

MISSION 647 · 25 SEPTEMBER 1944 · KOBLENZ

Formation Diagram.

MISSION

647

DATE

25 Sep 1944

TARGET

Koblenz

DOCUMENT

4 pages · Box

WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

Heavy bombers did not fly to Germany in a line. They flew in a combat box — a stacked formation designed so that dozens of .50-caliber guns covered one another.

This sheet is a picture of that box. The usual 93rd version is a page of T-shaped marks. Each T is one B-24. The pilot's name is written on the T. Notes such as Lead and H (high squadron) tell you which layer of the box you are looking at. Some missions instead used a chalkboard or a typed grid of tail letters, sometimes one drawing "after assembly" and another "over the target."

The printed header often has unused blanks for bombsight (automatic or manual) and GEE, a British radio-navigation aid. On many surviving copies those blanks were never filled. Optical character recognition turns the T's into a bare list of names and the drawing disappears. The photograph is the document.

The loading list says who was in the airplane. This sheet says where that airplane flew: lead element, high squadron, low squadron, on whose wing.

HOW TO READ IT

- 01 Each T is one airplane.** The crossbar is the wing; the stem points aft. The name on it is the pilot, not the ship.
- 02 Read it in layers.** Lead, High and Low mark the three squadrons stacked in the box. High flew above and to one side; Low below and opposite.
- 03 Find the wingmen.** Ts drawn just behind and beside another T flew on that pilot's wing, usually in elements of three.
- 04 Pair it with the loading list.** The list names the crew; this drawing places them in the sky.

THIS REPORT

Lead 1st Lt. Joseph R. Mitchell 42-95598 N (330th); deputy 1st Lt. Leland C. Spencer 075-L (409th flying a 330th ship as Dep Group). 35 airborne.

Spares on the chalkboard: 970-G Hughes; 119.



Scan for the full mission record

Crew loading lists, aircraft, losses and sources for Mission 647, at hardwickskies.com.

hardwickskies.com/mission/mission-647-1944-09-25

COMPILED IN REMEMBRANCE
NOT FOR COMMERCIAL USE

DATE

25/9/44

AUTOMATIC)

MANUAL)

