Dear Tiger,

Well I am sorry I have taken so long answering your last letter but I am not sure whether I have written to you since or not. It is hard to keep track of who I write to and we get very little time to write even though we are up about fourteen sixteen hours a day some times it is even longer. Things aren't quite as bad now here now that the place has quietened down a lot the last few days. For a few nights we had it pretty hectic and it was a very frightening experience we were very lucky as all the fighting was further around the perimeter from us we didn't see much but we heard plenty. The artillery fired a lot of rounds and they made a hellena a noise and there was also mortars as well as all the rifles and machine guns. There was also a few gunships called in to give us air support. The gunships are special helicopters with gunning guns and machine guns mounted on them and they also have twenty rockets underneath them. The gunning guns will fire six thousand rounds per minute. They use all tracer rounds and all you can see is great red lines running from the gunships to the ground when they fire. The tracer rounds have got phosphorous on the back end of the projectile and that burns when going through the air and you can see where the rounds are going at night. You probably know more about the ones who were killed than I do as we haven't heard of the names yet but you will probably see them in the paper. There is talk of them making this a permanent home here now so it looks like we will be out here for a long
time yet. We have been busy digging pits for cover and I have dug five pits already so far. We then moved about a lot. The pits are about seven feet long, five feet deep and eighteen inches wide. We put eighteen inches of over head cover over them for extra protection. We have to sleep in the pits so you can see we are starting to look like rabbits. We are getting barbed wire entanglement fences up right around the base to make the place a bit safer and it will probably have a big fence around it like they have at Nui Dat by the time we are finished. It has been very hot here and I would reckon that it has been close to 110 degrees the last couple of weeks. We have had a fair bit of rain lately. The second night we were here we had the worst rainstorm I have ever seen. It absolutely poured for about four hours. I didn’t get much sleep that night as my pit started to fill up with water and I got an ammunition box and sat on that till the morning. I was sitting up from about three o’clock in the morning and by the time daylight came my pit had about eighteen inches of water in it and here I was sitting in it as everyone was too scared to get out of their pits as that was the night after the first attack on the base and our second night out here. Our first night out here we were about three thousand yards from here and that was where one of the chaps in my section was killed by shrapnel from a 2” mortar bomb. He was Bevan Stimson from Bendigo and he was flying only three to four feet away from me when he got killed. Please don’t tell him Dad and see any of this as they would only worry like hell and there is nothing to worry about now as it isn’t over yet and things are very quiet again. I didn’t mention anything in
their letters about anything that had been going on as I know they would only worry a lot more. It was a helluva an experience flying in our pits and hearing sounds whizzing overhead but now things are back to normal again so don't you be worrying either. I see where they are going to have only one intake of National Service men a year now but it will probably be a pretty big intake. At the moment three of us are out on a listening post about 200 yards out from base and that is how I have time to do a bit of writing. There are two jets putting in an air strike not far from here and I have been sitting watching them dropping the bombs and it is good to watch them doing a big blast. The ground shakes like hell when the bombs land and the trees shake and a lot of leaves usually fall off them. There is jets flying around here every day and they put in an airstrike nearly every day. There is a lot of yanks in the base but they are more in the centre of it and we don't see much of them. They have got stacks of gear here and there are big helicopters coming in all the time with loads of gear, rations, and ammunition. I have been getting a lot of mail from Ireland lately. I got a letter from Grassie, Brian Booth, Anna Steele, and Shane Sharpe so I will soon have to try and write to them. Well I can't think of much to tell you so I will finish up for now. Hope you are doing well at footy.

Your Brother

[Signature]