1965-11-24. 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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Dec. 24 Nov. 64

Dear Mom and Daddy,

This will be tardy for Thanksgiving, but at least my intentions were good.

I've been so busy trying to beat the Christmas shoppers that I have done little else. I want to get Helen's box ready to go before too much longer. So maybe it will arrive in one piece.

I wish you could see what we bought for them so far. I'll try to describe each:

Jill - Dress-off white wool top, gold wool skirt. The back and buttons up the front are Gold wool too. I couldn't find a gold blouse or sweater to match so I got a gold dickey. It looks lovely.

Jeff - Light green, brown leather, with a shoulder strap. It has two belts of zippered pockets for soft pretzels.

Paula - Beautiful red or pink top, looks like "nice" boots (with the prescribed wide belt loops & skinny pegged legs).
Jeff - (cont.)

Shirt - Rust paisley print - very "mod" with gold to grey figured + button down collar.

Belt - Rust suede on one side - reversing to black smooth leather - 2.3 inches wide (like my Tom Brown belt 7 years ago) complete with a gorgeous big gold buckle.

Books - 2 paper back novels - "The Blue Max" (about WWI air plane drivers in Germany) - It's a big hit movie right now and "The Purple Quest" by Frank Slaughter.

I'm going to try to read one of each to see if the endbook fits the Jeff - been sail current novels if they were decent.

Joel - shirt - The latest craze in this age group my neighbors say - a "Hyderota shirt."

Blue denim - very pretty with brown leather though losing the front.

Pants - Soft brushed denim in blue with a 2-3 inch midnight leather belt + big gold buckle - this belt isn't reversible but I hope the leather laced shirt will avoid hard feelings.

I still have some money to spend on him so I hope to find a nice game.
I got Helen a lovely blue or teal beaded hand-crocheted with pretty cutout pattern at the top, pleated at bottom. I love me in a scarf so I know she'll love it.

That & her baking dish, warmer, & cheese server should make her happy.

I got Joyce a lovely beige all wool golf sweater with large metal buttons down the front. I have him a tie carrying case for trips— and I want to add a tie or two to it if I can select a pretty pattern in Helen's Mod look.

She still be looking for her. I want to buy him a shirt but don't know if I can afford it just now.

He may know yes or no by 10 am today about his job. He got a call yesterday explaining the delay.

My Thanksgiving dinner is all bought. Now all I have to do is cook it. We will have a 10# turkey, cornbread dressing (I made the bread last night) & giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, baked potatoes, marshmallows (just for me), Waldorf salad — Ray will do the clown in Dad's & his salad. Focaccia, pumpkin pie & coffee. I wish you all could help eat it. We also to be alone. All our neighbors are going to relatives.

The Quin & go mail this before I wash the new— We love you & wish you were here. More shopping news later.