

WELCOME GUIDE TO BIEN-HOA



*Produced for the information of
Allied Troops in Bien Hoa Province*

WELCOME MESSAGE



*Lt. Col. TRAN VAN HAI
Bienhoa Province Chief*

I would like to extend to you, the members of Allied Forces serving in South Vietnam, a hearty and warm welcome to Bien-Hoa Province. Your presence here is greatly appreciated by young and old, and portrays the sincerity of our allies in keeping South Vietnam and all of Southeast Asia free.

No amount of words can express our deep appreciation for the work you are doing; we can only continue to welcome you with open arms and hope your stay is educational, enlightening and rewarding. I wish all of you, good luck, great safety, and many thanks.

Tran Van Hai

BIEN HOA HISTORY

The Vietnamese word « Bien » means frontier ; the Vietnamese word « Hoa » implies the idea of peace and quiet, thus giving us the basis for referring to Bien Hoa as the frontier of peace in South Vietnam. The French, during their tenure in this country referred to the city as « Porte de la Paix », which translated means « door of peace ».

Bien Hoa is divided into seven districts, (the district is comparable to the countries in your home state), each district being headed by a district chief, (military), and further administered by civilian agencies. The district chief, in addition to his duties of local government administrator, is responsible for the conduct of military operations in his district. In effect, he is the overall commander of the Regional and Popular Forces in the district.

The major portion of the inhabitants are native South Vietnamese, but other nationalities and ethnic groups do exist as follows ; Montagnard, North Vietnamese refugees, Cambodians, Chinese, French, Italians, Indians, and one American. The one American is a priest presently working and residing in Ho Nai village, Duc Tu District.

Bien Hoa Province has 214,476 hectares of land area. A great deal of this is heavily wooded and not suited for cultivation. Those areas, not heavily wooded, are quite fertile and provide a vast web of rice fields throughout the seven districts. Rubber plantations also spot the land, particularly in Duc Tu, Cong Thanh, Nhon Trach, and Long Thanh Districts. The climate in Bien Hoa is similiar to the climate in most of Southeast Asia ; two seasons primarily, dry and wet. The dry season normally runs from November to April, and the wet season from May through October. Due to the abundance of rain and the water of the Dong Nai river,

rice and fruit production are constant ; Bien Hoa is especially well known for it's grapefruit. Other industry in Bien Hoa includes ; weaving mills, paper fan factories, and brick factories. Due west of Bien Hoa Airbase is located the Buu Long rock quarries. This industry contributes a great deal to the national industrial development program. In the two southern districts of Bien Hoa, Quang Xuyen and Can Gio, we find the favorite fishing spots and the fishing industry. Can Gio provides an abundance of delicious shrimp which are sold nation wide. Of further interest to you is the fact that Can Gio is only a twenty five minute chopper ride from Bien Hoa, insuring the fact that it is possible to have fresh shrimp on your table. For those of you interested in buying oriental pottery, Bien Hoa city provides a high artistic and reasonably priced pottery factory. Located on National Route 1, next to Ngo Quyen high School the factory not only produces pottery of your choice, but also trains pottery sculptors and technicians. All of the pottery can be ordered and purchased at the factory.

CUSTOMS

The Vietnamese people persist in preserving ancient rites and traditional customs. A primary source of happiness in their life is the close association between family members. You should make every attempt to recognize these feelings in young association with the people. The Vietnamese people are very warm and friendly to the outsider, and you can expect at times to be invited to eat with them. In doing so you pay them a great honor ; eat Vietnamese style and don't worry if the chopsticks won't work, your host will be very tolerant and may even give you lessons in proper use. There are no involved courtesies to be followed when associating with the people ; good basic acts of courtesy will suffice. Act the way you would at home or with your friends. Churches and Pagodas, public buildings, and restaurants receive the same attention and respect as those in your country.

SIGHTSEEING AND DINING

Bien Hoa City is blessed with many areas attractive to the eye of the camera bug and to the stomach of the gourmet. For sightseeing, we recommend you visit some of the 176

pagodas or 58 churches ; or travel to Chau Thoi mountain on the Saigon — Bien Hoa highway, where is located an ancient pagoda. Also a trip to Buu Long mountain will reveal a view of the countryside, complete with Buddhist Statue surrounded by flower gardens. A Sunday afternoon walk up the east bank of the Dong Nai river provides excellent viewing of the provincial office buildings, Province Chief's home with floral gardens, fishing sampans, and young Vietnamese women dressed in the traditional Ao Dai dress. For your dining pleasure try the Tuyet Hong and Tan Hiep restaurants located on the Dong Nai river. Here you will eat typical Vietnamese food at reasonable prices. If you prefer French style food, the LaPlage and Peacock restaurants should satisfy your tastes.

