



WALID RAAD

The Atlas Group

some images and words

HOME

PUBLICATIONS

INFORMATION

The Atlas Group is a project established in 1999 to research and document the contemporary history of Lebanon. One of our aims with this project is to locate, preserve, study, and produce audio, visual, literary and other artifacts that shed light on the contemporary history of Lebanon. In this endeavor, we produced and found several documents including notebooks, films, videotapes, photographs and other objects. Moreover, we organized these works in an archive, The Atlas Group Archive. The project's public forms include mixed-media installations, single channel screenings, visual and literary essays, and lectures/performances.





FILES TYPE A

FILES TYPE FD

FILES TYPE AGP

HOME

 The Secrets File
  Operator #17

PUBLICATIONS

File Title: Secrets in the Open Sea**Foreword**

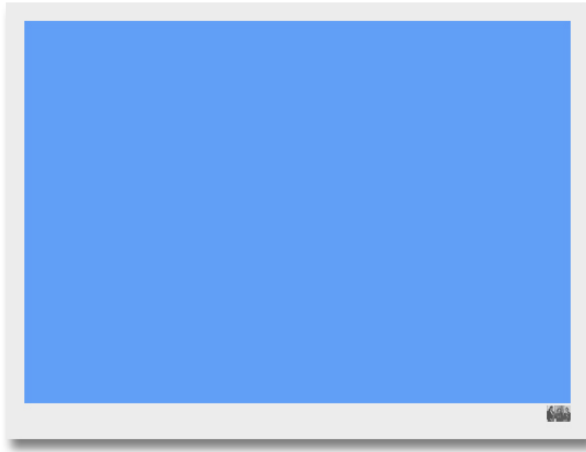
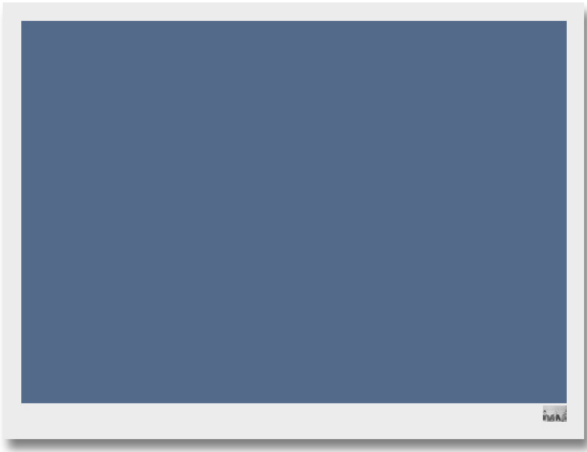
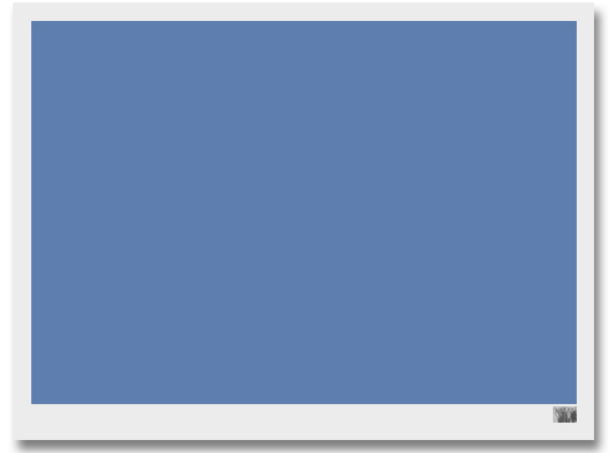
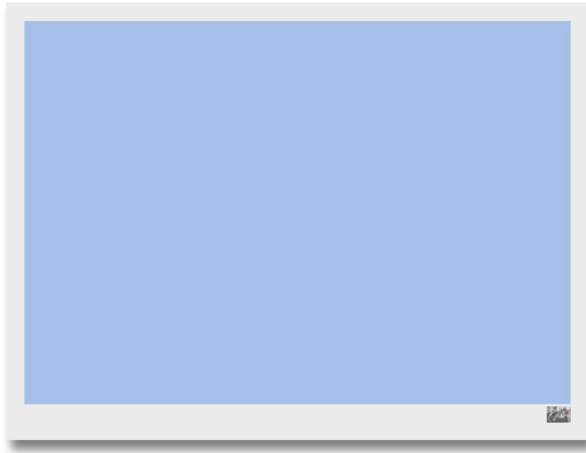
Secrets in the Open Sea consists of 6 large photographic prints that were found buried 32 meters under the rubble during the 1992 demolition of Beirut's war-ravaged commercial districts. The prints were different shades of blue and each measured 110X183 cm. The Lebanese government entrusted the prints to The Atlas Group in early 1994 for preservation and analysis.

In late 1994, The Atlas Group sent the prints to laboratories in France and the United States for technical analysis. Remarkably, the laboratories recovered small black and white latent images from the prints, and the small images represent group portraits of men and women. The Atlas Group was able to identify all the individuals represented in the small black and white prints, and it turned out that they were all individuals who had been found dead in the Mediterranean between 1975 and 1990.

