

those in the North that the people brought with them in the journey to the South. Therefore, temples in Dong Nai are not called “communal houses”, but “ancient temples”, for example: Binh Xuong Ancient Temple, Cam Vinh Ancient Temple, etc. *The History and Geography of Dong Nai* by Trinh Hoai Duc mentioned many vestiges in ancient Bien Hoa, but did not name any “communal houses”.

Ancient temples are used to worship tens of gods and goddesses, for example the Village Protector, the Sacred God and the people who had great contributions to the construction of the local area. The system of gods and goddesses being worshiped is a complicated one.

A custom worth paying attention to in Dong Nai is the custom of worshipping the nation-makers and national Heroes. The list of the nation-founders includes Lac Long Quan, Au Co, and Hung Vuong. The great people who contributed a lot to the foundation of Dong Nai are Nguyen Huu Canh, Tran Thuong Xuyen, Truong Dinh, Nguyen Tri Phuong, Nguyen Duc Ung, Doan Van Cu, etc. These people are worshiped in temples as the local protectors.

The worship of Uncle Ho in the village temples is also a good custom that needs to be continued.

Besides the ordinary temples, there are other ones, smaller, under the shades of big trees or beside the isolated roads or in the garden corners.

The custom and belief of the local minority groups are somewhat different from those of Vietnamese and Chinese. The Chau Ma worship YangNdu the Superior, give offers to Yang Bri (the God of the Forest) in the hunting season and Yang Hiu (the Family God) for a happy family life. The most important gods are Yang Bonom and Yang Koi (both are gods of good crop) who are worshiped with ancient festival activities.

The custom and belief of the Stieng Group and the Chau Ro Group are similar to those of the Chau Ma Group.

VESTIGES AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE

A. VESTIGES

The territory of Dong Nai with an ecological system of a peninsula with a tropical monsoon, a temperate hydrographical climate, a biological carpet and a variety of animals, has been, for a long time, a good land for the gathering and development of human society. It has a system of abundant vestiges valuable in science, history and culture

I. ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

For one century, with hundreds of investigations and diggings, archeologists have brought into light hundreds of findings such as tools, ornaments, cults, musical instruments and the structures of the ancient cultures. Thanks to this, we know a lot of information about ages, civilizations, societies concerning the primitive people in Dong Nai.

Archeological vestiges including settlements, workshops and tombs at different places in Dong Nai - on the hills and mountains near the plateau, in the interrupted areas of Bazan soil, in the previous silty regions, in the valleys and in the flooded areas near the river and sea.

From the axes made of bazon stone found in Hang Gon, Dau Giay, Doc Mo ..., foreign scientists and Vietnamese scientists realized that ancient people in Dong Nai existed in the late Palaeolithic 500,000 years ago. This was the first starting time of prehistoric civilization in Dong Nai. No traces of people were found in the following 500,000-year period. However, a great variety of communities again existing in Dong Nai three or four milleniums B.C. was discovered. Archeological vestiges showed the development periods in Dong Nai: Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, primitive States.

In such archeological sites as Cau Sat, Suoi Linh, Binh Da, Cai Van, Go Me, Bung Bac, Hang Gon ..., the findings concerning settlements, workshops and tombs in the transition period from the Stone Age to the Metal Age reflected the population explosion and the will of the ancient people in Dong Nai when they came to this new land. Binh Da and Go Me (Bien Hoa city) are the places where a set of stone musical instruments was discovered. Especially, the discovery of the era of Binh Da Lithophone is an important contribution to the research on ancient musical instruments in Vietnam. Wooden stakes found in Cai Van, Bung Bac near the coast showed the Vietnamese's ability to conquer Nature in different geographical and environmental conditions. Ancient people could make wooden houses built on tilts and workshops in the swamps. The findings in Suoi Chon and Long Giao reflected the top of the Metal Age dated from 3000 – 2500 years ago. Ancient people knew mettalurgy. The shield found in Long Giao showed that technical methods were applied to make such a wonderful weapon. In addition, such ornaments such as strings of earrings, strings of beads, as well as labour tools, weapons showed the ancient people had an aesthetic sense. The stone tomb Cu Thach of 2500 years, a typical Dolmen style, has been classified as a national historical vestige which needs protecting and restoring.

Traces in the early history reflecting a historical period from the Christian era to the 10th century were also discovered in every geographical area of Dong Nai from the mountainous regions (Nam Cat Tien, DaLak) to the hilly regions (Cay Gao I, Cay Gao II, Rach Dong, Go Chieu Lieu) and in low areas (Go Buong, Go Ong Tung).

Scientific evidence has highlighted the past of Nature and societies in Dong Nai through the archeological sites and findings. It showed that a remarkable prehistoric civilization used to exit here. Impressive archeological findings also reflected the early history period in Dong Nai.

TEMPLES

The Communal House in every village symbolizes the formation of ancient Vietnamese communities. All the Communal Houses in Dong Nai really originated from small shrines. They are the places for community meetings which reflected the union tradition, the cultural concept "Always remember whoever does you a favour" and the religious beliefs. The temples in Dong Nai were early built and had to be restored many times. Some had to be rebuilt because of the flood in 1952. The ancient temples were made of wood. Some were restored by using cement-concrete

In terms of art, the temples in Dong Nai, chiefly the ancient temples, made a great contribution in the research on art. The carved pictures and decorated pottery on the front of some temples like Tan Lan temple are of great art value, reflecting the particular features of art and decoration in Bien Hoa.

In terms of architecture, most of the temples in Dong Nai are four-posted ones. Some large temples in Dong Nai were used to worship the ancient heroes who contributed much to the country or to the locality.

Some typical temples are:

- An Hoa temple (An Hoa commune, Long Thanh district), a typical project of ancient architecture in Dong Nai.
- Binh Kinh temple (dedicated to Nguyen Huu Canh)
- Tan Lan temple (dedicated to Tran Thuong Xuyen)
- My Khanh temple (dedicated to Nguyen Tri Phuong)
- Phu Sy (dedicated to Ho Chi Minh since October, 1969)

ANCIENT PAGODAS IN DONG NAI

From the 17th century, Buddhism spread to Bien Hoa – Dong Nai, enhanced the establishment of pagodas.

Dong Nai now has a lot of pagodas. However, three of them were very ancient.

- Dai Giac pagoda, Buu Phong pagoda and Long Thien pagoda - all situated in Bien Hoa. Long Thien pagoda (Buu Hoa ward) was found to be built in 1664. Buu Phong pagoda and Dai Giac pagoda built in the 17th century were restored several times so their architectural styles are now different from the previous ones.

In addition, some other pagodas like Hien Lam pagoda, Thien Long pagoda, Buu Son pagoda, Ong pagoda remain their architectural styles.

