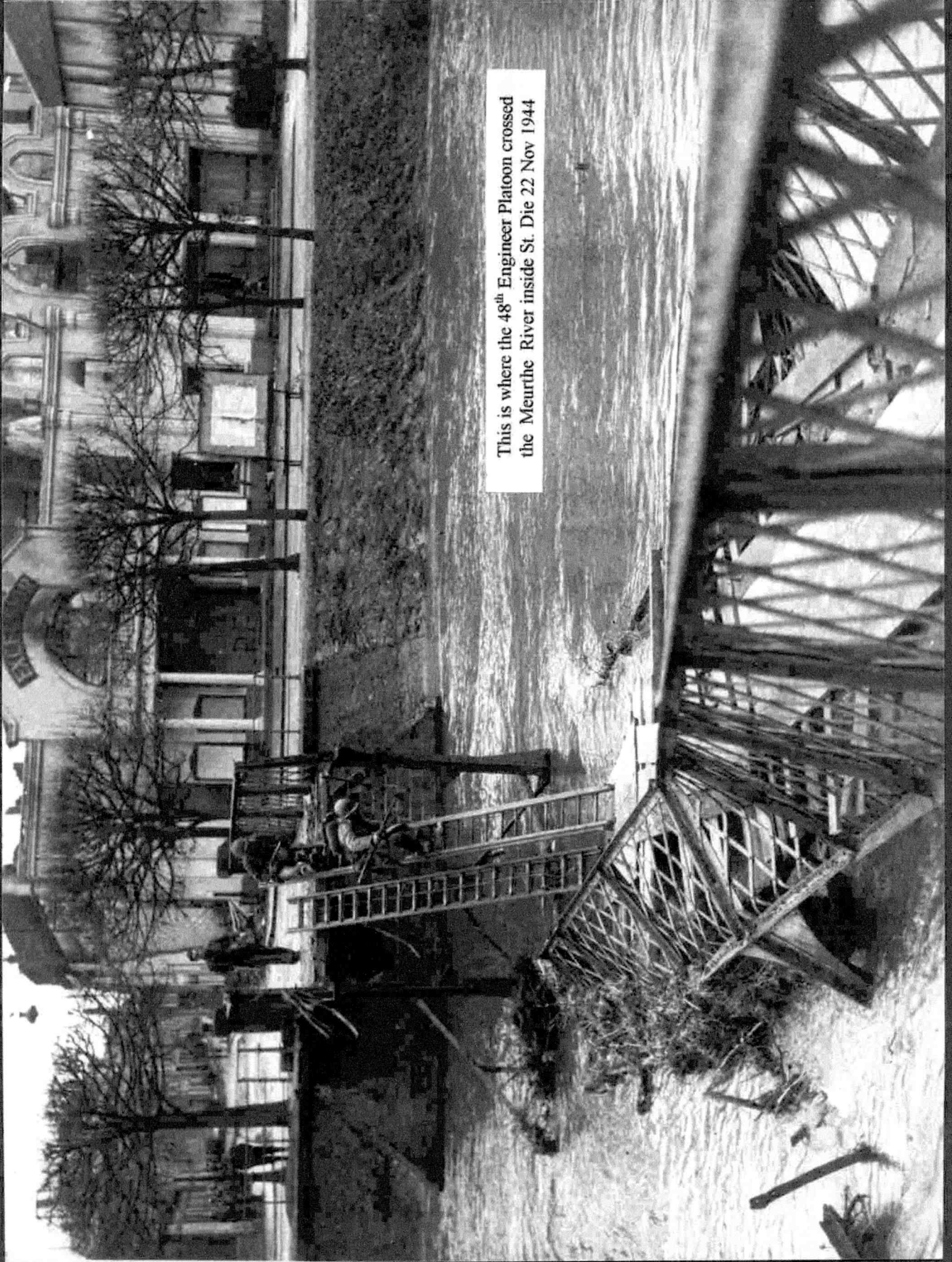
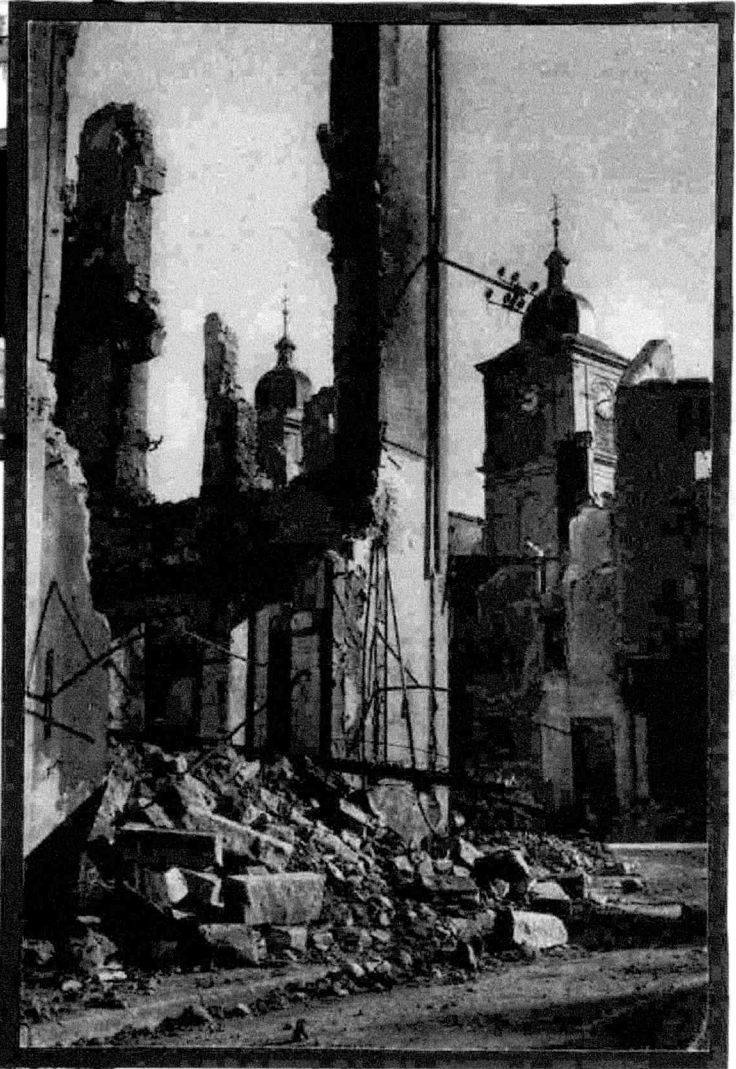


