



COLLEVILLE-MONTGOMERY

– 6 JUNE 1944 –

EN

THE STRONGPOINT HILLMAN

During 1942 in the Southern part of COLLEVILLE-SUR-ORNE (renamed COLLEVILLE-MONTGOMERY after the war) the German army built a fortification consisting of eighteen concrete underground passages and rooms, it became known as HILLMAN. Hillman was the code name given to the bunker by the British for the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944.

Hillman was the Command Post for the costal defence, commanded by Colonel KRUG and Major HOFF, where infantry and artillery were stationed. In this complex of fortifications, about sixty soldiers from the 736^e Grenadier Regiment lived and worked within the bunkers buried under 3 meters (9ft' 10ins) of concrete. Some of these bunkers took armoured cupolas which had a thickness of approximately 20 to 30 cm (12 to 16 inches) used for observation and gun emplacements / tobruks which had rotating machine guns to defend the site. The bunker's, were well equipped with mechanical ventilation systems and central heating. Outside, a complex network of trenches linked the different underground positions which contained: the Headquarters, Signal Center, Radio room, mess rooms and rest room. Every position was connected with each other through a network of telephone lines buried 2 or 3m (6' - 10') deep in the ground.

Built at 61m (200 foot) above sea level, the German's had a strategic position and offered a direct view on the landing beaches as well as the mouth of the river Orne. The field of fire or killing zone extended 600m (2000 ft) and more in several directions. Hillman was therefore a real fortress comparable with some parts of the Maginot Line.

On the 6th June 1944, it was the first Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment's mission to capture these fortifications. They succeeded in this mammoth task and captured the Hillman site after the last remaining German soldiers surrendered in the early morning of the 7th June.

Nowadays, historians admit that the strong resistance of Hillman had been one of events which prevented the 3rd Infantry Division taking Caen as planned by the evening of 6th June.

In the years after the war ended, the bunkers gradually filled with earth and rubble which helped to preserve them in good condition. In 1989 Madame LÉNAULD, a resident of Colleville-Montgomery and the owner of the land where one of the bunkers was built, donated it to the Suffolk Regiment to commemorate what happened during the war. A Memorial was created in the bunker and inaugurated with the attendance of veterans of the Suffolk Regiment on the 6th June 1989.

Since 1990, the volunteers of the Association "Les Amis du Suffolk Regiment" and with the support of the local community have preserved and continued to restore the Hillman Strongpoint including Colonel KRUG's Command Post.

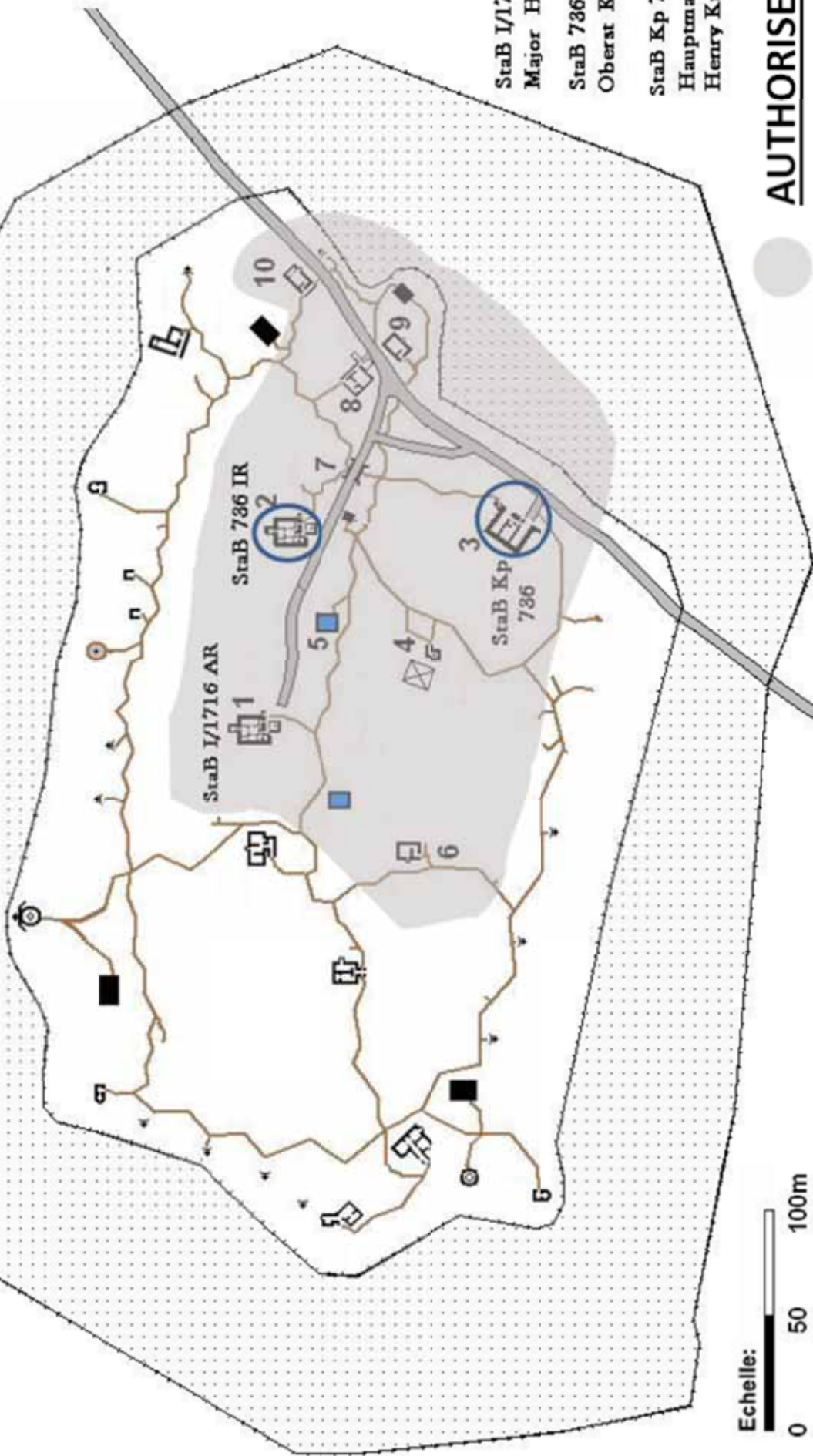
GPS : 49°15'53"N , 0°18'34" O

Website : <http://www.amis-du-suffolk-rgt.com>

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Wn.17 "Hillman" "Hohe 61"

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StaB I/1716 AR
Major Hoff

StaB 736 IR
Oberst Krug

StaB Kp 736
Hauptmann
Henry Kutz

AUTHORISED ACCESS



- Legend**
- 1 : command post (artillery)
 - 2 : command post (infantry)
 - 3 : memorial of Suffolk Rgt
 - 4 : well
 - 5 : water tank
 - 6 : southern guard post
 - 7 : platform
 - 8 : cookhouse
 - 9 : eastern guard post
 - 10 : northern guard post