SOME CLASSIFIED HISTORICAL VESTIGES

1. CLASSIFIED VESTIGES

- Trinh Hoai Duc's tomb (Trung Dung ward, Bien Hoa city) – The R.I.P. of a great man of culture in Dong Nai – Nam Bo.
- Nguyen Huu Canh's tomb.
- Nguyen Duc Ung and his 28 men's tombs in Long Thanh district.
- The Memorial (Trung Dung ward, Bien Hoa city) was built by the French colonist in 1923. This is an architectural project built by pottery making experts in Bien Hoa, which referred to the crime made by the French colonists mentioned in the book "Ban An Che Do Thuc Dan" by Nguyen Ai Quoc.
- Tan Lan temple, Dai Giac pagoda, An Hoa temple, Long Thien pagoda.

2. THE VESTIGES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CLASSIFIED

- Bien Hoa ancient citadel (the walls of which made of red laterite) was built in 1837 (it used to be made of earth in 1816)
- Tran Bien Literature temple was built in 1715 and Hoi Dong temple was completely destroyed when the French attacked Bien Hoa in 1861.

REVOLUTIONARY VESTIGES

Dong Nai is the land of revolutionary tradition which witnessed the many glorious exploits of arms by Dong Nai people and soldiers in the national liberation and the country defence. Some typical ones in Dong Nai are:

1. THE D BASE: It is one of the famous revolutionary bases during the two resistance wars against the French colonialists and the American imperialists.
2. CO HON PAGODA: (Buu Hung Pagoda) located in Quang Vinh Ward, Bien Hoa city, where 9 leaders in Lam Trung military camp killed by the French colonialists were worshipped. It was also the place where the communist leaders in Bien Hoa had many confidential meetings for the preparation for the August Revolution in 1945.
3. TOWN HALL: (now the Dong Nai People's Committee Headquarters). It was the place where up-risings for power in the August Revolution in 1945 were led by the Bien Hoa Revolt Committee.
4. SONG PHO SQUARE: It was the place where a great meeting to welcome the first Provisional Revolutionary Authority in Bien Hoa took place on August 27th, 1945.
5. BINH TRUOC MEETING-HALL: The place where the conference for the establishment of the first Provincial Communist Committee was held.
6. THE VESTIGES OF VICTORIOUS LA NGA BATTLE (from Km 104 to Km 113 on the National Road 20 in Dinh Quan district): The place where the biggest ambush in the East of Nam Bo happened in March, 1948.
7. THE GREEN BUILDING (Thong Nhat district, Bien Hoa city): The place where the first battle against American soldiers was carried out by the southern revolutionary force on July 7th, 1959.
8. TAN HIEP PRISON: The place where captured revolutionary soldiers rose up to destroy this prison on December 2nd, 1956.
9. THE VESTIGES OF VICTORIOUS XUAN LOC BATTLE: In honour of the wonderful exploits made by the Vietnamese people and soldiers breaking through the "steel defending gate" Xuan Loc Front established by the Sai Gon puppet army in the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign at the aim of liberating Sai Gon and the South.

NICE LANDSCAPE IN DONG NAI

Dong Nai is located in highland topography bordering an area of silty low-land near the sea lying low towards the south. It is also the place where our ancestors 300 years ago came to settle through the mouth of the Soai Rap River. Looking up stream from the Soai Rap River, we can see system of interwoven canals and riverlets dividing this green land into hundreds of different parts. The ecology of this area is diversified.

1. SAC FOREST

This is the wonderful natural area with rivers and forests. Ancient people were found to be here more than 3000 years ago through their traces at tens of archeological sites. Being an area full of obstacles and difficult to assess, Sac Forest used to be the base where Nguyen Hue and his

men took use of the tide sinking the war ships of Nguyen Anh and killing Admiral Manuel. In the resistance war against the French and the American, Sac Forest was the base of the units of Commando who sank many warships, burnt gas containers and weapons storages

2. DONG NAI RIVER

Originating from the height of 1500m compared to the sea level, the Dong Nai River with its 500-km length crossed many forests, mountains, narrow passes, the immense delta, and to the sea. The Dong Nai River creates a the whole scence with its own magnificence, majestic greatness and simplicity.

3. TRI AN WATERFALL

Being the last waterfall of the Dong Nai River, it has been blocked to build Tri An hydroelectric station. This forms an attractive resort because the Tri An Lake with its area of over 35,000 hectares had 42 islands of different sizes and shape.

4. XUAN MAI WATERFALL

Located in Tan phu Forest, in La Nga River (a branch of The Dong Nai river), Xuan Mai waterfall stretches 4 kilometres, famous for many groups of stones and mysterious caves. This is an attractive tourist ecological spot.

5. BA GIOT WATERFALL

Located in Phu vinh Commune, Dinh Quan district, Ba Giot waterfall with its natural and magnificiant beauty had a 3-hectare lake below. With clear blue water and sloping strips of sand. It is a favourite swimming place.

6. THE ISLANDS

The Islands - My Quoi, Thanh Hoi (Rua Island), Tan Trieu, Pho, Ong - flourish with such specialties as grapefruit, betels, strawberries, sugar canes ...

7. NAM CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK

With a total area of over 35,000 hectares, this primitive forest keeping hundreds of kinds of rare and precious animals is one of the national reserves.

8. PILING UP STONES

In the town of Dinh Quan are there some groups of stones on top of one another forming giant natural memorials majestically standing for hundreds of millions of years.

9. HANG GON ANCIENT TOMB

It had an structure of big blocks of granit put together in the form of triangular boxes surrounded by long stone bars with holes in their ends. This tomb is over 2500 years old and is considered as ancient people's wonder in Dong Nai.

10. OTHER TOURIST SIGHTS

- Buu Long tourist center (Bien Hoa)
- Suoi Tre tourist center (Long Khanh)

- Bien Hoa Lake, a middle section of the Dong Nai River 1000m in width crossing the city of Bien Hoa.
- Dong Nai Rubber plantations, etc...

The problem is to preserve the natural environment, the landscape, water and fresh air sources for the sight. Some landscapes need investment, reconstruction, renovation to become valuable ecological tourist centers with attractive entertainment.

GOLDEN PAGES OF THE HISTORY AGAINST FOREIGN INVASIONS

I. The First Resistance Against The French Colonialists.

A. The Uprisings of Patriots.

On September 1st, 1958, the French colonialists invaded our country with the gun attack in Da Nang. However, They encountered the fierce resistance of our force, and had to divert the attack into Gia Dinh.

On February 4th, 1859, 2.000 French and Spanish troops concentrated in Vung Tau and the next day, attacked our frontlines: Phuc Thang (Genh Rai mountain, Bien Hoa), Luong Thien and Phu My.

