


091 MACAO (MISCELLANEOUS)

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## LIST OF PAPERS

FILE UNDER NO. 091 - MACAO (Miscellaneous)

Serial No.	From	Date	To	Synopsis
1	Mr. Stimson	4/27/45	Mr. Grew	Letter re reported bombing of Panamanian SS Masbate, in harbor at Macao.
2	Sec Forrestal	5/22/45	Sec of State	Letter re reporting of thrid instance of bombing of Macao by U.S. aircraft.
3	Sec of War	6/22/45	Sec of State	Letter re fourth bombing of Macao by unidentified planes.
4	Lt. Gen. Hull	8/15/45		Re alleged Bombing of Macao



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ENS. R. J. ...	.....
FILE (11 AUG 45)	.....

SECRET

- 1 Approval
- 2 Signature

Pacific Thr Sec, OPD  
 Major McMath/6313 /sep

Alleged Bombing of Macau by American Planes. 15 August 1945

SUMMARY

1. Letter dated 18 June 1945 from Acting Secretary of State informed Secretary of War that the Portuguese Government protests an alleged fourth bombing of Macau on 11 June 1945 by an unidentified four-engine bomber which dropped a stick of three bombs, damaged homes and strafed the population, killing one and wounding two Chinese.
2. Radio WARK 20284 (21 June 45) advised Generals MacArthur and Wedemeyer of the Portuguese protest and requested information if any planes under their command made the alleged attack.
3. Radio CM-IN 27347 (28 June 45) from General Wedemeyer advised that there were no China-based aircraft flying in the Macau area on 11 June; further stated that all personnel on missions into that area are briefed on the neutrality of Macau and no targets in that colony are ever assigned.
4. Radio CM-IN 11198 (12 July 45) from General MacArthur advised that his investigation reveals no aircraft of his command made the alleged attack.
5. By letter dated 16 July 1945, the Secretary of War informed the Secretary of State that Generals MacArthur and Wedemeyer had investigated the incident and reported that no aircraft of their commands were involved in the alleged attack.
6. Letter at hand from Under Secretary of State dated 11 August 1945 acknowledges receipt of above mentioned reply and requests information further whether aircraft of any other American commands which might have been operating in the Macau area, other than Naval aircraft, were involved in the alleged attack.
7. Recommend Secretary of War sign attached reply to Secretary of State informing him of the Army Command responsibilities which existed in the Macau area at the time of the alleged attack and reiterating that no American aircraft under Army command were operating in the Macau area on 11 June 1945.

COORDINATION

- 8. Commanding General, AAF (Col. Stone, Air Staff Plans, x4152)
- U. S. Navy (Capt. Fenseth, Office Chief of Naval Operations, Central Div., Code 8117, x2614).

2 Incls

- 1. Ltr to SS f/sig SE
- 2. Ltr fr Under SS dtd 11 Aug 45

J. E. HULL  
 Lieutenant General, GSC  
 Assistant Chief of Staff, OPD

16 AUG 1945  
 NOTED-OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
 WAT

SECRET

189

Cy for SWNCC

(4)



OPD 336 Portugal (11 Aug 45)

WDOPD/6313  
Maj McMath/zep

The Honorable

17 AUG 1945

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My letter of 16 July, replying to your original letter of 18 June 1945 concerning the alleged fourth bombing of Macau by an American plane, omitted a discussion of the then existing command responsibilities, which are outlined herein for your information.

At the time of the alleged bombing, 11 June 1945, all United States Army air operations in the vicinity of Macau were under the control of General MacArthur as Commander-in-Chief, Army Forces in the Pacific, and of General Wedemeyer as Commanding General, United States Forces in China, as mutually arranged between them. In his answer to my query, General MacArthur stated that no aircraft of his command attacked Macau on 11 June 1945. General Wedemeyer replied that no American China-based aircraft flew into the Macau area on that date; he further stated that all personnel flying into that area are briefed regarding the neutrality of Macau and that no targets in that colony are ever assigned.

Generals MacArthur and Wedemeyer exercise control of all Army aircraft in their respective areas, except for planes of the Twentieth Air Force which at the time were flying exclusively toward Japan from bases in the Marianas. Thus, it will be seen that the replies from these two commanders cover all United States Army air units which fly near Macau.

Based upon the replies outlined above, I conclude that no American aircraft under Army command were operating in the Macau area on 11 June 1945 and consequently could not have been involved in the alleged attack.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Acting Secretary of War



**SECRET**

OPD 336 Portugal (18 Jun 45)

WDOPD/6313  
Col Thackston/sep

JUN 22 1945

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of 18 June 1945 concerning the bombing of Macau for the fourth time by unidentified planes on or about 11 June 1945 has been received.

