

Army Has No Viet 'Unknown Soldiers'

Washington

Although bills have been introduced in Congress to create a special "tomb of the unknown soldier" for the Vietnam war, there is no body to put in it.

A spokesman for the Army said yesterday there are no unidentified casualties from the conflict.

This is unusual compared to past wars. There were 8532 unidentified bodies after World War II and 856 after the Korean War.

The Army, which handles

all funeral arrangements for Vietnam casualties, said the use of helicopters to recover the dead and wounded made it easier to identify bodies. Even when the identification tag was destroyed or lost, the bodies were not yet decomposed enough to eliminate fingerprints.

Officials note there are still 1328 men missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. It is possible the military may eventually find one of these men who cannot be identified.

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