While the Royal force in Gia Dinh led by Ton That Hiep remained inactive; the army of volunteers led by Truong Dinh began a parisian warfare in the suburb of Gia Dinh fortification.

On February 4th, 1961, French and Spanish allied troops attacked Chi Hoa Post. After a day of hard fighting, the great post of Nguyen Tri Phuong was broken. He had to retreat to Biet Hoa for defence.

Bien Hoa then consisted Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, Ba Ria- Vung Tau and part of current Binh Duong province. On December 14th, 1861, the French troops attacked Bien Hoa with infantry and marines. They easily siezed the frontline fortification on land, and destroyed the barrage and fortresses along the river.

The Royal Force resisted fiercely but failed at last.

In the morning of December 16th, 1861 the French attacked Bien Hoa fortification. Province Chief Nguyen Duc Hoan and provincial Chief Nguyen Khai Can left Bien Hoa with 48 cannons and 15 warships to the enemy; Mainwhile, imperial envoy Nguyen Ba Nghi escaped with soldiers to Binh Thuan via Ba Ria. The French army took the complete possession of Ba Ria. On January 7th, 1862 the French occupied Ba Ria.

The rest of the Royal force was given order that they had to with draw to Bien Hoa to join Truong Dinh's army, but Tue Trung, the head of the royal force was too much frightened of the enemy to operate. Therefore, Truong Dinh was obliged to take his men out of the base for the operation.

They multiplied quickly and were much supported by the people of Bien Hoa and the eastern part.

Some scholars in Bien Hoa like Nguyen Thanh Y (Phuoc Tuy county chief), messenger Phan Trung each recruited 2000 troops and collaborated with Trung Dinh's Army. Do Trinh Thuy, former Long Thanh Madarin, who was deprived of his post, recruited 300 soldiers and attacked Thuan Tac military post (Go Cong). He and his 18 men were killed. Though the French army seized Bien Hoa, Ba Ria, people in Binh An, Nghia An, Long Thanh did not work with them and left their houses in up to 74 hamlets to settle in other places.

On June 5th, 1862 The Court discouragingly signed the Treaty in the year of the dog submitting 3 Eastern provinces (Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, Dinh Tuong) to the French.

People in these places insisted on fighting the colonialists and elected Truong Dinh "The Great General Against the French" to continue the fight. The court promoted him to the military commander and ordered him to dissolve the anti-French movement and leave 3 eastern provinces to the French and go to his new post in An Giang. Due to people's will and patriotism he did not obey the court and decided to fight the enemy with the people.

At the beginning of December 1862, The French mobilized all the men-of-war to assault the base of Truong Dinh's Army. However, Truong Dinh quickly ordered his army to take action against the French in the three provinces. Early in the morning of December 18th, 1862, 1200 gunners from two directions seized Dong Hon Post (Long Thanh). The Pro-French district chief was arrested. From the beginning of January 1863, Bien Hoa Army, including the Vietnam majority and minority people, gained success after success over the French in North East Bien Hoa. The French who had to admit: "The resistance is everywhere and every Vietnamese is a soldier who is hardened and experienced. They attack us right from our inside".

In early January, 1863, Bien Hoa Army destroyed the telephone line between Bien Hoa - Ba Ria - Sai Gon Cap de Saint Jacques (Vung Tau). By the end of January, 1863, The Army of volunteers caused lots of loss to The French and showed bravery and union between the majority and minority people.

A traitor brought Truong Dinh's death of a serious wound in a French attack on August 20th, 1864. His minion led the army to Giao Loan (Thung La currently on the border of Dong Nai and Binh Thuan) and established a new base. Truong Dinh's 20-year-old son, Truong Quyen, led a group of volunteers to join the Army. There was another base in Bau Ca (Trang Bom) where people from Bien Hoa and three eastern province gathered to fight The French in Bien Hoa and Gia Dinh. Giao Loan was attacked at the beginning of 1865. The Vietnamese troops fought back fiercely but Le Quang Tuyen was killed in the battle and Bau Ca Base was broken. Truong Quyen led the remains of volunteers to Tay Ninh to cooperate with the Cambodian Chief's Army, PoComtuo. The resistance temporarily stopped. When the Nguyen court signed the Patenotre treaty, our country was officially became the French colony. This treaty began a period of French exploiting domination in Viet Nam. The struggle then entered a new stage - the struggle for the independence, in which Hue court was a puppet government.

B- The Struggles of the Patriotic Organizations in the Early 20th Century.

1. Doan Van Cu and Thien Dia Organization.

(See the chapter The Typical People of Dong Nai)

2. Lam Trung Base.

Between 1914 and 1915, a group of people in Bien Hoa established Lam Trung base in Thien Tam village, Vinh Cuu. In fact, this was a patriotic organization in the form of a Secret Society which was very common and widespread in the south at the time aiming at building an anti-French military force.

The base led by those who were good at martial arts such as Tu Hy, Tu Ho, Ba Hau, hai Luc, Bay Den, Ba Van, Hai Cam etc. There was a lot of martial arts practice in the base and the members were equipped with such rudimentary weapons as: bamboo sticks, knives, swords and some guns. The people in Vinh Cuu, Tan Uyen readily provided the volunteers with food. The base operated under secret principles and all contacts were in the form of passwords.

Early in 1916, Lam Trung camp worked out two schemes with two purposes:

- Launching an attack onto Sangda.
- Launch an attack.
- Another attack on Bien Hoa prison and some village houses to release some patriots and involuntary recruits.

In the night of December 16th, 1916, the camp launched the attack. All the drums in the villages were struck to urge all the members of the camp to join the attack. The targets were the village communal houses in Tan Trach, Tan Luong, Tan Khanh and Ben Ca etc. Some prisoners were set free. Muoi Sot, Muoi Tiet led the surprising attacks on Bien Hoa prison but because our weapon were so rudimentary, they were defeated. Some prisoners were released but the two leaders were arrested.

The enemy combed the villages for the insurgents and even arrested their immediate relatives to force the Lam Trung camp leaders to surrender. With the help of some informers, the enemy arrested some leaders on March, 1916 and shot nine of them at Doc Soi crossroad in June, 1916 in the witness of hundreds of people. The leader showed their bravery before they were killed.

The dead bodies were buried together in a mass tomb at Cay Go 50 metres from the execution grounds. In 1918, a temple was built in memory of the killed patriots.

Until 1920, this temple was removed to the east and was built into Buu Hung pagoda where the communist members of Bien Hoa used to meet before The August Revolution in 1945.

