

**FRANK MATURO'S MISSIONS AS A SIDE-GUNNER ON A B-26 FROM MAY 1944 - JANUARY 1945 (EUROPEAN THEATER)**

After each mission (all 66 of them), Frank Maturo would scribe details of the flight on sheets of paper - these details were (at the time) very classified information. He revealed these notes to his family after the war.



Left to Right: Lt. Wilford R. Onei, George E. Johnson Jr, Donald R. Berry, Frank A. Maturo, Carl W. Mason, George F. Britt

# Facts About My Missions

1st. Raid - May 2nd.

Railroad yard near Lille - Perfect hits - no flak - no fighters.

2nd. Raid - May 4th.

Gun position on coast - No clear results - no flak - no fighters.

3rd. Raid - May 10th.

Railroad yard near Paris North East - Good hits - some flak - no fighters.

4th. Raid - May 11th.

Air field near Beaumont - Good results - some flak - no fighters.

5th. Raid - May 13th.

Gun position on coast - Plenty of flak - 25 holes in our ship  
Our hydraulic lines were shot up. Thought we were going  
to bail out. Made a good landing - Navigator in lead  
ship was killed.

6th. Raid -

Air field near Belgium - no flak - no fighters.

7th. Raid - May 19th.

A coastal gun position on coast. Hit target - no flak  
no fighters.

8th. Raid - May 20th.

Coastal guns again - Hits good. Went over target twice  
no flak - no fighters.

9th. Raid - May 22nd.

Gun position near Le Havre - Good hits - no flak - no fighters.

10th. Raid - May 24th.

Gun position near Le Havre - no flak - no fighters - Hits unknown.

11th. Raid - May 26th.

Air field near Paris. Hits unknown. Plenty of flak - no fighters.

12th. Raid - May 27th.

Bridge on Seine River near Rouen - Good hits - Plenty of flak  
no fighters - 3 holes in ship.

13th. Raid - May 27th.

Bridge on Seine River near Rouen - Good hits - some flak  
no fighters.

14th. Raid - May 28th.

Bridge near Brussels, Belgium - Plenty of flak - seen fighters but they did not attack

15th. Raid - May 30th.

Bridge and Railroad yards near Paris - both places hit and destroyed - Plenty of flak - no fighters - 3 holes in ship

16th. Raid - June 4th

Coast gun position at Le Havre. Didn't drop our bombs. Plenty of flak - 6 holes in ship - no fighters.

17th. Raid - June 6th.

Group was the spearhead of the invasion forces which attacked France at 6:30 A.M. - Rain was coming down in buckets and ordinarily we never would have taken off. However our boys had to have air cover and some one to bomb those coastal positions, so we took off. Weather was real bad. Couldn't see a thing and fear of cracking up was in everyone's mind. We went in over the target at 4000 ft. lowest for any B-26 ever to go in. Plenty of flak and machine guns shot at us, but we were OK, hits were good. No fighters. Thousands of ships were below us - a sight which I wouldn't have missed for the world!

18th. Raid - June 8th

Supposed to have bombed overpass and train bridge where German reinforcements were arriving - Couldn't see target so we bombed a secondary target - a bridge - No flak - no fighters

19th. Raid.

Went over town of St. Lo - made two runs on target but could not see it. Were going to go in at 1000 ft but still couldn't see. Met no flak - no fighters

20th. Raid

Went near town of Alencon - No flak - saw one Focke-Wulf 190 - Hit target right on nose.

21st. Raid

Went to Chartres to hit bridges - no hits on bridge - plenty of flak - I was hit in the arm. Lost three ships due to gas shortage. All men got out okay. No fighters seen. We landed with only 20 gals. gas left.  
Correction: six men never returned from ship which ditched in Channel.

22nd. Raid.

