threw a tennis ball and had a big chase with that. Then we came home and I scrubbed my hair and polished all my white shoes so I'm ready for bed in a minute or two. 

It's a picture of my Red Cross. Here's a picture of myself. They're Youth Volunteers Club. I'm 15 years old. I don't always make up things like I did the best I could with my 15 short hours with them.
The flood is due in Wichita on about Wednesday so I figure the high waters should reach Derby Thurs or Friday. The big ditches around Wichita are filling way up already but they believed these will be adequate to hold it all.

If you decide to come visit in July, try to plan on staying until at least 15 August. Ray might be home by then, but there’s no guarantee. One of my neighbors says that the freight train connections aren’t always direct to Wichita, but to Newton, Kansas. So when you plan your route, they mention Newton. That’s OK, for I’ll close to me also. So come on out, stay as long as you can.

I gotta quit and get to bed. I work on the medical board for the rest of the week, after that I’m up for grades again. I hope I go to the Clinic then but it’s still anybody’s guess.

I’m fine for now.

I love you.

I hope them, my H's can stay long enough to make all your pretty up worthwhile. I wish I could have seen them. Love...