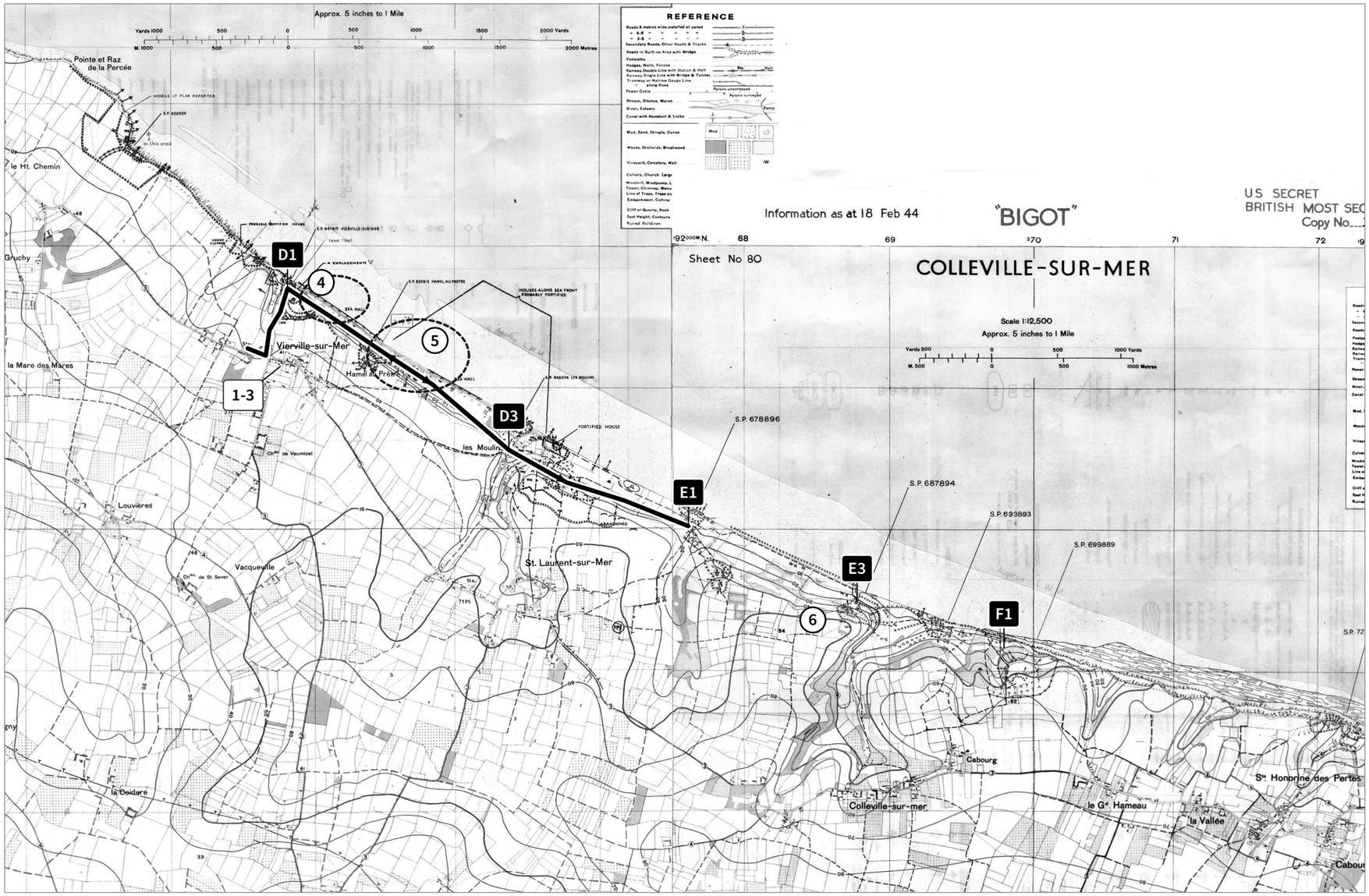
01 The Five Exits and the Witnesses

Two military sheets of February 1944; the routes concern June 6 and 7.