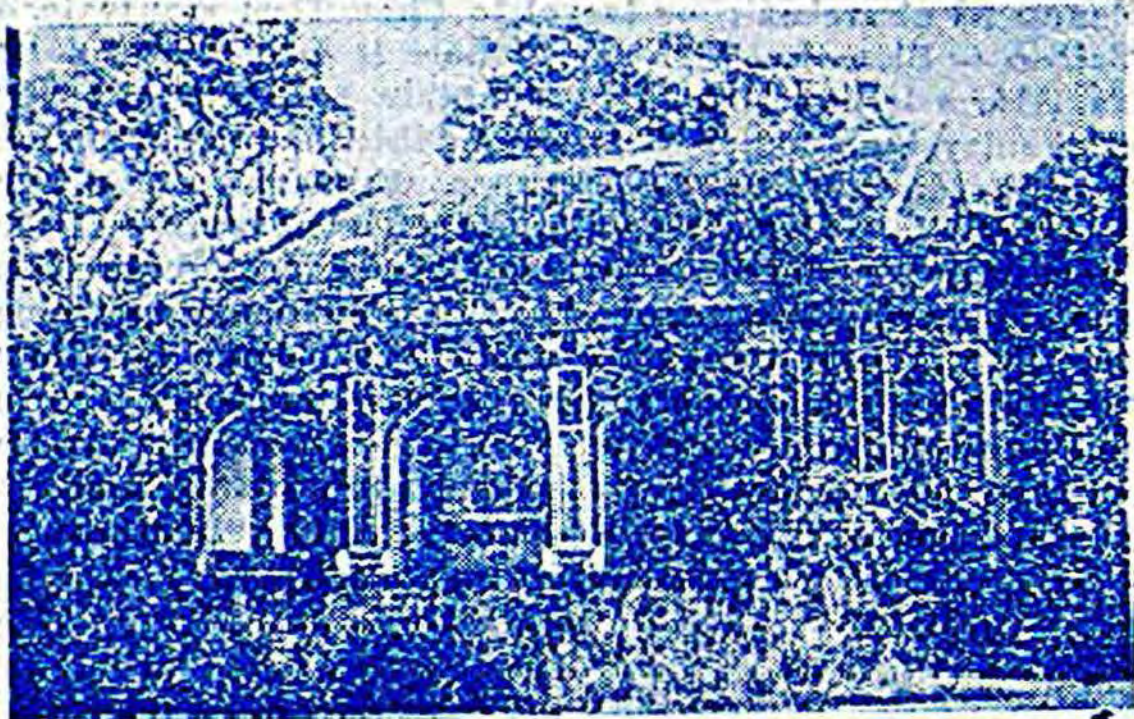
If you run into any trouble locating places you wish to see, ask someone, you'd be surprised how easy it is to communicate in two different languages.

