

mighty Jap base in the
islands of the Central Pacific. A
giant air battle was believed still raging.

Associated Press Staff.

Notify Kin of 1,000 Who Died at Sea

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (INS).—The loss of 1,000 American soldiers in the sinking of a troop transport off Europe represented today the greatest military disaster of its kind in the history of the U. S.

The War Department in a brief announcement said the men were reported missing when an Allied troop ship was sent to the bottom after an enemy night attack in European waters. About 1,000 other men were rescued.

Dates and other details of the disaster were withheld, the Department said, because "there is reason to believe that the enemy

does not know of the results of this attack."

The announcement said "American soldiers in substantial numbers" were aboard the ship.

"In a heavy sea the ship sank rapidly, and 1,000 men were reported missing," the department said.

"The emergency addresses of all who are listed as missing have now been informed."

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