C. The Revolutionary Struggle Between The Time of The Arrival of The Communist Party and The August Revolution.

1. Red Phu Rieng

In 1927, Regional branch of The Youth Association of Revolutionaries in the south was established. In April 1928, A branch of this association was established in Phu Rieng with first five members led by Secretary Nguyen Xuan Cu. This was one of 19 party branch committees of the south association. In October, 1929, following the establishment of the Viet Nam Party Branch Committee in Phu Rieng, The Indochinese party branch committee was established. From January 30th, 1930, to February 6th, 1930 under the leadership of the party branch committee, 5000 workers in Phu Rieng plantation made a rebellion with the demands for

workers's right – the Rebels won and the owners of the plantation promised to meet these demands but some extremists still continued the rebellion. The enemy arrested all the communist members in the primary party branches.

However, the news of the struggle of Phu Rieng workers soon travelled throughout the country, encouraging the struggle movement of workers and other working classes in Bien Hoa and the south east.

2. Binh Phuoc, Tan Trieu Party Branch Committee and Bien Hoa Provisional Party Committee.

In 1933, after a short time hiding from the enemy, comrade Luu Van Viet (his pseudonym; Tu Cha) returned to his home land of Bien Hoa to resume his revolutionary activities. He was able to make some good young people conscious of the party's ideal and admitted them into the party.

Early in 1935, Comrade Hoang Minh Chau was sent by the Inter-provincial Party Committee to carry out the revolutionary activities in Bien Hoa. He established an organization here and contacted another party organization formerly led by Luu Van Viet. After the unification of all party organization, Comrade Hoang Minh Chau founded a communist party cell in Binh Phuoc, Tan Trieu where most of the members lived. This was the first party branch in Dong Nai lead the local revolutionary movement, thus creating the Bien Hoa Provisional Provincial Party Committee later.

Late in 1936, the south east Inter-provincial Party Committee sent comrade Truong Van Bang, who had formerly been the secretary of Cochinchina, (1933 – 1945) and comrade Cao Hong Lanh to Bien Hoa to directly organize and set up the party leadership in Bien Hoa province and other party branches in some provincial areas. Early in 1937, the temporary provincial party committee in Bien Hoa was set up by comrade Truong Van Bang, with him as the secretary. Many party branches in Buu Long, Tan Phong, Binh Y, Xuan Loc etc. were also founded.

Under the leadership of Bien Hoa Party Committee, the revolutionary movement of all working classes continued to develop strongly, thus creating the general uprising to take power in the August Revolution in 1945.

3. The Agust Revolution in 1945 Happened in Bien Hoa

In May, 1945, The Inter-provincial Party Committee in Vinh Cuu, Tam Hiep village, Chau Thanh district the East summoned a meeting for all party members to disseminate the policy of the Central Party on the new missions which laid the emphasis on building the forces for the nationwide uprising.

In July 1945, the policy on building and developing all the revolutionary forces in the party committee in Cochinchina was publicized in Tan Mai pagoda (Bien Hoa) to the top leaders in Bien Hoa.

On August 20th, the Party Committee in Cochinchina had a meeting for the uprising plan.

On August 23rd, 1945 Comrade Hoang Minh Chau chaired the meeting to take over Bien Hoa.

From the 23rd to 24 and 25th of August, the uprising activities happened in Bien Hoa. On August 26th, 1945 Comrade Nguyen Van Nghia and hundreds of people gathered at the building of Bien Hoa chief and raised the first red flag with yellow star. At 11 o'clock Bien Hoa chief surrendered to the uprising committee.

On August 27th, 1945 at Song Pho Square, there was a big parade in which the temporary Revolutionary People's Committee presented itself. The uprising in Bien Hoa and other provincial areas were successful under the party's leadership.

II. The Second Resistance Against The French Colonialists

A. The Typical Bases of The Resistance.

1. Vinh Cuu Guerilla Training Camp.

In September, 1945, Bien Hoa party committee founded the first military training school in the East, which was then Vinh Cuu guerilla training camp located at Vinh Cuu hamlet, Tam Hiep village, Chau Thanh district, Bien Hoa (now it is Tam Hoa ward, Bien Hoa city). On September 26th, the first course was opened. In spite of difficulties and the enemy's terrorism, over 100 military and political activate cadres were trained within two months. These people helped stimulate the guerilla's movement in Bien Hoa and some Southeast provinces and were the primary military cadres of many big army units in Bien Hoa, Ba Ria, Binh Thuan etc...

2. Base D

Base D was originally at the villages of My Loc, Tan Hoa, Tan Lich, Thuong Lang and An Loc, Tan Uyen district, Bien Hoa city (Now the district becomes the annex of Binh Duong province). Since 1940, a group of guerilla had been formed here and took part in the Cochinchina uprising in Bien Hoa and kept on its activities until the success of The August Revolutionary.

When the French colonialists took the possession of Bien Hoa again on October 25th, 1945, part of the East resistance Committee led by Huynh Van Nghe retreated to Tan Tich to be unified with the guerillas of Cochinchina Uprising and Vinh Cuu Guerilla camp in order to form Bien Hoa National self-defense force.

In December, 1945, Base 7 was established by the Commander-in-chief Lieutenant General Nguyen Binh and was located in Lac An. In February 1946, the Headquarters of Base 7 decided to build the base and named it Base D (in the order of Bases A, B, C & D) the center of which lay in Lac An. Since March – 1946, the Headquarters of War Zone 7 had moved to Dong Thanh and War Zone D had become the base of the Bien Hoa Resistance and had been where the offices of

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highlands, forming the corridor between the Southern East and the Area V and Base D was 5 kilometres away from Bien Hoa, located the enemy's headquarters, and 30 kilometres by plane from Sai Gon, the capital of Sai Gon Regime. The Resistance easily entered the area of which the enemy temporarily took possession and launch attacks on the enemy's headquarters and ammunition; using either secret or open contact. All the forces coming from Base D defeated the enemy in La Nga, Gia Huynh, Trang Tao, Bao Chanh and Bau Ca etc. and here came the birth of the commando force.

The French colonialist retaliated by using many kinds of destruction such as military attacks and spies and even economic destruction but they failed. Base D was the image of a new country in the nine-year anti-French Resistance and was the symbol for our people's belief in genuine struggle.

Base D continued to be a military base in the struggle against American imperialists and was the important base of the Southern East. It was also where The South Central Bureau, The Eastern Communist Party Committee, and Bien Hoa Provincial Party Committee used to stay for giving instructions.

A. THE TYPICAL FEATS.

1. THE FIRST ATTACK ON CHAU THANH (BIEN HOA) ON JANUARY 2nd, 1946.

All the forces from Bien Hoa, Chau Thanh, Hoc Mon – Gia Dinh and Binh Xuyen participated in the attack. Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Nguyen Binh, early on the second of January, 1946, all the forces started their attack on Sang Da, the posts at Ganh Bridge, BIF sawmill, other enemy's offices in Bien Hoa and Bien Hoa railway station. This was our first attack in the South since the French returned to Vietnam for the second time. This success abolished the propagandizing campaign of the French who boasted they had occupied and controlled "Nam Bo" (Cochichina) and encouraged the resistant spirit of the people.

