

Photo graphy and it's trails

out of KOSOVO”



He had been walking for two days, in someone else's clothes, trying to find a way out of Kosovo when he came across a photograph lying, face up, by the side of the road."

"He looked, and looked again, at the pretty fair hair and blue eyes of the smiling child staring back at him from the crumpled picture. It was his daughter."

Chris Stephen in Morine , Albania writing for the Evening Standard in London, recounts as " Bashkim's mind was by then close to shutdown. Four days ago Serb paramilitaries in black balaclavas had arrived in his village, Krajlan, near the central Kosovan town of Klina.

"They had rounded everyone up, separating the men from the women and children, and Bashkim had feared the worst. With about 500 men he was ordered into a field outside the village and they were all told to strip. The men's clothes were piled in a heap, but the expected executions never took place."

war stricken region of the Balkans; in the other instance we have high tech x-ray images of an entire truck to detect the presence of humans as they are hidden away among a load of wares. It is uncanny how photography is at the heart of both stories. Images are with us everywhere in these wars, they are to be found on the monitors that pilots use to scan what they are going to bomb on the ground 15 000 ft. below or on the television newscast reporting on those same events. Pictures are used by the military establishment to confirm that their missions have been accomplished. The news industry use images to communicate to the public what is happening. Pictures are taken of refugees for identification papers. But all this we more or less already know, what struck me however as quite different and surprising this time was to receive an email from someone in Macedonia, in the middle of the war torn Balkans, commenting on his visit to *ZoneZero* as he was looking at photographs.

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