Specifications**Sample Plates**

The Atlas Group publicized its findings in a report in December 1996. In the report, no determination was made about the size of the large prints nor about their color.

INFORMATION



FILES TYPE A

FILES TYPE FD

FILES TYPE AGP

HOME

 The Secrets File  Operator #17File title: **I only wish that I could weep Summary****Summary**

This document is attributed to Operator #17, a Lebanese Army intelligence officer who was assigned to monitor the Corniche, a seaside boardwalk in Beirut. From 1997 on, the officer decided to videotape the sunset instead of his assigned target. This videotape recounts the operator's story and concentrates on the footage he was permitted to keep after his dismissal.

PUBLICATIONS
INFORMATION**Specifications****Video**



Fakhouri

Raad

Bachar

- > Notebooks
 - > Notebook 38
 - Notebook 57
 - Notebook 72
- Photographs
- Films

Document Title: Already Been in a Lake of Fire_Notebook Volume 38

Foreword (translated from Arabic)

This notebook contains 145 cutout photographs of cars. They correspond to the exact make, model, and color of every car that was used as a car bomb between 1975 and 1991.

Each of the following notebook pages includes a cutout photograph of a car that matches the make, model, and color of a car that was used as a car bomb, as well as text written in Arabic that details the place, time and date of the explosion, the number of casualties, the perimeter of destruction, the exploded car's engine and axle numbers, and the weight and type of the explosives used.

Specifications



Sample Plates



Plate 69

Renault
5
White
March 25, 1986
10:04
Beirut
8 killed
80 injured
75 kg. of TNT
Hexogen
2.4 m. x 0.8 to 1.25 m. crater



№ 69

٢٥.٣.٨٦ من إرثنا شجرة والدونيه
الزاديه شجرة وزنة العنوية
٧٥ كيلو من TNT من مركز جنة
بالقرب من جنة وحدثت هزة
ظرفها ٢٠ سم وكسرت
٨٠ سم الى ١٤٥ سم
سقاء ومهزة بعين
٨٠ سم الى ١٠٠ سم
٥




Plate 70

BMW
320
White
April 8, 1986
13:04
Jounieh
11 killed
90 injured
75 kg. of TNT
Hexogen



№ 70

٤.٤.٨٦
جرم منسك الإرهاب للهجرة
مركب المظنة المتروكة من
لمسندت من المرة للدم
جديده عالمية كسروان
مادفع الايام اكثر
من ١١ متوك ٦٠ جريا
جعل الادوك والربع بعد
الظهير
وسنن الا سيارة
المحفة اوقفت من
جانب جديده اسم
سبح بلك الانصار
للغري من سانه مورسكي
مقاطع الكسلفه - قدير
مرب سوك العفر وسوك
اسكله وشاله الدونيه
الصخرة رنط الشارح من
مواجهه بيانه العنكسرت
وسنانه كسرت
برام في ٢٠٠ ومدا
سنة العنوة ٧٥ كيلو من Hexogen و TNT و مراد ٣ رنة الزن
درنم السعارة ٢٩٤٣٤٦

 Fakhouri  Raad  Bachar

> Notebooks
Photographs

Document Title: **Let's be honest the weather helped**

Foreword

The following plates are attributed to Walid Raad who donated them to The Atlas Group in 1998. In the statement accompanying the donation, Raad noted:




Like many around me in Beirut in the early 1980's, I collected bullets and shrapnel. I would run out to the streets after a night or day of shelling to remove bullets from walls, cars, and trees. I kept detailed notes of where I found every bullet by photographing the sites of my findings, and by placing colored dots over the bullet holes in my black and white photographs. The color of the dots corresponded to the mesmerizing hues I found on bullets' tips. The colors were also faithful to the distinct code devised by manufacturers in different countries to mark their cartridges and shells. Over the years, and to complement my collection, I purchased bullets from vendors on the streets, seeking out the entire spectrum of colors that adorned the tips of the 7.62 X 43 mm. cartridge used in AK-47s or of the 5.45 X 45 mm. cartridge used in M-16s. It took me 25 years to realize that my notebooks had all along catalogued the 23 countries that had armed or sold ammunitions to the various militias and armies fighting the Lebanese wars, including the U.S., U.K., Saudi Arabia, Israel, France, Switzerland, and China.

Specifications



Sample Plates



 Fakhouri  Raad  Bachar

— Notebooks
 — > Photographs

Document title: **We decided to let them say, “we are convinced,” twice.**

Foreword

The following photographs are attributed to Walid Raad who donated them to The Atlas Group in 2002. In the statement accompanying the donation, Raad noted:

In the summer of 1982, I stood along with others in a parking lot across from my mother’s apartment in East Beirut, and watched the Israeli land, air, and sea assault on West Beirut. The PLO along with their Lebanese and Syrian allies retaliated, as best they could.