2. LA NGA BATTLE (1-3-1948)

The forces in this battle were Unit 10 Bien Hoa, Unit 17 of The Seventh Corps, guerillas from Chau Thanh (Bien Hoa, and from Xuan Loc).

The people and soldiers in Dinh Quan, Xuan Loc, workers in the rubber plantations and Chau Thanh Minority people added their 10-day food to the portions for 1000 soldiers.

In the battle on March 1st, 1948 (from Km 104 to Km 113), 150 legions, 25 French officers including two colonels were killed and the convoy of 25 tanks was destroyed.

The success of La Nga battle was the greatest in the East.

3. BIEN HOA – THE BIRTH PLACE OF COMMANDO FORCE.

The attack on the watch tower of Ba Kien bridge was carried out under the leadership of Tran Cong An on the 18th and 19th of March, 1948 was completely successful 11 enemy soldiers were killed and 8 guns and 20 grenades were collected. This was a surprising attack with special strategies which required bravery and intelligence. Disguising themselves, the soldiers attacked the enemy base unexpectedly.

After this success, the headquarters of Zone 7 held a meeting to draw a experience lesson for improving the close combat, providing suitable weapons and unanimously launch attacks on watch towers along National Highway 1 and 16, Provincial Road 16 and 24 and demolished "De Latour Tactics" of the enemy.

On May 25th, 1950, a company of commandos led by Nguyen Van Nghia was formed. They used strategies of the Commando Units spread throughout the East and the country and it contributed much to the victories in the resistance war against the French. The day of March 19th was the traditional day of Commando Force.

III. THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS

1. THE UPRISING IN TAN HIEP PRISON

Tan Hiep prison (now located in Tan Tien ward, Bien Hoa city) was named "The Detention Center of Bien Hoa" under the pro-American Regime of president Diem. This was one of the biggest prisons in the South. In December, 1956 the number of prisoners here was 1872 including some patriotic intellectuals and some important revolutionary cadres.

A secret scheme was put forward by Nguyen Trong Tam (he is now entitled "Armed Forces Hero")

At 17.50p.m on December 2nd, 1956 the plan was implemented and 462 prisoners were set free. Due to the main gate being stuck, they were unable to demolish the watch towers around and as a result 22 prisoners were killed.

However, in this uprising, in spite of loss, a great number of important cadres were released and a lot of weapons were collected and this provided many cadres for the general uprising in the south.

2. THE FIRST ATTACK ON AMERICANS

This was the ambush on the military American advisor group (MAAG) at their apartment building (formerly it was the office of BIF sawmill factory) in Tan Mai ward Bien Hoa city. The ambush was allowed by the inter-provincial party committee and the East Military Committee in late June, 1959. At 19 hours on July, 7th, 1959, 5 commandos from C250 unit Bien Hoa attack MAAG and within 15 minutes, two American soldiers Major R-Buis and Sergeant Ovmand and two other American soldiers were killed with careful preparation. This is the first battle against American Army by the people and soldiers in the South.

3. THE FIRST ATTACK ON BIEN HOA AIRPORT

Since April, 1964 the East Headquarters had adopted the plan of attacking Bien Hoa airport to make it easy to launch a year-end campaign. The preparation was urgent. Mobile troops from Bien Hoa and Phuoc Thanh in cooperation with the regional artillery unit U80 directly joined the battle. People in Base D and in Bien Hoa gave them a lot of help.

At 23.30 on October 31st, 1964, there was a storm of fire from cannons of all kinds. 59 airplanes including 21 new bombers B57, 11 fighters and an ammunition depot of 105mm bullet, one air traffic control tower were destroyed. A lot of technical officers and soldiers were killed.

This success had much influence on the Pentagon and was followed by a great many attacks on Bien Hoa strategic airport. All these later contributed a lot to the liberation of the south.

4. ATTACKING AMERICAN AMMUNITION DEPOT IN BIEN HOA

A. The Attack on The General Long Binh Ammunition Depot

Long Binh (Bien Hoa) and Tuy Ha (Nhon Trach) were the two biggest American logistical storages in the South providing a lot of ammunition for American troops in the South.

The attack was a very important mission of the South Liberation Army. Some special forces were formed to do this task. Long Binh depot was first attacked on June 22nd, 1966. Six commandos secretly intruded into hill 53, destroying 40,000 cannon balls. During three consecutive months of late 1966, 353,000 cannon balls of all kinds were destroyed. Moreover, 800,000 balls were destroyed on February 3rd, 1967. Bien Hoa mobile troops also exploded Bien Hoa petroleum depot. In Spring 1968, 127 bomb depots in Long Binh and 120 planes of all kinds in Bien Hoa airport had the same fate.

On August 12th, 1972 Hill 53 was intruded again and 5430 tons of bombs , 200 tons of explosive and 17 barracks were blown up together with 300 American soldiers and Vietnamese soldiers. Our forces remained intact.

B. The Attack on Tuy Ha Ammunition Depot and The Blocking Of The Estuary Of Long Tau River.

Tuy Ha was the big depot where the ammunition was distributed to other places. Since 1965 Long Tau river had become the strategic waterway in the South for transporting American weapons to the south. Nearly 30 military ships of between 6,000 and 13,000 tons navigated on this river every day.

It was the mission of commando 10 to organize attacks. Though the mission was too difficult, the commandos were able to sink hundreds of American warships.

Tuy Ha was intruded on November 11th, 1972 and 33 warehouses and over 10,000 tons of bombs were exploded. Another assault two days later destroyed 18057 tons of bombs which equalled 80% the number of bombs in stock.

The commandos contributed a lot of the whole success of the south.

5. The Great Assault in Spring 1968

Together with other places in the south, in Spring 1968 the people and soldiers in Dong Nai attacked and took over many towns. The fierce attack was in Bien Hoa where Bien Hoa airport, the General Long Binh Ammunition depot, Headquarters of the Southern Vietnam corps 3 and the American headquarters 2 were attacked.

People in Bien Hoa made a great attempt to secure the liberation force against the enemy. A great many examples of liberator's bravely won people's admiration. Consequently, the spring assault defeated the American strategy of "Local War" in the south.

The Success of Xuan Loc Campaign

In late March, 1975, Corps I and II of the previous Southern Vietnam Army were defeated and all provinces in central Vietnam and west highlands were liberated. The Sai Gon Regime was on the edge of collapse. In order to save the hopeless situation. The pro-American regime decide to build a defense line in Phan Rang and another in Tay Ninh the center of which was in Xuan Loc. Special forces were sent to these places to defend Sai Gon.

Realizing the importance and the strategic position of Long Khanh, the Party Communist Committees gave orders to launch the final attack.

