THE WASHINGTON POST A 20 Friday, May 12, 1967

## GI Deaths Equal Peak Of Viet War

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, May 11 — The number of American servicemen killed in Vietnam last week was 274, matching the previous high for the war, the previous high for the war, the U.S. Command said today.

The toll of American wounded also showed a sharp rise as did the casualty figures for South Vietnamese and other allied forces as well as the number of Communist dead reported.

Many of the U.S. and enemy casualties came in last week's heavy fighting in the five northernmest provinces which make up I Corps Area. Last week's action was marked by the successful, but costly, conquest of twin-peaked Hill 881 near the Laotian border.

## I Corps Area

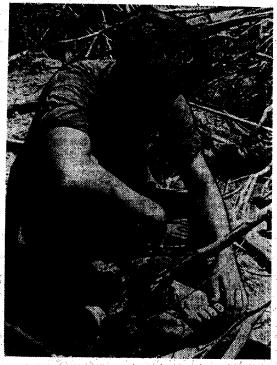
The first time that American deaths reached 274 was during the week ending March 25, which saw heavy fighting in both I Corps Area and in the enemy stronghold of War Zone C, 65 miles northwest of Saigon.

At the begining of 1965, there were 23,000 American military men here, mostly airmen and advisers to South Vietnam units.

With the commitment of U.S. ground troops in March, 1965, the total Gis quickly rose to over 166,000 in late November, 1965, and to 442,000 today. There was no gain in strength during the past week. The estimate of Communist strength remained at 286,000.

Ground Action

Fresh reports of ground ac-



United Press International

TOE WEARY—A battle weary Marine massages his toes during a Juli in the fighting for Hill 881, near the Lactian border of South Vietnam. The fight for the hill was one of bloodiest in the Vietnamese war.

## U.S. Casualties Rise Sharply

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U. S			• • • • • • • •	 274	181	1748 957	18 12
Vietname Other A	riied			 212	76	(not given)	54 13 (none listed)
"Commu	nists				1152	(not given)	(not given)
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tion were scanty today. The U.S. Command said 117 of North Vietnamese were killed by U. S. Marines on Wednesday when they assaulted an enemy-held hill 25 miles south of Danang. Officials said 24 Marines were killed and 97 wounded in the fighting.

American military spokesmen said that air strikes killed 53 Vietcong spotted moving just north of the large airbase at Bienhoa 25 miles north of Saigon.

American and Vietnamese pilots, flying in supported of ground operations in Quangtri Province just south of the buffer strip between North and South Vietnam, killed another 45 enemy soldiers.

## GI Deaths Ric Equal Record

American service m killed in action last w totaled 274, matching t previous high of the w Toll of U.S. wounded alrose sharply, as did casualt figures for South Vietnamese, allies and the Communists, all largely because of the stepped up fighting in I Corps Area.

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