POPULATION STATISTICS

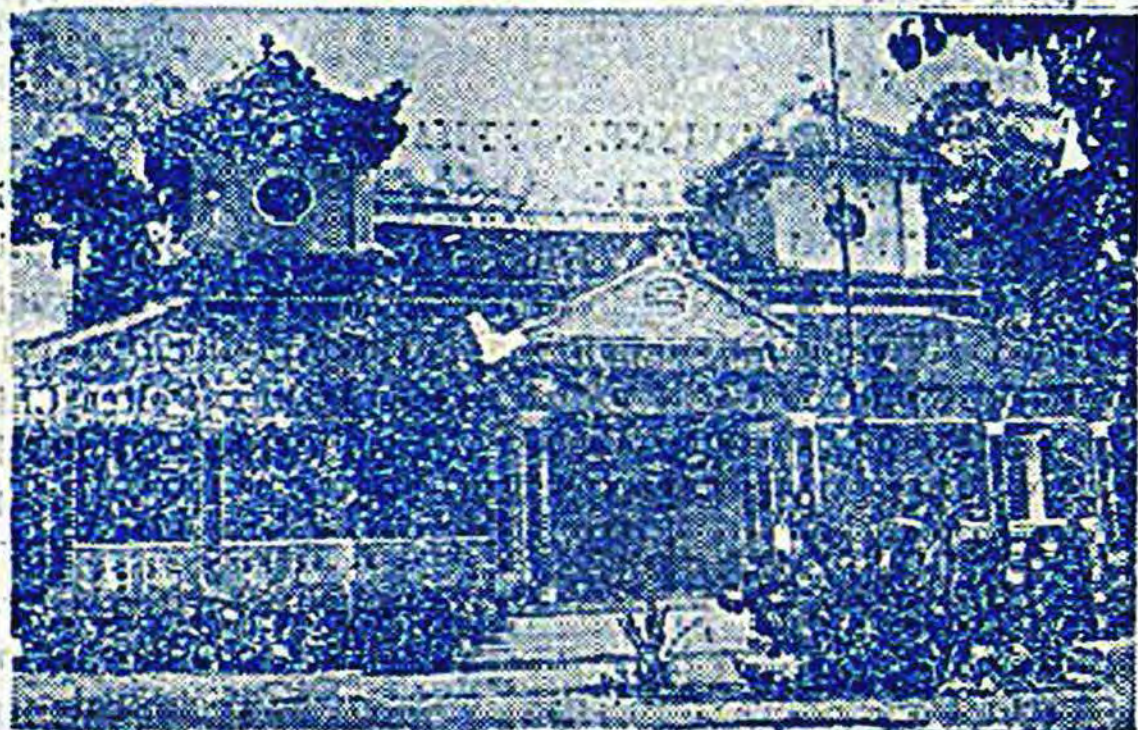
Duc Tu	144,774
Long Thanh	26,095
Cong Thanh	15,220
Di An	30,403
Nhon Trạch	47,790
Can Gio	8,246
Quang Xuyen	6,678

PROVINCE OFFICIALS

Lt. Col. TRAN VAN HAI	Province Chief
Mr. ĐO THANH NHON	Deputy — Chief
Maj. PHAM VAN NHAN	Deputy interior of security
Dr. NGUYEN ĐINH CƯƠNG	Chief of health service
Mr. ĐƯƠNG ĐINH ĐOÀI	Police Chief
— ĐOÀN THAN SƠN	Chieu Hoi Chief
— NGUYEN MINH CHAU	VIS Chief
— TRAN SI HUAN	Public work Chief
— PHAM ĐUC BAO	Director Ngo Quyen secondary school
— LE VAN MAU	Technical High school Principal



Bửu Long Pagoda



Đại Giác Pagoda



CONG THANH

HT 2

DUAN

DUC TU

SAIGON - BIEN HOA

LONG THANH

HEU HAI 15

NHON TRACH

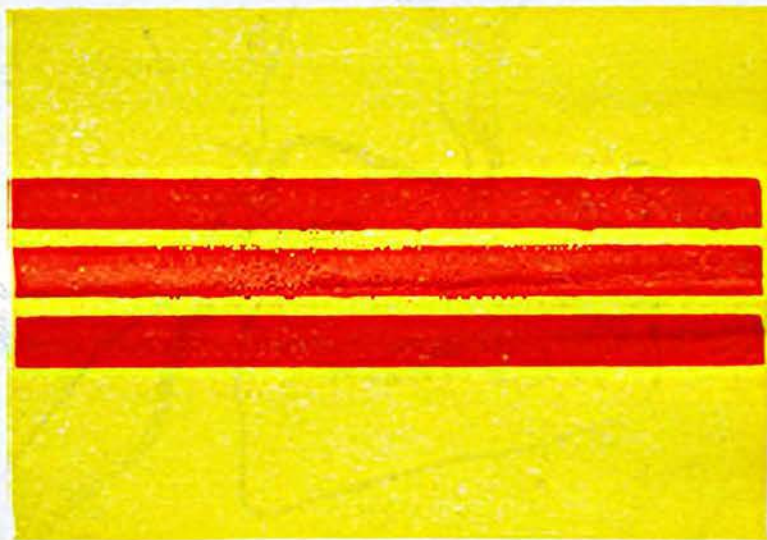
QUANG XUYEN

⊙ BIEN HOA CITY

▲ DISTRICT HOI

DAN GIO





Welcome guide produced for Allied troops stationed in Bien Hoa province, circa 1964-1965. This particular copy was given to Sergeant Peter Foster, an engineer with the New Zealand Army Detachment (NEWZAD) on his arrival in Vietnam.