The army and the people in Long Khanh in co-operation with the spies defeated the posts in villages, paving the way for the main armed forces (Corp 4).

On April 9th, 1975 the Xuan Loc campaign began. Within one hour, our soldiers took over all enemy's bases inside the town. Another unit from the west of Xuan Loc occupied National Road 1 from Me Bong Con pass to Phan Boi Chau hamlet. In the north, the local army defeated the enemy in Binh Phu. The guerillas and local army besieged the base of Mount Thi, liberated the communes and rubber plantation to prepare for the main amred forces.

The enemy retaliated by heavily bombing our newly-taken positions and sent troops to Tan Phong. To stop people suffering from heavy loss, the leaders of the campaign decided to surround the enemy and to use artillery to kill them.

Between 16th and 19th of April, the enemy was subjected to heavy shelling. Division 52 of the enemy army was defeated at Dau Giay crossroads. To make the matter worse, the enemy bombed the town including two CBU bombs before retreating.

At 22p.m. on April 20th, 1975, the enemy was ambushed on provincial Road 2 while they were withdrawing. The provincial chief, a colonel was arrested alive.

The early next day, the last defensè line of the enemy in north east of Sai Gon collapsed completely Long Khanh town was liberated and the Xuan Loc campaign was successful. President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned and the American president had to admit that the Vietnam war had come to an end.

6. The General Uprising and Attack in Dong Nai in Spring 1975 - The Liberation of Dong Nai

The battle in Buon Ma Thuot on March 10th, 1975 opened the spring 1975 General Uprising and Attack. In the Southern East battle, the army and the people in Dong Nai supported by Corps 4, attacked Dinh Quan, took possession of part of National Highway 20 and cut off Road 3 and Road 1, making it easy for the regular Army and the local units to liberate Long Khanh and Xuan Loc. Thong Nhat district and Long Thanh – Nhon Trach were also liberated later.

On April 23rd, Bien Hoa airport was attacked. The enemy headquarters retreated three days later losing Long Binh, Hoc Ba Thuc bases thus creating the corridor for the liberators to move to Sai Gon. During this time, a lot of political prisoners were released from Ho Nai and Tam Hiep Jail; and Phuoc Tan, An Hoa, Long Hung, Long Binh Tan villages and Bien Hoa industrial zone were liberated.

On April 30th, the flag of the South Liberation Front was raised by the secret party member Truong Thi Sau on the roof of Bien Hoa Palace. Bien Hoa and the whole Dong Nai province have enjoyed freedom since.

TYPICAL PEOPLE OF DONG NAI TERRITORY

During the past 300 years of history and development of Dong Nai, a lot of generations have exploited, conserved and built up a more prosperous territory. In this historic period, there have been more times of war than of peace. A great many generations have struggled for, sacrificed for and contributed greatly to the prosperity and stability of their beloved territory. They have made such a lot of outstanding contributions in various fields that they are highly appreciated and honored for good. These people have come not only from Dong Nai but also from elsewhere. Dong Nai people have the honour of recognizing those brilliant people as their own. In face, those heroic ones themselves have become part of Dong Nai, the elite of Dong Nai.

I. Dong Nai Territory Makers

1. Nguyen Huu Canh (1650-1700)

Nguyen Huu Canh or Nguyen Huu Thanh, his real name, was born in Chuong Tin Village, Phong Loc District, Quang Binh Province. He was the third born child of Chieu Vu Hau Nguyen Huu Dat who was born in Gia Mieu, Tong Son District, Thanh Hoa Province. Nguyen Huu Canh - one of Lord Nguyen's talented generals, greatly helped indicate the frontier. He was promoted to Chuong Co, who was in charge of protecting Binh Khuong (Ninh Hoa and Phu Khanh Provinces nowadays). In spring of 1698, Lord Nguyen Phuc Chu sent him to Dong Nai – South Vietnam where Vietnamese had set their feet on since the early 17th century. Later some of Chinese, who were allowed to settle there by Lord Nguyen, together with the Vietnamese, established a busy commercial port called Cu Lao Pho in Bien Hoa, where Nguyen Huu Canh set up General Headquarters. He began to set up the administrative organizations, identifying frontier and territory. He also set up agriculture taxes and constructed the development of the new territory. He divided Dong Nai (including the South then) into two regions of Gia Dinh which consisted of Phuoc Long District (Bien Hoa) where Tran Bien Palace was based and Tan Binh District (Sai Gon) with Phien Tran Palace. He also set up villages. Chinese people were approved to settle down as Vietnamese and were divided into two groups. One was in Thanh Ha (Tran Bien) and the other in Minh Huong Village (Phien Tran)

People were encouraged to reclaim land to develop economy. Since then Dong Nai became the field of administration and was officially named "Great Viet" on the map. To the end of 1698, after the settlement of the south was basically completed, Nguyen Huu Canh returned to the headquarters in Binh Khuong.

In July, 1699, Nguyen Huu Canh was sent to suppress the rebels in the south – west frontier. After fulfilling his duties, he got a serious disease and passed away on May, 16th, 1700 at Rach Gam (Tien Giang province).

On taking his corpse to bury in his native village, Quang Binh, the court's troops stopped for a few days at Pho Island where his headquarters was set up during his previous southern headquarters. Highly respecting him, Bien Hoa people made offerings to him and built a tomb

in memory of him. People converted Binh Hoanh village temple to his own temple for the future generation to kowtow.

Nguyen Huu Canh was named Hiep Tan Cong Than, Dac Tien Chuong Dinh, Trang Hoan Hau by Lord Nguyen.

Nguyen Trung Hung Reign, he received the posthumous merit (Thuong Dang Cong Than Dac Tan ...)

He had a great contribution to Dong Nai - Gia Dinh Area. He laid the foundation for the economic - social - culture development, and reinforced the security for Dong Nai inhabitants. Thanks to him, Dong Nai became a prosperous region of Great Viet.

2. Tran Thuong Xuyen (1625 – 1725)

Tran Thuong Xuyen, also named Tran Thang Tai, lived in Ngo Xuyen district, Quang Dong province (China). Tran Thuong Xuyen formerly was an army general in charge of 3 regions: Cao, Lo, Liem under Ming Reign. Ming was overthrown by Manchu. In 1679, Tran Thuong Xuyen together with Duong Ngan Dich led a revolt against Manchu to restore Ming Reign, but failed. He and his family with 3,000 soldiers on 50 ships to meet Nguyen Lord and asked for settling in Great Viet. Lord Nguyen allowed Tran Thuong Xuyen to guide his Chinese Groups to reclaim Dong Pho Area, which was still uncultivated and sparsely populated. Tran Thuong Xuyen stopped at Ban Lan (Bien Hoa). He cultivated the lands, developed agriculture, recruited tradesmen to do business and establish towns, and turned Pho Island a busy commercial port and a prosperous town. In the south, many foreign merchant ships from England, France, Holland, Spain, China, Japan, Malaysia ... came here. Tran Thuong Xuyen and his men greatly contributed to the property of this region a political - economic center of the south at that time.