I am investigating this matter through the appropriate Theater Commanders, and will inform you further upon receipt of replies from them.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgt.) HENRY L. STIMPSON  
Secretary of War

SWNCC	
COL. MCCARTHY	.....
COMDR. RICHARDSON	.....
MR. R. E. COX	.....
LT. COL. PENNOYER	.....
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1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	.....
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	.....
FILE	.....

Copy for Secretariat, SWNCC.

**SECRET**

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The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 0042213  
(SC)A16-3(2)

Op-13-1-A/lma  
18 May 1945

**SECRET**

22 MAY 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter, WE: 740.0011 P.W./4-1045 of 17 April 1945, with enclosures, reporting a third instance of bombing of Macao by United States aircraft.

I have been informed by copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of State, dated 16 May 1945, that a Navy PV-1 Search Plane, under the operational control of General MacArthur, was involved in the sinking of a Portuguese tug off the harbor of Macao on 7 April 1945. The details of the incident are set forth in the aforementioned letter.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Hon. E. R. Stettinius, Jr.,

Secretary of State.

cc: SWNCC Secretariat

Prepared by: Captain T. H. Tonseth, Central Division,  
Operations.

740.

(2)



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REMARKS:

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TOP SECRET

CPD 353.4 TS (29 Mar 45)

Honorable Joseph C. Grew  
Acting Secretary of State  
Washington, D. C.

*J. G. Macao*

APR 27 1945

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to my letter of 5 April acknowledging your letter of 29 March and advising that additional information was being requested from General MacArthur concerning the reported attack by an American plane on 25 February on the Panamanian SS MASBATE, while lying in the harbor at Portuguese Macao.

You were informed on 23 March that the War Department was in receipt of information from General MacArthur that on 25 February the pilot of a search Liberator overshot his target and bombs fell on the docks at Macao. The pilot had been briefed thoroughly but poor visibility confused him as to Macao's exact location. I stated that it would appear that the United States must assume the responsibility for this bombing.

General MacArthur further advises that the plane in question, a Navy Liberator under his operational control, took off from Leyte and, in view of weather conditions and the consequent difficulty of estimating drift and velocity, was brought out of the overcast at Macao instead of Hongkong. On letting down below the overcast, the terrain features, seen through the rain and haze, caused the pilot to believe that he was in the Hongkong area. Upon approaching land, the crew sighted some tugs, small harbor craft and a freighter of about 2000 tons, which was in the northwest part of the anchorage close to shore. At 1050 I-time, the pilot attacked the freighter with 50-caliber machine guns and ten 100-pound bombs. Machine gun bullets struck the freighter but the bombs overshot, striking the water and docks nearby. No further attacks were made.

Previously, the pilot and co-pilot had made one flight to the Hongkong area but due to weather conditions were unable to see the coast. The pilot had been briefed on the neutrality of Macao but believed he was in the Hongkong area until after the attack was made. The Assistant Air Inspector General of the Far East Air Forces, who investigated the above incident, concludes that the attack on such neutral vessel was not the result of any negligence or lack of navigational or flying ability on the part of the pilot or crew, but was an unavoidable accident directly attributable to adverse weather conditions.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

TOP SECRET

Secretariat, SWNCC

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APR 23 1945

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of 17 April 1945 concerning the alleged bombing of Macau for the third time by a plane or planes identified as American on 7 April 1945 has been received.

The appropriate Theater Commanders are being queried regarding this incident. You will be informed upon receipt of their replies.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON

Secretary of War

Copy for SWNCC

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TOP SECRET

WDOPD/73241  
Col Light/em

OPD 353.4 TS (20 Mar 45)

*091  
Macao*

MAR 23 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received from Vice Admiral Edwards a copy of a letter dated 28 February 1945 from the Acting Secretary of State to the Acting Secretary of the Navy, with regard to the bombing of Macao by an American airplane on 25 February.

The War Department has received information from General MacArthur that on 25 February the pilot of a search Liberator overshot his target and bombs fell on the docks at Macao. The pilot had been briefed thoroughly but poor visibility confused him as to Macao's exact location. It would appear therefore that the United States must assume the responsibility for this bombing.

Vice Admiral Edwards is being furnished a copy of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Acting Secretary of War

INFORMATION COPY FOR SECRETARIAT, SWNCC

TOP SECRET