Reading the markers. Black rectangle: beach exit. Numbered circle: witness or group. Dotted ellipse: approximate sector. Solid line and opposed arrows: the Coliboeufs' outward and return journey on June 7.

Base map and orientation. Extract from the composite of GSGS 4490 sheets 79 and 80, dated February 15 and 18, 1944, preserved in the Yves Cordelle archive (file 121). Grid north is up. The scale 1:12,500 belongs to the original document; this reproduction is resized.

Beach exits

D1 Vierville
D3 Les Moulins / Saint-Laurent
E1 Le Ruquet
E3 Colleville
F1 Cabourg

People

1 Louis Coliboeuf and his two sons
2 Michel Hardelay, in the village
3 Victorine Houyvet, school
4 J. R. Slaughter, landing sector
5 Seth Shepard, LCI 92
6 Franz Gockel, WN 62 sector

The route on June 7

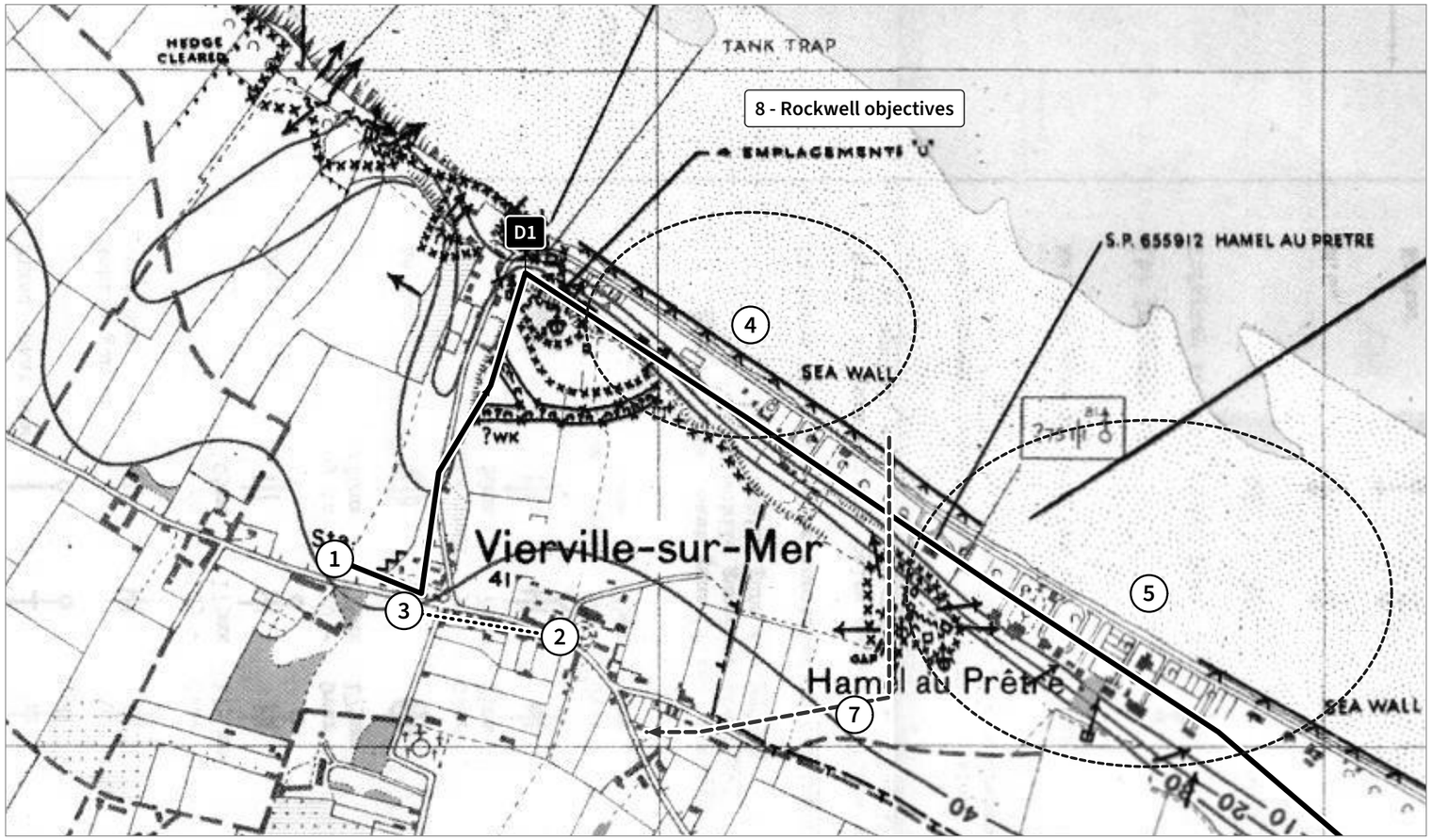
Coliboeuf and his two sons leave the station, pass the quarry, reach D1, then follow the beach to Le Ruquet. They return along the shore. Jeanne and the girls stay at the station.

