



*Left:* 'It was on the first part of this roll that Genzler had taken the famous shots of the convoy caught in the open on a vulnerable stretch of road. I assumed that the vehicles, as well as Genzler, were moving in the direction of the Seine, so I searched south from La Haye-du-Theil. Though the place had considerably changed, with the orchards and the apple trees having all



disappeared, I quickly identified the place less than two kilometres south of the village.' *Right:* 'The thick hedge that now borders this stretch of the D80 does not help the comparison, but the road slightly climbing straight on and away southwards remains exactly the same. On the left of the road a small clump of trees remain at the spot where a taller one stood in 1944.'

On August 20 Hitler instructed Model to establish a defensive line on the River Touques using the 'badly battered' 5. Panzerarmee and 7. Armee. Should it proved unfeasible to make a stand there, in front of the Seine, Model was authorised to withdraw to a stop-

line along the river itself. In this case, the 5. Panzerarmee was to provide reception facilities on the east bank to protect crossings for the 7. Armee, and at the same time make contact with the 1. Armee which was to defend the Paris-Orléans gap and prevent an Allied

advance toward Dijon. The Seine line was to be held right across Paris and 'if necessary, the battle in and about Paris will be fought without regard to the destruction of the city'. Should it prove impossible to make a stand in front of the Seine, a defended line was to be



'When the aircraft attacked, some of the drivers had been fortunate enough to quickly leave the road to get under cover. This Kübelwagen belongs to the army — see the WH (Wehrmacht Heer) registration plate on the following page — but the man standing on the left and the one on the right looking at the sky belong to the Waffen-SS. I think that Genzler took this sequence about August 21-22. In a book published in France in December 2003, the author claimed to have found where this

particular roll from the Bundesarchiv has been taken: at Ormes 12 kilometres south of Le Neubourg, and he published some comparisons, including one for this picture. However, when I checked the location in the summer of 2004, I quickly saw it could not possibly be there for instead of the carriageway slightly climbing straight on and away, the road at Ormes turns down to the left. Far from that town, the correct location is 25 kilometres to the north at La Haye-du-Theil.'