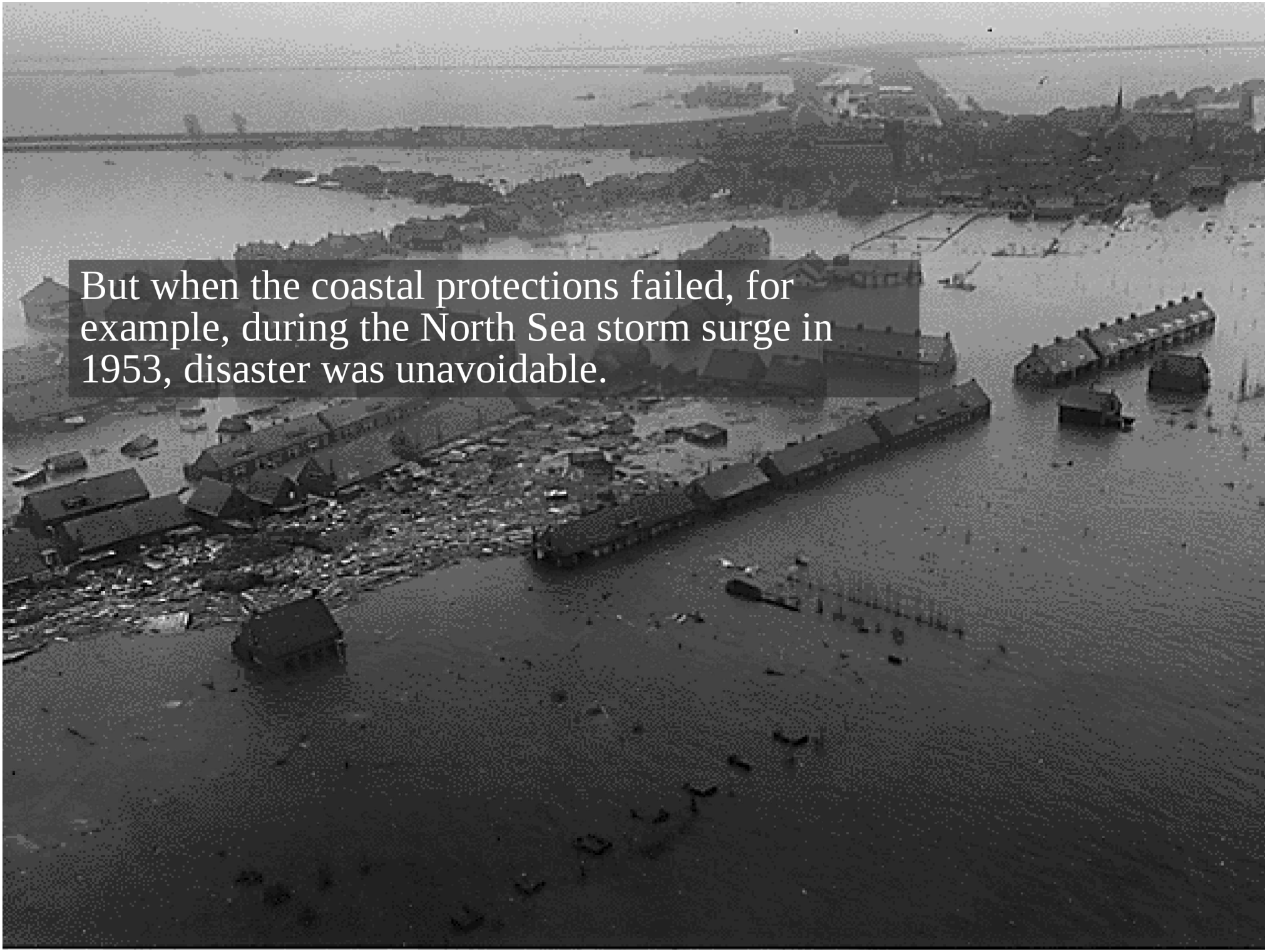
But when the coastal protections failed, for example, during the North Sea storm surge in 1953, disaster was unavoidable.