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
1965-08-26

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Mr. Mrs. E. Harris
1717 Highland Avenue
Knoxville 16, Tennessee
37916
Thursday 26 Aug 65

I may go so far further than the beginning sentence. I had one of those written yesterday and never got another free minute all day.

Ray is still ill. He has had night sweats and fever & nausea, I wanted yesterday noon until he was unable to get up from in front of the commode! I put him back to bed and he stayed home yesterday all day. I talked with his flight surgeon and he said I should get him in to see him today. He thinks it's probably only fatigue & flu like I thought, but he didn't receive any antimalaria pills for 3 weeks after he arrived over there. Dr. Page doesn't think he has malaria but he wants to check him anyway. I sent tested him for tuberculosis last nite (since there are many people coming back from South East Asia with positive skin tests & many with active the). I hope it's only fatigue. He is still talking a lot about the flying missions.
and I think he really is quite upset by having had to kill people. As different from bombing a cleared target range. I'm sure this bothers everyone who has ever gone to war, but our weapons are so much more destructive now. I guess it will take him a while to get over it so I hope just let him talk when he wants to.

0930 27 Aug 45

Hi again.

You can see him having trouble getting a letter finished. He's been so busy giving school immunizations, it's been like Grand Central Station at rush noon all last week & this week. I have my leave card in my pocket for Monday through Friday & next week 30 Sept. I hope we will probably drive over to Colorado a couple 1 days just to look at the mountains. Ray feels better today and I did get him in to see Dr. Page yesterday. He did a chest film & some blood work on him. Ray hides to come so bad I
Was surprised I was able to convince him of the need. He didn't have any chills or sweating last evening and night so maybe it's only the few. I think the main thing is to let him rest as much as possible and I hope next week will be the trick. Am so glad to have him home; maybe I can keep him here this time.

We have our driveway entrance completed and it should be ready to park on in a day or so more. I drove on it last night because it had been dry for 72 hours — then this morning as I left for work the Curran contractors told me they'd have to block my driveway to keep me off of it! I was furious and I told them I was paying for it and I would have appreciated being told before I drove on it that I wasn't to use it.

-1230-

Just got back from lunch and the smart alaks have tied a tiny string to 2 stakes across my drive — like shutting the barn door after the horse is
gone! Ray doesn't think I hurt it (he
had told me to use it). They are supposed
to pour the sidewalks next & then maybe
the streets in a week or so more--now
say such a disjointed operation.

I will be glad when this day is over,
for we have very few physicians and
a continuous flow of patients each of
whom thinks his is the only ailment
in the building.