

MacLean, Francis J.

## After 35th Combat Mission He Gets Thrill In Paris Hitch-Hike; Never Reaches French Capital

JAN 13 1945

RICHMOND, Va. (Special to the Globe-Times)—Despite the fact that he participated in the famous Peenemunde raid—in which hundreds of Germans scientists working in V-bomb laboratories were killed—1st. Lt. Francis J. MacLean discounts that rather dryly along with his 34 other missions over the Reich:

Lieutenant MacLean, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. J.

MacLean, of 1603 East Second Street, Bethlehem wears the Distinguished Unit Citation badge, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four clusters, but he still insists that he just acquired them as a matter of course.

"Sure, it was dangerous," the lieutenant recounted, "but none of us was ever hurt or lost, and we were so high you couldn't see anything but flak puffs. We got our share of punctures from shrapnel, but other than that it wasn't much different than driving a milk-wagon with somebody shooting at you... the law of diminishing returns, I guess you'd call it.

"To tell the gospel truth," he went on, "I got a much bigger kick out of trying to hitch-hike to Paris after my 35th mission. I never reached Paris, but it was fun trying and I had a chance to talk to people and see things which aren't accessible at 25,000 feet."

Lieutenant MacLean, a student at Lehigh University when he joined the Air Force, has been in the service for almost two years and served overseas as the navigator of a B-17.

January 13, 1945