

NGUYEN TRI PHUONG (1799-1873). Vietnamese military commander under the Nguyen Dynasty. Born in Thua Thien Province in Central Vietnam, General Nguyen Tri Phuong was commander of Vietnamese troops in South Vietnam at the time of the French attack on the area in 1859-1860. Although larger than that of its adversary, his army was defeated by the French in February 1861 at the Battle of Chi Hoa (Ky Hoa) near Saigon. After their victory, the French gradually extended their control over the neighboring provinces of Bien Hoa, Gia Dinh, and Dinh Tuong. In November 1873, as governor of Hanoi, he received an ultimatum from the French adventurer Francis Garnier demanding the surrender of the city. When he refused, Garnier attacked the citadel. When the bastion was taken Nguyen Tri Phuong committed suicide. (See Battle of Ky Hoa; Garnier, Francis)