Went close to Abbeville to hit rocket installation (No Ball) Didn't drop bombs - couldn't see a thing - No flak - no fighters

23rd. Raid

Used Pathfinder. Bombed close to battle line to hit town couldn't observe hits because of clouds - no flak - no fighters

24th. Raid

Went to Rennes - Hit target on nose - Ruined Bridge - plenty of flak - no fighters

25th. Raid

Went south of Caen and also the R.A.F. Went to hit area but didn't bomb because of smoke and darkness - plenty of flak - no fighters - Lost two ships

26th. Raid

Went to Southern Part of France. Very long. Landed in France near Caen mission - Hit Bridges pretty good. Plenty of flak but we didn't get any - no fighters

27th. Raid

Went to same target as Raid 26 - Got some flak on way in. Cloudy as hell couldn't bomb - no fighters almost had collision in clouds.

28th. Raid

Went to Chartres to bomb railway bridge - clouds prevented bombing - no flak - no fighters

29th. Raid

Went near Rennes - Bombed with Pathfinder hit target okay - no flak - no fighters

30th Raid

Bombed below Caen. Biggest bombing day since D. Day. Had all kinds of planes over there. British putting on big push right after we finished bombing. Plenty of flak - we didn't get hit. Hits were pretty good.

31st. Raid

Went to Strev to bomb Cherisy Bridge - never saw so much flak. Met 5 diff. flak positions - 8 holes in ship - plenty of belly landings. No fighters. Don't know about hits on target.

32nd. Raid

Went to bomb bridge at Saumur. Hit Bridge right on the nose. Flak was moderate. Did damage to other ships, but didn't touch ours. No fighters.

33rd Raid

Bombed railroad bridge at Argentan below Caen - target completely covered by clouds. Bombed by Pathfinder, couldn't see results - no flak - no fighters.

34th. Raid

Bombed by Pathfinder again. Something went wrong with Pathfinder so we didn't drop bombs. Our hydraulic fluid leaked out before we hit France. We met plenty of flak but didn't get hit. Were afraid of fluid catching fire. Made an emergency landing. Used air bottle. Everyone okay.

35th. Raid

Bombed below St. Lo - Bombed troops - Hits seemed okay. No flak - no fighters.

36th. Raid

Went just below our lines to bomb German troops. Plenty of flak - 3 or 4 holes in ship. No fighters - Britt. was almost Decapitated.

37th. Raid

Went fairly deep into France to knock out RR bridge. Very cloudy - Bombed by Pathfinder. Don't think we hit target - no flak - no fighters.

38th. Raid

Went to Angers to Bomb RR bridge - Hit it right on the nose. Saw no flak. but fighters sure did raise hell - shot one of our ships down and one hasn't returned yet.

39th. Raid

Went to Chartres to bomb RR bridge - Hit target okay. Very little flak. Lost one ship - no fighters.

40th.

Went to Bomb ammunition dump at Blois. Hit target area but no explosions were seen - no flak or fighters. Saw plenty of shelling going on below us

41st.

Mission - Abortion - Aug 9

Right engine cut out. We cracked up - plane caught fire we still had bomb load. We all got out okay

41st. Raid

Went to Nogent-sur-Seine to hit bridge. We hit bridge right on nose. We had plenty of flak going on and coming out. Had a hell of a time. We went over three Pz Divisions and lost two planes

42nd. Raid

Went to Combiere, just below Paris to bomb an ammunition dump. Hit target right on nose. Smoke climbed up to 12,000 ft. Plenty of flak but we didn't get hit. One ship went down smoking - no fighters

43rd. Raid

Went to Bombing line to bomb roads and bridge to block German retreat. Hit crossroads okay. Saw Spitfires strafing German troops on roads - no flak - no fighters

44th. Raid

Went to Lisieux to bomb bridge - Hit it okay. Practically all the front in France was on fire. We got some flak but when we made second run on the target, we didn't see any. The fighters must have knocked it out - no fighters

45<sup>th</sup> Raid. Went to bomb gun position at St. Malo  
no flak no fighters

46<sup>th</sup> Raid -  
We were supposed to go to Cherney South-  
East of Paris - Weather was bad, so we  
turned back - No flak or fighters.

