

Yank Battle Deaths In Viet War Rise To 400

WASHINGTON — UPI — American battle deaths in Viet Nam rose to an even 400 last week with the loss of seven men. Two of them were pilots shot down over North Viet Nam.

Another seven, including six in air craft shot down over North Viet Nam, are listed as missing.

Accidental deaths among United States forces in South Viet Nam meanwhile increased to 180, making the fatality toll 580 since combat aid to the South Vietnamese Government began in late 1961.

Forty men, including some for whom there is little hope, are missing or believed captured.

The pilots identified as killed in action last week are Lieutenant Commander Frederick P. Crosby, 31, of San Diego, Calif., and Lieutenant junior grade David M. Christian, 24, of Lakeside, Calif. Both were flying navy planes struck by anti aircraft fire.

The defense department continued its recently inaugurated policy of withholding the home towns and the identities of relatives of airmen shot down but possibly taken prisoners. It is believed such information might help their captors.

The missing in last week's air actions are listed by name and age as follows: Aviation Electronician 3C William M. Anspacher, Jr., 20; Lieutenant junior grade M. D. McMican, 24; Aviation Navigator 3C

Thomas L. Plants, 25; Ensign Gerald M. Romano, 23; Lieutenant John B. McKamey, 29, and First Lieutenant Robert D. Peal.

Except for Peal, an air force officer, all of the missing are navy men.

Two army men were killed in ambushes during the week, and a third when the South Vietnamese unit he was advising was overrun by Communist guerrillas. One marine was killed and another died of wounds received May 28th.

The army dead were identified as Major Bernard W. Dibbert, 38, of Fayetteville, NC.; Master Sergeant Hugh M. Robbins of Lawton, Okla., and Captain Christopher J. O'Sullivan of Astoria, N.Y.

Marine Staff Sergeant Willy D. Tyrone, 33, of Abilene, Tex., was killed during the week. Marine Lance Corporal Roy L. Murphy, 21, of Moultrie, GA., was transferred to the fatality column. The total number of wounded increased during the week from 2,208 to 2,262.

Of those killed in non combat accidents, 61 have died in plane crashes and 119 from other causes.

Two were added to the air crash total last week when a marine plane crashed near Da Nang. They were First Lieutenant Richard E. Heister of Grundy, Va., and Captain Werner E. Lutz of Fairview, NJ.