East Beirut welcomed the invasion, or so it seemed. West Beirut resisted it, or so it seemed.

One day, my mother even accompanied me to the hills around Beirut to photograph the invading Israeli army stationed there. Soldiers rested their bodies and their weapons as they waited for their next orders to attack or retreat.

I was 15 in 1982, and wanted to get as close as possible to the events, or as close as my newly acquired camera and lens permitted me. Clearly not close enough.

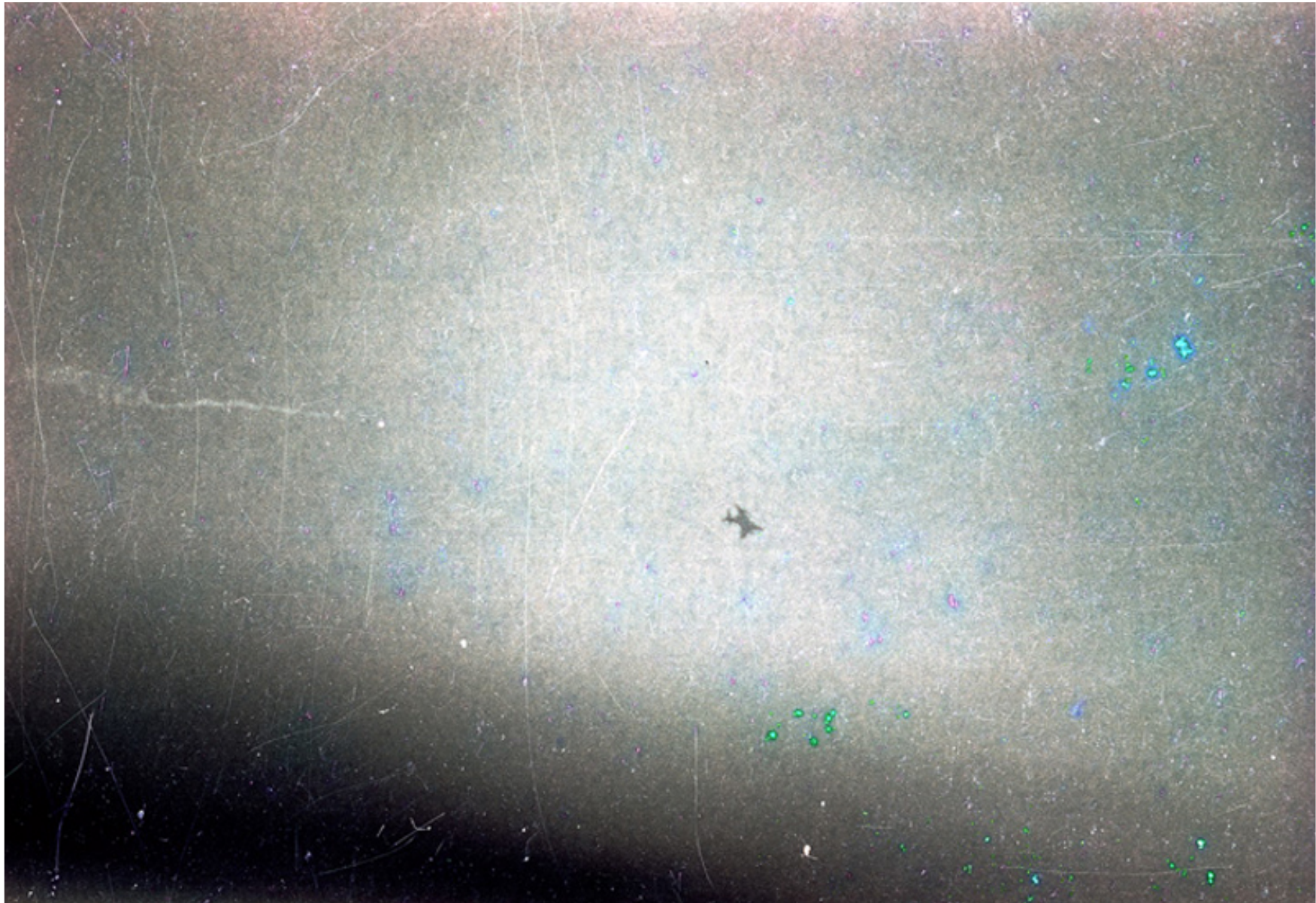
This past year, I came upon the negatives from that time, all scratched up and deteriorating. I decided to look again.

Specifications



Sample Plates





One of the questions we find ourselves asking is: how do we approach facts not in their crude facticity but through **the complicated mediations** by which facts acquire their immediacy?

Hence we would urge you to approach these documents we present as we do, as 'hysterical symptoms' based not on any one person's actual memories but on **cultural fantasies** erected from the material of **collective memories**.

“Staged in the deconsecrated Church of S. Francesco, Raad's exhibition is laid out as a dry, minimalist **set for a theatrical play** which may or may not take place (he defines the installations as 'props'). The show is based on **memories and facts** that could be true, and on **characters** that may only be fictions.”