47<sup>th</sup> Raid  
Went to Pont Cholan to bomb bridge - Hit  
target o.k. - No flak no fighters. Had path  
finder because then thought target would  
be covered by clouds - But it was clear

48<sup>th</sup> Raid.  
Went to Brionne to bomb bridge - used  
pathfinder because weather was supp-  
osed to be bad - instead it was clear  
and we bombed visually - No flak no  
fighters

49<sup>th</sup> Raid.  
Went to bomb bridge near Brionne -  
Bombed visually again did not use  
pathfinder. Hit target - plenty of flak  
holes in our ship. a shell went right  
through ship next to ours without  
exploding - No fighters

50<sup>th</sup> Raid.  
Went to bomb gun positions near Brest  
Other box got plenty of flak, but we didn't  
get any. - No fighters

51<sup>st</sup> Raid.  
Went to Compeigne to bomb ammunition and  
fuel dump. Hit target saw large fires  
didn't get any flak, but flight in one  
other box was off course and got shot  
up bad. No fighters, saw Rouen burn

52<sup>nd</sup> Raid.

Went to Borisis to bomb fuel dump. Hit target, and flames and smoke filled the area. Plenty of flak over at 9 o'clock (left side) but not near enough to bother us. - No fighters

53<sup>rd</sup> Raid

Went to city of Brest to bomb gun emplacements & troops. No flak, didn't bomb because of clouds.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>

While flying to A. 41 (Dreux) with load - three bombs (1000 lbs) fell off racks. We dropped from 800 ft. to 300 ft. We were plenty scared. Had to go back to base. We flew around for 3 hrs. putting up bombs back on racks with pulleys. Then salvoed them in Atlantic and returned to 9.22 (Garentan)

54<sup>th</sup> Raid.

Went to Bitburg (Germany) to bomb Marshalling yards - Hit target o.k. - Plenty of flak - Between 12 & 15 holes in ship. Lost one plane - Didn't see any fighters

55<sup>th</sup> Raid

Went to Pelman, Germany to bomb Marshalling yards - Hit target on nose - No flak no fighters

56<sup>th</sup> Raid

Went to Embmenail (St. Lucian) Germany to hit panzer division. Didn't bomb heavy overcast. No flak no fighters

57<sup>th</sup> Raid

Went to Julich, Germany I.P. started in Holland - Bombed ward house & Marshalling



yard. Hit target okay. Plenty of flak, several holes in ship. Plenty of ships damaged.

58<sup>th</sup> Mission 72

Henglo Holland to bomb Marshalling yards. Turned back near lines. No fighter escort. Controversy as to whether it's a mission or not.

59<sup>th</sup> Raid

Went to Fecichenbach to bomb ammunition dump. Hit target okay. Plenty of flak. Lost at least two ships. Engineer in lead ship was killed.

60<sup>th</sup> Mission

Went to Pimassens Germany to bomb warehouse. Didn't bomb. Ten tenths cover.

61<sup>st</sup> Mission

Went to Saarlouis to bomb strong point in Siegfried line. Several para troops divisions were to be dropped there later. Didn't drop bombs however. Heavy cloud cover - some flak, but far off - No fighters.

62<sup>nd</sup> Mission

Went to Nideggen Holland to bomb front line troops. Very little flak. Saw two jet propelled fighters. They didn't bother us. Hit target okay.

63<sup>rd</sup> Mission

Went to Sebach Germany to Bomb. Dug in tanks in the town. Dropped bombs by path finder. No flak no fighters.

64<sup>th</sup> Mission

Went to Hellenenthal to bomb a town. A strong point in Siegfried - No flak no fighters. 3 bombs didn't drop. - Lower

two wedged in Bombs & third dropped on lower two - Bombs were defused on way back and top bomb was hoisted back into rack

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>

To Bremen. Lost ten planes today. Worst mission ever. Thank God I wasn't on it. German fighters did most of the damage. "Big Nick" our room mate never returned. Hope he will.

65<sup>th</sup> Mission (Lost)

Went to Nideggen to bomb road intersection and disrupt supply lines. Plenty of flak but it didn't hit us. No fighters around. Hit target on nose.

66<sup>th</sup> Mission

Went to Dorsel to bomb communications and supplies. We lost oil and over Germany went on single engine. We lost altitude and flak got heavy. We threw all our ~~equipment~~ equipment overboard and also the waist guns and nose gun. Then we were ready to bail out in friendly territory. Luckily we spotted a fighter field in Belgium and landed there. Last night while there we were strafed by German planes.

flak