This is where the 48<sup>th</sup> Engineer Platoon crossed  
the Meurthe River inside St. Die 22 Nov 1944





The German Military Governor of St. Die, with all the efficiency of a good Nazi, ordered the systematic destruction of the town to commence by the demolition of key positions. After certain structures were dynamited, the town north and east of the Meurthe River was torched and burned.



Over two thousand French citizens of St. Die were killed, imprisoned, or deported for slave labor. Most of the deportees never returned because they mysteriously disappeared.



**THE CATHEDRAL WAS DYNAMITED**

**AND**

**THE TOWN WAS BURNED**





In the main thoroughfare of St. Die there stands a statue of Jules Ferry an important statesman in the colonial expansion of France. He was Premier of France for two terms, 1880-1881 and 1883-1885. More than any other man he was responsible for the renaissance of the French Empire. He was known as the father of the elementary school system in France. Jules Ferry, whose family were farmers, was a child of the region. The grandfather of Jules was once the Mayor of St. Die. This home town boy from St. Die, while Prime Minister of France, put his signature to the document and was present when the Statue of Liberty was formally presented to America through the American Embassy in Paris on 4 July 1884. The statue of Jules Ferry, shown in the center of the burnt out section of St. Die, can be seen in the picture above. It was near the statue of Jules Ferry where I was standing when the 409<sup>th</sup> Infantry moved through to outpost St. Die.



L'hôtel de ville après novembre 1944.

*Photo collection Bibliothèque Municipale de Saint-Dié.*