Besides these contributions, Tran Thuong Xuyen sent his troops to help Lord Nguyen to suppress rebels many times and brought peace to people.

According to historical documents, he died on the 23rd day of the tenth month according to the lunar calendar, 1720 and was buried in the north of Tran Bien palace.

He was given the title of "*Thuong Dang Than*" (The Most Merited Subject) and was worshiped by Dong Nai-Gia Dinh people.

In Bien Hoa, Tan Lan temple where he was worshipped. Every year visitors coming from different parts of the city came to pay tribute to him on his death anniversary.

II. Great Men in the Struggle against Invaders for the Liberation of the People

1. The Period from 1698 to the beginning of the 20th Century

1.1 Nguyen Tri Phuong (1800-1873)

His real name is Nguyen Van Phuong. Born in Duong Long, Chanh Loc, Phong Dien of Thua Thien Province, he soon had a high position in his hometown thanks to his talent and intelligence. When he was promoted to an important rank in the Nguyen Court, he became one of the pillars of the nation who was often assigned to fight in many battles. In 1850, King Tu Duc changed his name into Nguyen Tri Phuong, meaning more bravery, "more intelligence and better virtues.

In 1853, Nguyen Tri Phuong was promoted to the rank of Dien Ham Dong Cac Dai Hoc Si and was assigned to the South as Governor. He worked very hard to make new villages and farms in the previously untouched land in the South of Vietnam. He was once the chief of many provinces of Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, Vinh Long, Dinh Tuong, An Giang, and Ha Tien.

On September 1st, 1858 Da Nang (Tourane) was attacked by the French-Spanish Coalition. General Le Dinh Ly was killed in the self-defense, so Nguyen Tri Phuong took the responsibility to prevent the enemy. Under his leadership, the Vietnamese troops could successfully protect the port of Tourane and push the enemy's attack back.

When the French attacked Giadinh in 1859, Nguyen Tri Phuong was given the responsibility to build Chi Hoa Great Post for self defense. Unluckily, his troops were not well equipped while the enemy was so strong, therefore the Post was pulled down as a result. Nguyen Tri Phuong was badly wounded and had to retreat to Dong Nai River to prevent the enemy's advance to Bien Hoa. Nowadays, the stone pillars to stop the enemy's men-of-war can be seen in front of Nguyen Tri Phuong Temple.

In 1862, when assigned to the North to be responsible for military activities there, Nguyen Tri Phuong sent reports to the Court in Hue on the intention to invade of the French colonists, and he himself prepared to fight back. But the Court in Hue, cowardly as it was, believed that French didn't come to invade. That enabled the French to quickly prepare its forces and send troops to occupy the North.

On November 5th, 1873, Garnier and his troops came to Ha Noi and demanded the citadel be opened, but his demand was turned down by Nguyen Tri Phuong. After unfruitful negotiations, Nguyen Tri Phuong declared non-cooperation. On November 18th, 1873 Garnier sent the last message, ordering Nguyen Tri Phuong to hand Ha Noi over to him, but was refused by Nguyen Tri Phuong who took more care for protecting the City. Early on the morning of November 20th 1873, French troops began to attack Ha Noi. Nguyen Tri Phuong and his son, Nguyen Lan, the King's son-in-law, encouraged the Vietnamese troops to fight back bravely. But in the battle, Nguyen Lan was killed and Nguyen Tri Phuong got severely wounded in the stomach. Ha Noi Citadel fell in the enemy's hand finally. Nguyen Tri Phuong was arrested but he refused to let the French take care of his wound. On December 20 1873, he died, setting a brilliant example which has become the pride, the national symbol of the people's unflinching will.

The people in Bien Hoa built a temple to worship him in memory of his patriotism, his contribution to the country and his heroic life.

1.2 Nguyen Duy (1810-1861)

Nguyen Duy was Nguyen Tri Phuong's brother. He passed the Doctor examination and had a high position in the Court. In 1852, he was sent to China as the envoy-extraordinary.

When the French began to wage war over Vietnam, Nguyen Duy, though a literary mandarin, voluntarily joined the army in Quang Nam – Da Nang and helped Dao Tri Phu build a fortress on Son Tra Mountain to prevent the French attacks. When the port of Tourane was endangered, some leaders and soldiers were frightened and wanted to desert, but Nguyen Duy was determined to stay. He said, "If you are a patriot, no matter what you are, a military or

literary mandarin, you are always a patriot.” His unflinching spirit actually stimulated the courage of the soldiers and the leaders who later caused a lot of trouble for the French in the battles. When Giadinh Citadel was occupied, Nguyen Duy, together with Ton That Cap and Phan Tinh, was sent to support and save Nguyen Tri Phuong. There, he and his brother tried day and night to build Ky Hoa Post to protect Giadinh. Then the French launched a violent attack on Ky Hoa on 25th February 1861. However brave, the troops couldn’t stand the powerful attack of the enemy. Nguyen Duy was killed in the fight, and the Post was broken. He was buried temporarily in the East of Bien Hoa Citadel, and after that was exhumed and re-buried in his home-town.

The whole family of Nguyen Tri Phuong bravely sacrificed their lives for the salvation of the country, setting an unforgettable example of deep patriotism and a sense of purpose and uprightness in front of the enemies.

1.3 Nguyen Duc Ung (? - 1861)

Details of his personal history were little known. We only know that his name is Nguyen Duc Ung, a military mandarin of the Hue Court, who led the soldiers in the fight to protect Long Thanh.

Having occupied Bien Hoa, the French colonists continued to send troops to Long Thanh and other districts. Cochichina was then in a very dangerous situation. The Court in Hue then sent Nguyen Duc Ung to Bien Hoa to organize self-defense. He collected the scattered troops and assembled new troops to build the defense fortress in Ba Ky along Ky Giang River (Long Thanh).

On December 26th, 1861, about 9 o’clock in the morning, the French General Colonel Diigo and his troops came to Long Thanh. The Court of troops and Nguyen Duc Ung’s men stopped them near Ba Ky. There happened a big battle between the two unbalanced forces that last until 2 o’clock. Meanwhile, Diego was supported by the troops of General Colonel Lep’rit, who had occupied the National Route 17 and crossed Dong Nai River to help. The battle that followed was very violent and Nguyen Duc Ung was badly wounded. Two days later, the French occupied Long Thanh. Nguyen Duc Ung was carefully looked after by the people and the troops, but because of his severe wounds, he died on December 26, 1861. Despite the enemy’s threat, the people of Long Thanh secretly buried him together with his 28 comrades in a common tomb in the village of Long Phuoc, Long Thanh District.

