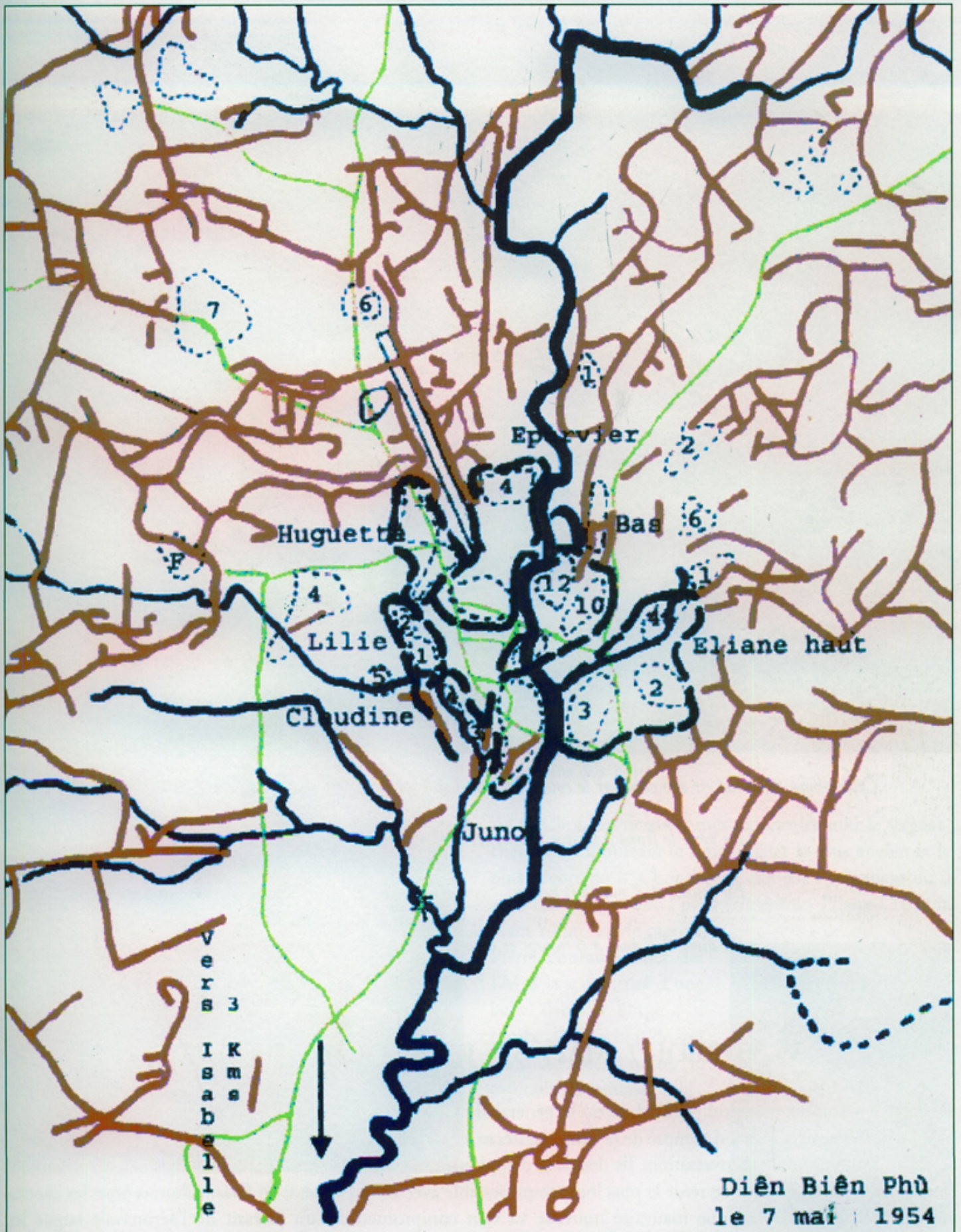


DIEN BIEN PHU POINTS D'APPUI

- **GONO** - Operational Group Northwest; COL later BG de Castries HQ and CP
- **Gabrielle** - To the north - covered the approaches of the Piste Pavie into the camp. This track came from the town of Lai Chau some 50-60 miles north. It was the first to fall.
- **Beatrice** - To the northwest - covered Route 41. Garrisoned by Algerians, it hosted a large number of heavy weapons 120mm mortars, 81mm mortars. It won a competition for the best strongpoint in the valley. The men received a large prize of money for their work. As long as Beatrice was held, artillery could not hit the airstrip with great accuracy.
- **Anne Marie** - the northern part of the airstrip
- **Huguette** - The airfield and the centre of the camp- defended by Foreign Legionnaires- the 2nd Foreign Legion Infantry (2REI). Huguette was tasked with the defense of the airstrip - as with most of the positions, new outposts were created in them and given numbers - Huguette 3,4, ...etc.
- **Francoise** - Farther west of the airstrip. A "sonnette"41 - doorbell to warn of approaching Viet Minh.
- **Claudine** - to the southwest of the headquarters bunker- also part of the fortress centre. Claudine was held by Foreign Legionnaires - part of the 13th Demi Brigade that had fought in Africa in World War II. Claudine held most of the supply and ammunition depots, the power generator, and the hospital. The hospital was small- 40 beds or so. It fast became terribly overtaxed - a pit of horrors. The wounded lay in their own filth and excrement - Stalingrad redux.
- **Eliane** - Southeast of the command bunker - was the scene of the bitterest fighting- garrisoned by Moroccans and the 8th Shock Battalion (Major Turret. Perhaps the most interesting features of the position were "Mont Fictiv" (Phoney Mountain) lightly held during the day and by a handful at night to simulate another strongpoint. The other, "Mont Chauve,"(Baldy Hill), would also play a part in the Eliane saga.
- **Dominique** - On Route 41 - important artillery observation positions. Too wide for the number of troops stationed on it - nearly 2 miles long without continuous barbed wire around it. There was much brush around Dominique - as the Viets could conceal themselves a relatively short distance away. Not highly rated, and was garrisoned with Moroccans who could be shaky without a good commander and good officers.
- **Isabelle** - To the south about 3 miles - on Route 41 - site of the auxiliary airstrip. It was never used. Water logged - built in a swamp. The troops here lived in isolation from the main fortress - it looked good to them. To the south of it lay Strongpoint Wieme – the garrison would bleed to keep the road to Isabelle open, and eventually the price became too much to pay

LA TOILE DE L'ARAIGNÉE ROUGE



Diên Biên Phủ
le 7 mai 1954

Ce document est une reconstitution des tranchées viêts, effectuée à partir d'une photo aérienne.

G. Baucher