What the line shows

The stages are documented. The line follows the road and shoreline indicatively; it does not reconstruct every detour among wrecks or locate people to the meter.

02 Vierville: Places and Directions

Neighborhood markers do not identify exact building footprints.



An essential distinction. On June 6, Michel Hardelay's lodging was in the village. It was not the Hardelay villa on the seafront, then being demolished below WN 70.

Accounts that cannot be reduced to an arrow. Bernard Lecornichon and the Ygouf family appear in the book's testimonies. Their shelters and some stages are not identified precisely enough to assign them a route here. The passage through Vacqueville remains uncertain in the Ygouf account.

Main sources. Hardelay's sketch and recollections: files 201, 3061, and 561; Coliboeuf: 2322 and 516; Houyvet: 3063; Slaughter: 2531; Shepard: 2622 and 26221; Walker: 333 and 2621; Rockwell: 2412 and 2413; Gockel: 703 and 7221.

1-3 The village residents

1 Station: Louis Coliboeuf and his two sons.
2 Michel Hardelay's lodging.
3 School: Victorine Houyvet.
Locations compared with Hardelay's retrospective sketch; neighborhood-level precision, roughly 80-100 meters.

4-5 Arriving by sea on June 6

4 Slaughter: between the Hardelay and Parmentier villas, according to the archive.
5 Shepard: LCI 92, near the Dog White / Dog Red boundary.
Ellipses indicate sectors, not an exact craft or sailor position.

