

# 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 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 northernmost 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

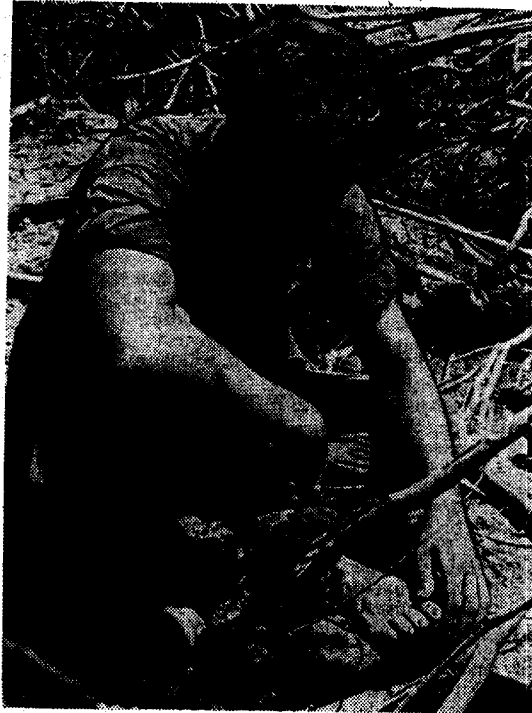
The first time that American deaths reached 274 was during the week ending March 25, which saw heavy fighting in both I Corps Area and in the enemy stronghold of War Zone C, 65 miles northwest of Saigon.

At the beginning 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 lull in the fighting for Hill 881, near the Laotian border of South Vietnam. The fight for the hill was one of bloodiest in the Vietnamese war.

# U.S. Casualties Rise Sharply

	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING OR CAPTURED	
	May 6	April 29	May 6	April 29	May 6	April 29
U. S. ....	274	191	1748	957	18	12
Vietnamese .....	212	76	(not given)		54	13
Other Allied .....	18	4	26	9	(none listed)	(not given)
Communists .....	1903	1152	(not given)			

\*As reported by the U.S. Command.

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 Rise Equal Record

American servicemen killed in action last week totaled 274, matching the previous high of the war. Toll of U.S. wounded also rose sharply, as did casualty figures for South Vietnamese, allies and the Communists, all largely because of the stepped up fighting in I Corps Area.

Story and table on Page A20.