

Title:

An Excursion by Road to Dalat

Word Count:

2100

Summary:

An account of one of the numerous journeys the author took by road in South Vietnam in an effort

Keywords:

vietnam,south vietnam,asia,travel,road travel,vietnam war,vietnam holiday,vietnam memories

Article Body:

We were driving around probably not too sure where to go. We must have been heading to Saigon. We were able to come to these decisions without any discussion which was good. On the other hand, what perhaps was surprising was the fact that the Vietnamese continued to travel the roads. The I switched the number plates of my car and then we continued through an area of rubber plantation.

We decided I needed another identity. I suggested being a French catholic priest. I was often asked for a priest. We now looked out on the most beautiful green I had ever seen. Below us there was wave after wave of hills.

To digress. The old plantations had been owned by the French. I was to get to know a Vietnamese farmer.

We arrived at the civil airfield serving Dalat. Very small. No sign of any activity or any planes.

We finally arrived in Dalat. We had not seen a single motorised vehicle the whole journey, save for a few bicycles.

There was a curfew at eight o'clock. It was a town that had seen its heyday years before. Now it was a ghost town. The following morning I filled the car up with petrol, lit my pipe and we began the return trip.

The drive was eventless and we passed again through rolling hills of tall grassland. As we approached the town, we saw a few people.

Three days after our trip the Viet Cong attacked the road in six places and held control of it for several days.

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