7-8 Directions, not positions

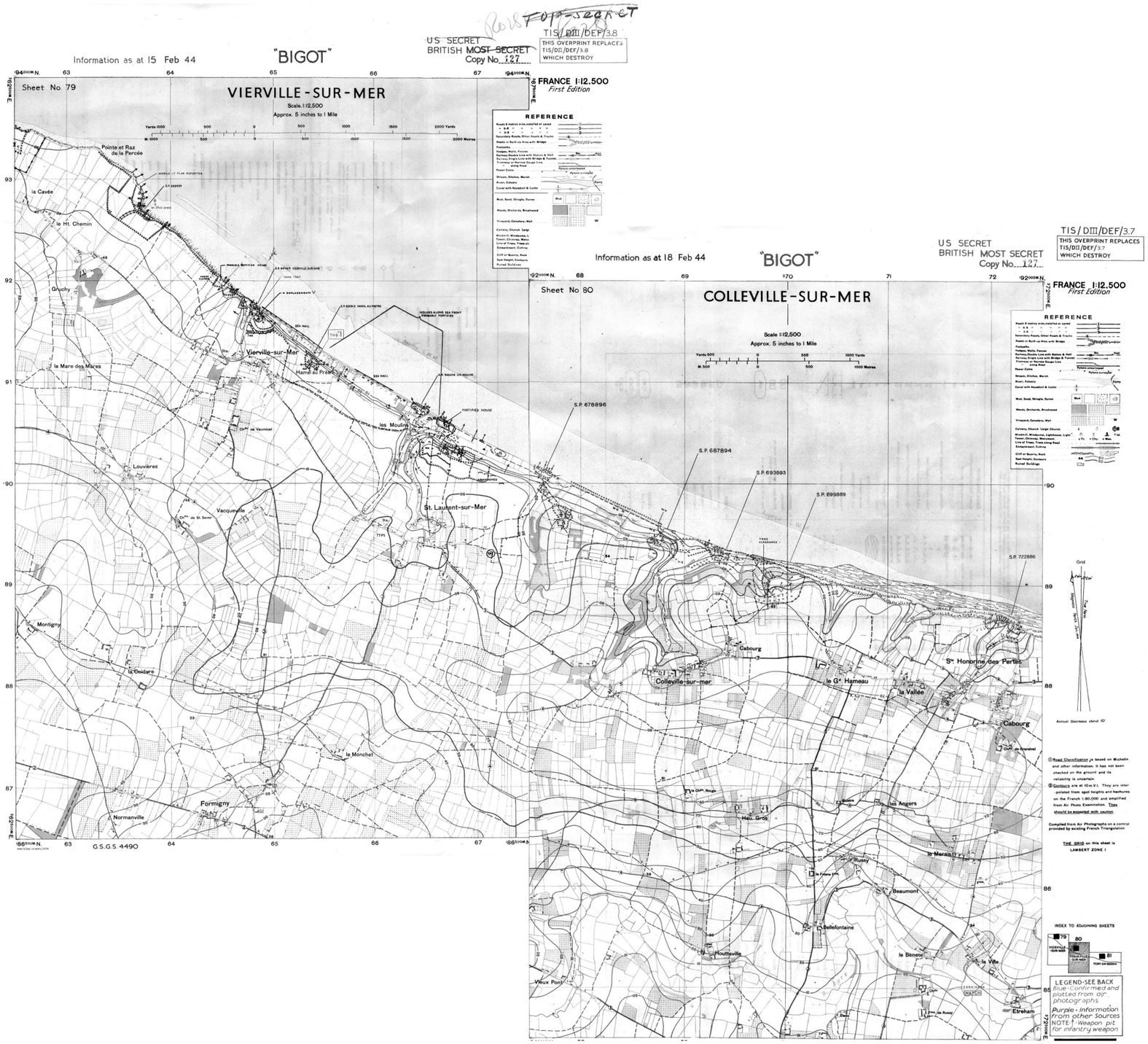
7 Walker climbs the cliff, then heads toward Vierville. Long dashes show direction and do not take him through D1.
8 Rockwell commands craft bound for Dog Green / Dog White. The marker identifies the target sector, not a ship's position.

June 7

Solid line: Coliboeuf, from the station toward D1 and the shore. The quarry is a known stage, but its exact location is not marked.
Short dots: Hardelay, between his lodging and the school and back; the exact path is not established.

03 The Document Preserved in the Archive

Full reproduction of the composite, without our markers or routes.



Two wartime sheets

Vierville-sur-Mer, No. 79
Information as at 15 Feb 44.

Colleville-sur-Mer, No. 80
Information as at 18 Feb 44.

GSGS 4490 series.
Original scale 1:12,500.

A preserved composite

The file combines two military sheets from 1944. The digital assembly was made later: it must not be presented as a single sheet issued in this form in 1944.

Reading the base map with its limits

The defenses shown reflect preparatory information from February. The document does not certify the state of every position on June 6. It still shows the old light railway removed before the war.

Provenance

Documentary archive assembled by Yves Cordelle, file 121-cartesomahabeach. The annotations on the first two plates belong to this edition.