Dear North,

230 and 231 came today. I was glad to hear William is OK after operation, and that the trouble likely will not recur.

The tension has been building up here during the past 24 hours. I think I told you in last night's letter that the curfew was changed to 7 pm from 9.

This morning I woke to the noise of machine guns firing. I went to the roof and lo, there were a bunch of reinforced VC in the cemetery - the French cemetery where I took the picture. The closest part of this is about 200 yards from our BOQ. The VC were being fired on by a bunch of ARVN from Tan Son Nhut.
The VC had a bunch of children - using them as shields - pushing them in front. But the ARVN didn't give a damn for that; they just cut them up. The VC broke out for the monument and the house on the road side and on the side away from BQ 1. Then the ARVN brought up a bunch of tanks and a bunch of M16s got on the roof of the orphanage and BQ 1 - which is higher than the orphanage outbuilding (#1) - and a great fire fight ensued. Not much to be seen, really, as when I had shot all my film up, I went to work. They did bomb the cemetery before I left - about 1000 lb bombs I would judge, but too up the big monument pretty badly and made some fair sized craters.

Anyway the word tonight is that 8 VC regiments have broken through the ARVN forces to the west of town and will be pouring into Tan Son Nhut before midnight.
personally don't believe this will come to pass, but I don't have a real good current picture and may be wrong. We are all spending the night in CICV, which is much better defended and much much easier to defend than Books #1. If you get this letter, you will know that we were not overrun.

It is pouring down rain, which will limit the usefulness of our flare planes and tactical disruptors especially the chopper gunships. It will allow the VC down here too, of course, but will probably hurt us more in balance.

Anyhow, here I am in our little fortress with a major assault on Saigon predicted for sometime tonight. CICV is probably one of the best places to be, actually.

Just talked to the Op Center by phone.

There's a big fight going on out there.
of the race track about 3 miles. This is on your map of Saigon - about 16 P Tan Hoi and a little to the north and west of there. Must be bed.

Love

[Signature]