Thursday

Dear Doth -

I am writing this in the dark, the same as I did last night. As I said in an earlier letter, the VC hit one of the power plants the other night, and we have been on our generators ever since. These have never been adequate to carry the entire electrical load and so we share with the colonels about 2 hours at a time. Naturally, the army being what it is, even though the basic problem has existed for months, no one cares enough to do anything about it. It is the air conditioning system, which has now been out for almost 5 months.

More rockets last night. Here, there and yonder - nothing important. No one killed except for a few Vietnamese. The Chelsea
fighting is said to be over. They had had the bugger compressed into about a block for the last few days, and they brought in the tanks and gunships and blasted hell out of it. Still lots of VC in the outpost.

It appears they have now arrived at another tactic. The Tet offensive (31 Jan) was the unheeded, surprise attack on the embassy, radio stations and elsewhere by guerrilla units which failed because co-ordination was poor-an inherent characteristic of surprise attack. This came the closest of any yet to success, however.

They in mid-February came the first big attack by fire against Tan Son Nhut. Then the first week of May brought the massive assault on the city by main force troops which was detected, predicted and bloody rejected.

Now the end of May attacks are by groups of
main and local force infiltrators accompanied by lots of rockets. The strategic basis is apparently to demonstrate to the U.S. votes and to the U.S. negotiators that even with our massive superiority in men and equipment, they can still tear up the capital city at will and practically invest the place. They are remarkably successful so far, and I look for more of this. They are apparently pulling back now, but I look for a continuation of the rocking and more troops in the city within 2 weeks.

Do T.C. know the kind of T.C. horse you had in mind?

Your # 258 arrived today - written on return from Edisto. I'm glad you had such a good time and that the kids enjoyed it - especially Anne.

The flat-backed elephants are about the same size as the others - about 2 1/2 ft
high. The picture, as I recall, was from above, from the left rear, looking basically down on flat back.

I suppose I can get an Elephant for Louise. However, it will depict our state symbol if everyone in S.C. has one.

For Stuart's report card. I will send it back directly to him, with a note.

 haven't heard from car people yet—will let you know the instant I do.

Love,

Jim

Enclosed slides are the first of a bunch I took in Pilar Lane of the funny place there the day before the May attack started. It was a Sunday afternoon, and, reconstructing things now, it is apparent I was right in the middle of the 27th VC main force regiment all afternoon.