BOMBSIGHTS

GEE

OPERSCHMID

KENNON

WHITMAN

ALLEN

ADAMS

BAKEWELL

FROBISH

MUNROE

COOK

AUER

BROWN

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND745005

DATE

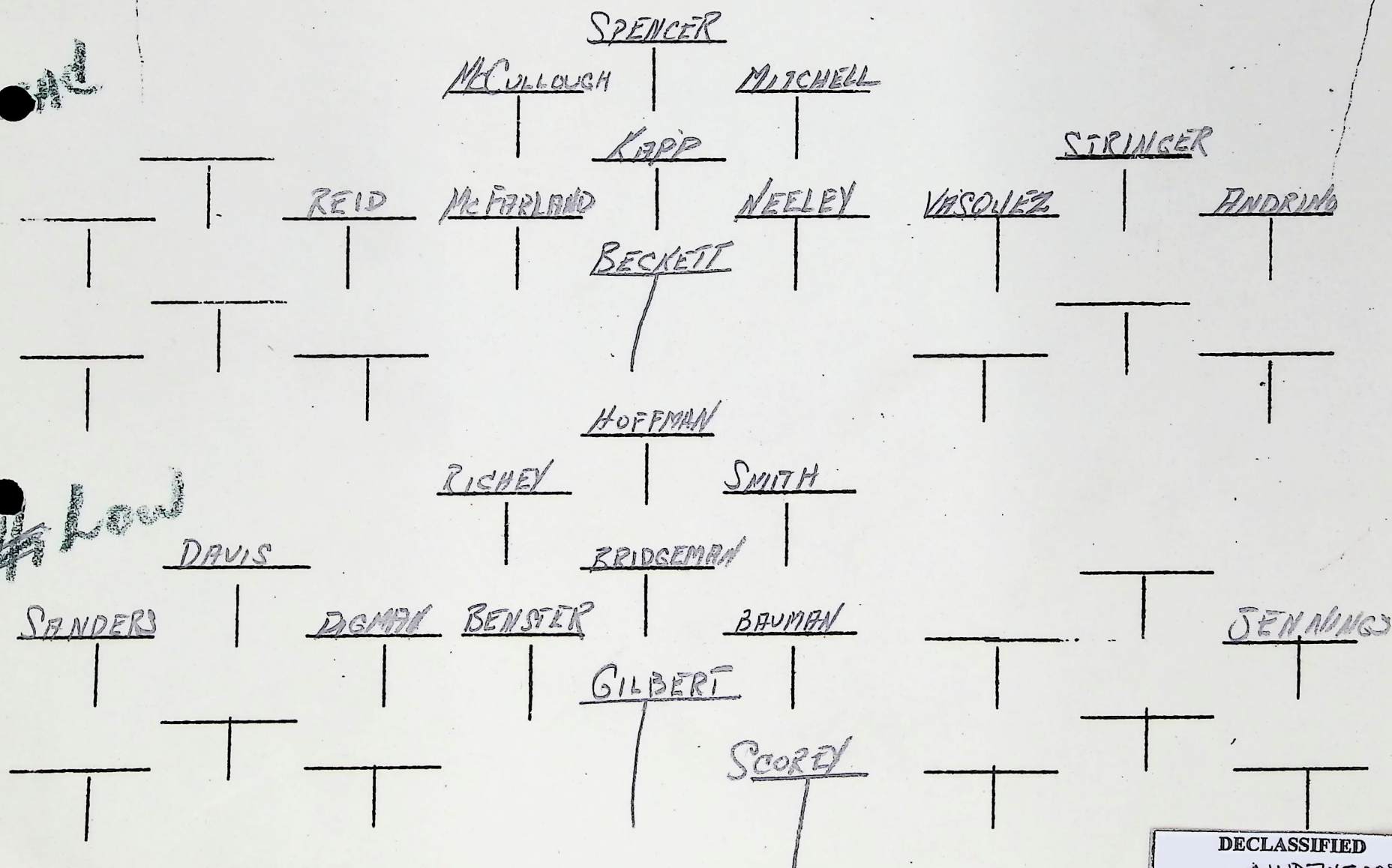
25/9/44

AUTOMATIC)

MANUAL)

BOMBSIGHTS

GEE



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND745005

Sept 23

Head

30 ✓
BECKETT
989 J

30 ✓
HUGHES
970 Q

30 ✓
REID
191 H

30 ✓
MITCHELL - CAPT. BIGGERS

30 ✓
McCULLOUGH 598 NX

30 ✓
505 E

30 ✓
HAPP

30 ✓
355 K

30 ✓
McFARLAND
242 J

09 ✓
SPENCER
075 LX
(330 SHIP)

30 ✓
NEELEY
353 B

30 ✓
VAGQUEZ
867 A

30 ✓
STEINGER
581 M

09 ✓
ANDRINO
815 G

Low

09 ✓
BIGOLIN
837 X

09 ✓
BAKEWELL
362 J

09 ✓
FROBISH
965 L

28 ✓
HOFFMAN
229 B

28 ✓
KENNON
017 E

28 ✓
WHITMAN
535 O

28 ✓
ALLEN
628 F

28 ✓
MONROE
456 J

28 ✓
COOK
994 K

28 ✓
ADAMS
971 M

28 ✓
AHER
095 R

28 ✓
BROWN
586 L

Hi

09 ✓
GILBERT
370 J

09 ✓
SAUNDERS
204 I

09 ✓
DIGHAM
578 R

29 ✓
UBERSCHMID
116 V

29 ✓
RICHY
372 R

09 ✓
SMITH
147 M

09 ✓
BRIDGEMAN
533 N

09 ✓
BAUMANN
334 K

09 ✓
BENSTER
127 F

29 ✓
DAVIS
167 W

29 ✓
SCOREY
494 N

29 ✓
JENNINGS
679 O

25 September, 1944

LEAD

30
Hughes
970

30
Beckett
989 J

30
Held
191 H

30
McCullough
805 H

30
McFarland
242 S

30
Mitchell - CAME BIGGERS
598 HX

30
Kapp
855 X

09
Spencer
078 LX
(330 Ship)

30
Neeloy
368 B

30
Vasquez
867

30
Steinger
501 H

09
815 G

09
Bakewell
332 J

09
Nigolin
837 K

09
Probish
965 L

28
Rennon
027 H

28
Monroe
456 J

28
Hoffman
229 H

28
Allen
628 F

28
Whitman
535 O

28
Cook
994 K

28
Auer
096 H

28
Adams
971 H

28
Brown
586 L

09
Saunders
204 I

09
Gilbert
370 S

09
DISHAM
578 R

29
Richy
372 R

09
Donster
127 F

29
Gerschmid
136 Y

09
Bridgeman
538 H

29
Smith
147 H

09
Baumann
354 H

09
Seoray
494 H

29
Davis
157 W

29
Jennings
679 O

Lt. Row Lt. Justen