

Tomoko YONEDA *Echoes—Crashing wave*
4 June – 9 July, 2022



1



Field—Location of the front line in the Battle of Somme, France, 2002

The Battle of Somme is considered the deadliest battle of World War I, with three million people fighting and causing a million casualties. Unexploded ordnance remains in the northern French lyrical countryside of the Western Front. Many tons of unexploded munitions are discovered and dismantled each year. It is called the "iron harvest", and hundreds of ordnance disposal workers have died in the process.

2



Entwined barbwire and flowers (near DMZ, Cheorwon, South Korea), 2015

From the military demarcation line that divides the Korean Peninsula, a demilitarised zone called DMZ extends for a total of about 4 km from north to south. It is a place where many land mines are buried and cannot be accessed by civilians. Therefore, a unique ecosystem of wild animals and plants has been established, making it a natural paradise.

3



Entwined - Trees in the middle of a former trench at the Battle of the Marne, 2017

With the outbreak of World War I, Lucien Camus, the father of Algerian-born French writer Albert Camus, was mobilised to the First Battle of the Marne as a Zouave soldier (a French infantry organised by colonial and North African volunteers). However, shortly after the start of the war, he was fatally injured and died from the wound right after. For Lucian, his first glimpse of France would also become his final resting place.

4



Window I, Soviet Border Guardhouse, Saaremaa Island, Estonia, 2004

The Soviets built their strongest coastal defence complexes on Sõrve Peninsula. The guardhouse was built for Soviet border guards in 1939 and remained in use until 1992. At one point, the missile silos located here housed nuclear weapons that were said to be aimed at Western Europe and Scandinavia.

5



The 50th Parallel: Former border between Russia and Japan, 2012

Sakhalin Island became a Russian penal colony under the Russian Empire. Anton Chekhov went to Sakhalin in 1890 to survey the prisoners and publicise their conditions. From the Russo-Japanese War to the end of World War II, the south of Sakhalin Island at the 50th parallel was ruled by Japan. In 1937, actress Yoshiko Okada and director Ryokichi Sugimoto, a Communist Party member crossed the border to the Soviet Union on foot. Sugimoto was immediately charged with espionage, imprisoned and executed. They did not know the Great Purge was at its height.

6



The 70th 6 August, Hiroshima, 2015

Every year during the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6th, 8:15 am – the time the Atomic bomb was dropped. A silent prayer is offered for the souls and peace of the victims accompanied by the sound of a bell. 2015 was the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and the time the Security Law revision was being deliberated. The former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was heckled loudly when he gave an address at the ceremony.

7



Minefield—View of mined football pitch, Sarajevo, 2004

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had been on the path of coexistence, respecting the autonomy of multi-ethnic groups with different cultures and religions. After the death of President Tito, tensions between ethnic groups increased. In 1992, the conflict began to intensify in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many civilians were killed by snipers in the capital Sarajevo. Boundaries are redrawn every time the political position changes, and oppression of different ethnic groups is carried out, with innocent people and children sacrificed each time.

8



Ridge—Viewing the location of 'Mosquito Crest', Battle of Brunete, Spain, 2019

The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) broke out with the revolt of Nationalists led by General Francisco Franco against the Republican government of Spain. It was also known as the proxy war between fascist and communist states, leading to World War II. Volunteers who opposed fascism were formed by various international brigades, including writers such as George Orwell. There was a Japanese member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Jack Shirai, a cook and Oliver Law; its first Afro-American commander fought at this battle of Brunete facing Mosquito Crest. The crest was so-called because of the sound of ammunition as the sound of mosquitoes flying.

9



Railway Track—Overlooking the location of where the Japanese Army fabricated a bombing to create a reason to invade Manchuria, Shenyang, China, 2007

The smoke rises from near the railroad tracks of Shenyang. It was once called Mukden, where the Japanese Government-General was under Japanese rule. In 1931, the Japanese Kwantung Army set up their explosion on the South Manchuria Railway line of Lake Liutiaohu. This provided an excuse for the invasion of Manchuria.

10



Vacant Space—Former location of the American Embassy, destroyed as a result of repeated terrorist attacks, Beirut, 2004

In 1983, the US Embassy in Beirut was blown up by a terrorist act, killing many staff. Hezbollah is said to have attacked the United States, which had begun intervening in the Lebanese civil war. Tensions with Israel, relations with Palestine, the Middle East backed by the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Israel supported by the United States are still largely unresolved.

11



Sakura—Yasukuni Shrine, Tokyo, 2006

The name of the military division that fought in historical battles is written on some of the cherry blossoms at Yasukuni Shrine. The blossoms symbolise the impermanence of all life, especially the shortness of a soldier's life. The image of this bare branch questions the Japanese stereotyped aesthetic of romanticising cherry blossoms.

12



Beach—Location of the D-Day Normandy Landings, Omaha Beach, France, 2002

Five landing sites were planned on the Normandy coast to infiltrate France under Nazi German occupation. In 1944, the coast, codenamed Omaha, became the landing site for the US Army.

13



Minefield—View of minefield located by tourist attraction in the Demilitarized Zone, Paju City, South Korea, 2004

In 1978, a tunnel dug by North Korea to invade South Korea was discovered in the DMZ, a demilitarised zone in Paju, South Korea. It is now a tourist destination, and you can go into the tunnel by a trolley train. Behind the tourists relaxing in a casual resting place, you can observe; however, there are land mine warning signs.

14



Hill—Hill made of rubble after allied bombing, Berlin, Germany, 2000

In the distance, a landscape of Berlin overlooking the sombre sky starts filling with the factory smokes, raising and glancing at Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation. This is a view from the hill made of rubble from parts of Berlin that were destroyed in WWII. The soil of the hill buries memories of the civilians who also were victims of the war.

15



Forest—Location of the Battle of Somme, Delville Wood, France, 2002

In 1916, the armies of the German Empire and allied British and its Empire forces fought in the battle of Delville Wood. British Surrealist painter Paul Nash was an officer on the western front and injured. Subsequently, he returned to the front again but as a war painter. The trees burned down, and the earth trembled, as depicted in his work "We Are Creating a New World"(1918), which influenced me to take this image of Delville wood. Over 100 years after the war, nature is regrown fully and even greener than before, but many unexploded bombs are still buried in this forest.