1.4 Truong Cong Dinh (1820-1864)

Truong Cong Dinh, real name Truong Dinh, was born in a village named Tu Cung, Binh Son, Quang Ngai Province. When he was very young, he followed the military mandarin Truong Cam in Gia Dinh. In 1850, in the land-recovering policy of Nguyen Tri Phuong, he assembled the poor to make many new villages out of the waste land, and the Court gave him the title Quan, so he was also called Quan Dinh.

When the French colonists attacked Gia Dinh, Truong Dinh assembled soldiers to fight against them. He built a military base in Go Cong. In August 1861 there were more than 10,000 troops in his army, many of whom were from Bien Hoa. When the Ky Hoa Post was broken, he retreated to Bien Hoa waiting for an opportunity to counter-attack. During this time, he tried to

get in touch with other patriots in Bien Hoa and assembled more troops from Bien Hoa and Ba Ria, getting ready for the French when they came there. But Bien Hoa and Ba Ria were also broken. Truong Dinh had to retreat to the village of Ph-íc Tĩi Province. When the feeble and cowardly Court of Hue conceded 3 provinces in the South East to the French and posted him to An Giang, he decided to counter and acted on his own. The people from the six provinces of the South heartedly supported him and made him their leader, with the title "*Binh Tay Dai Nguyen Soai*" (the Great General Against the French).

On February 26th 1863, the French focused their force to besiege Go Cong. The battle that followed was very violent. His two general assistants and many soldiers were killed. Truong Dinh and his troops hurriedly retreated to build a new base in the village of Ly Nhon, Bien Hoa (now Can Gio, HCMC) reinforcing the army for counter-attacks. The base was called *Dam La Toi Troi (the Leaves in the Dark)*

Early in the morning of August 20th 1864, Huynh Cong Tien, the traitor, secretly and suddenly led the enemy to attack the base. Truong Dinh and the troops fought bravely, but because his troops were badly equipped, he failed. Badly wounded, he killed himself with a sword so that the French couldn't arrest him.

The soldiers who survived the battle nominated Truong Dinh's son as their leader, and built a new base in Rung La (*the Forest of Leaves*) on the border of Dong Nai and Binh Thuan, and another base in Bau Ca. They co-operated with the Cambodian General Pucombo to fight with the French for another six years before being completely suppressed down.

Today, in Nui Dat Hamlet (Earthen Mountain), Tan Tien Ward, Bien Hoa, there is still a temple worshipping Truong Dinh, a national hero who once chose Bien Hoa as his fighting ground.

1.5 Dao Tri Phu

Dao Tri Phu served 3 courts under the Nguyen Dynasty and diplomatically contributed a lot to the people.

As a commercial official in the foreign ministry, Dao Tri Phu was nominated by King Minh Mang to welcome the first American commercial convoy to Dai Nam Port, commencing the Vietnamese-American trade relationship.

Under King Thieu Tri reign, Dao Tri Phu was a military mandarin with the responsibility to reinforce the defense system in case of the French invasion.

When the French intruded the port of Tourane, Dao Tri Phu was asked to substitute Tran Hoang, the mandarin who was dismissed from office for his incompetence. Under the leadership of Nguyen Tri Phuong and Nguyen Duy, he fought off many attacks from the French, keeping them in Tourane for 5 months without being able to penetrate. Finally, they had to divert their advance to Gia Dinh.

Bored with the turmoils in Tu Duc's Court, he intended to retire in his home-town. But he was assassinated on his way home at Dien Khanh, Khanh Hoa.

There used to be a temple worshipping him in Nhon Trach District, but it was destroyed during the time of war.

Dao Tri Phu, a Confucian patriot of Dong Nai, had great contributions to the fight against the French colonists in their early days of colonization.

1.6 Doan Van Cu (1835-1905)

Born in the village of Binh An, Thu Duc District, Gia Dinh, his father being a Confucian patriot, Doan Van Cu moved his family to a thin forest in Vinh Cuu District, Bien Hoa (now Tam Hoa Ward, Bien Hoa City) in a wish to follow his father's example, awaiting opportunity to resist the French. As a village teacher, a fortune-teller and a physician, he secretly worked to arouse the Love for the motherland in the masses, and established the Thien Dia Hoi (*the Association of the Sky and the Land*). In its nature, this association is a secret Anti-French Society.

In 3 years (1902-1905) his association attracted a lot of people from Bien Hoa and Ba Ria, including both the common and the well-known. His men worked hard to store food, weapons and did a lot of hard training in preparation for the uprising. As the force gradually developed, the French sensed their activities. On April 8th, 1905 (lunar calendar), the French sent troops to besiege the insurgent army. After a day of hard fighting, the insurgents thought that the French had withdrawn, so they decided to go home for dinner. Taking advantage of this carelessness, the French resumed their attack. Doan Van Cu quietly burned some incense before the ancestor's altar, then suddenly stabbed the French officer with his knife. Wounded as he was, the French officer still had time to send him some bullets which killed him immediately. Sixteen men were killed, while the rest withdrew to the rear. The French pulled down the base completely and forced people to dig a hole nearby to bury Doan Van Cu and his men. In 1906, when the situation was better improved, the local people built a temple in Tam Hiep Village on National Route 15 to commemorate him and his men. Thousands of people gathered there annually on April 8th lunar calendar for Doan Van Cu and his men death anniversary.

2. The Revolutionary Struggle for the Liberation of the People and the Protection of the Nation

2.1 Nguyen Van Nghia (1909-1946)

Nguyen Van Nghia, nicknamed Xuoc, was born in Tan Uyen and brought up in Binh Y, Bien Hoa (presently Binh Loi, Vinh Cuu, Dong Nai) from a rich clerk family. When a student, greatly influenced by the movement for the right of mourning Phan Chau Trinh and the releasing of Phan Boi Chau, he left school for Sai Gon and it was there that he began his revolutionary activities.

In 1930, like the patriot Nguyen An Ninh, he traveled through Cochichina and Cambodia on the pretence of selling Burmese balm to propagate the demand of democracy and independence, and the need to renovate the political policies on colonies.

In 1931, when he could get in touch with communist organizations in Cochichina, Nguyen Van Nghia plunged into activities. He continuously transported propaganda and revolutionary documents to support the revolutionary movements in Bien Hoa, Tan Uyen, Di An railway station, Tan Mai BIF sawmill, etc. In 1936, Nguyen Van Nghia became a writer for many magazines and newspapers such as La Lutte (The Struggle), L'avangarde (The Frontier), Le Peuple (The People) and worked hard to shape The Action Committee for Bien Hoa. He and Nguyen Khoai printed and propagated thousands of pamphlets to support the movement of the