

Eddy van Wessel

The Netherlands, 1965



photo by Younes Mohammad

Eddy van Wessel started out as a commercial photographer, but soon started travelling Asia and changed to photojournalism.

His first conflict photography started with the Balkan wars and this developed during the Chechen war 1994/2003, during that period he gained a reputation as a conflict photographer, working for the leading international media. Eddy van Wessel records life during conflict as today's news, but realizes that these moments fade into a visual history of a region and its people, his goal is to record for historical reasons.

Since 2003 Van Wessel's focus is at the middle east, this started with the Coalition forces invasion of Iraq 2003, during the years he kept going back to see the changes, and currently covering the struggle against the so called Islamic State.

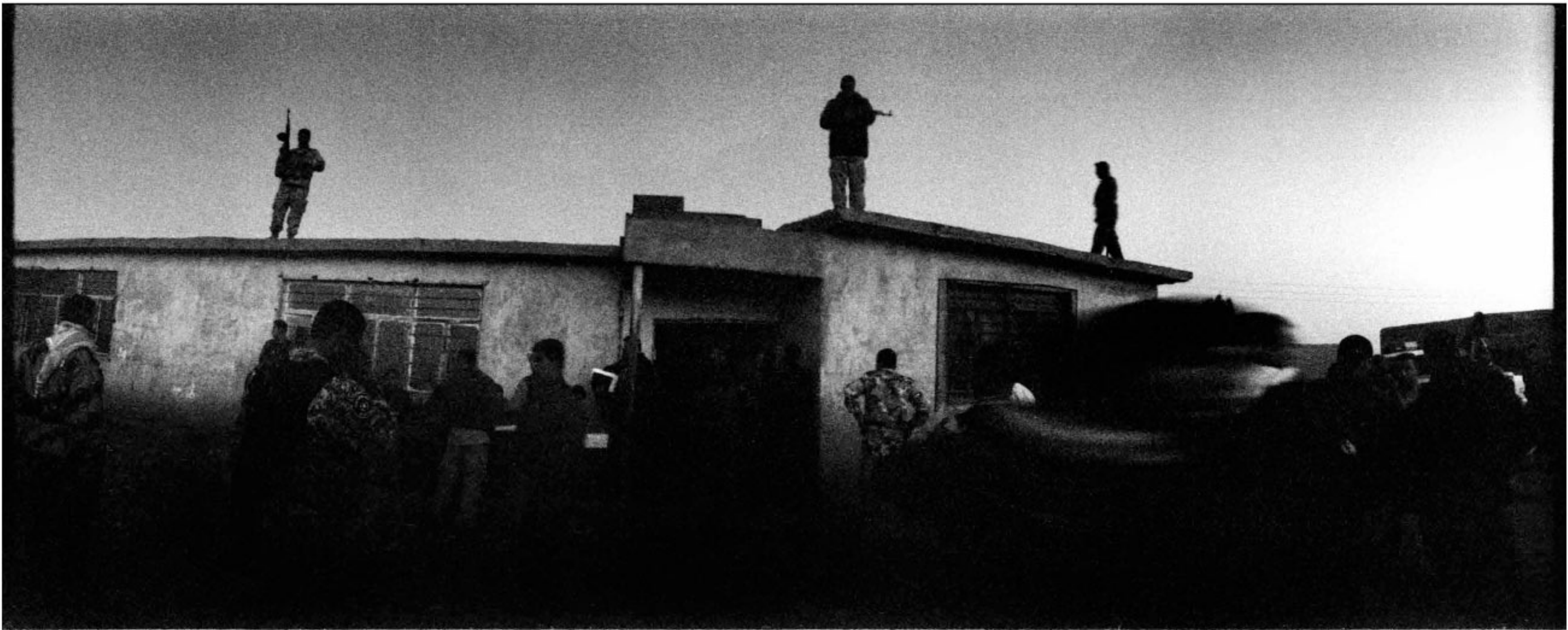
Van Wessel approach is involved and close up,

using black and white images, and panoramic images. Most of his work is still on analog film. His goal is to record the emotion of the moment, giving his work a personal signature. It is the emotion, more than the sharp details, that is in focus in Eddy's work.

Eddy van Wessel was awarded with the "Silver Camera award" for his work in Iraq. In 2013 he won the prestigious award for his work in Aleppo, Syria. He has received twice the "Press photographer of the year" award, in 1999 and in 2004 for his Chechnya and Iraq work, respectively.

His work is recently bundled in a photo book "The Edge of Civilization".

He is currently based in Sweden with his wife and 3 children.



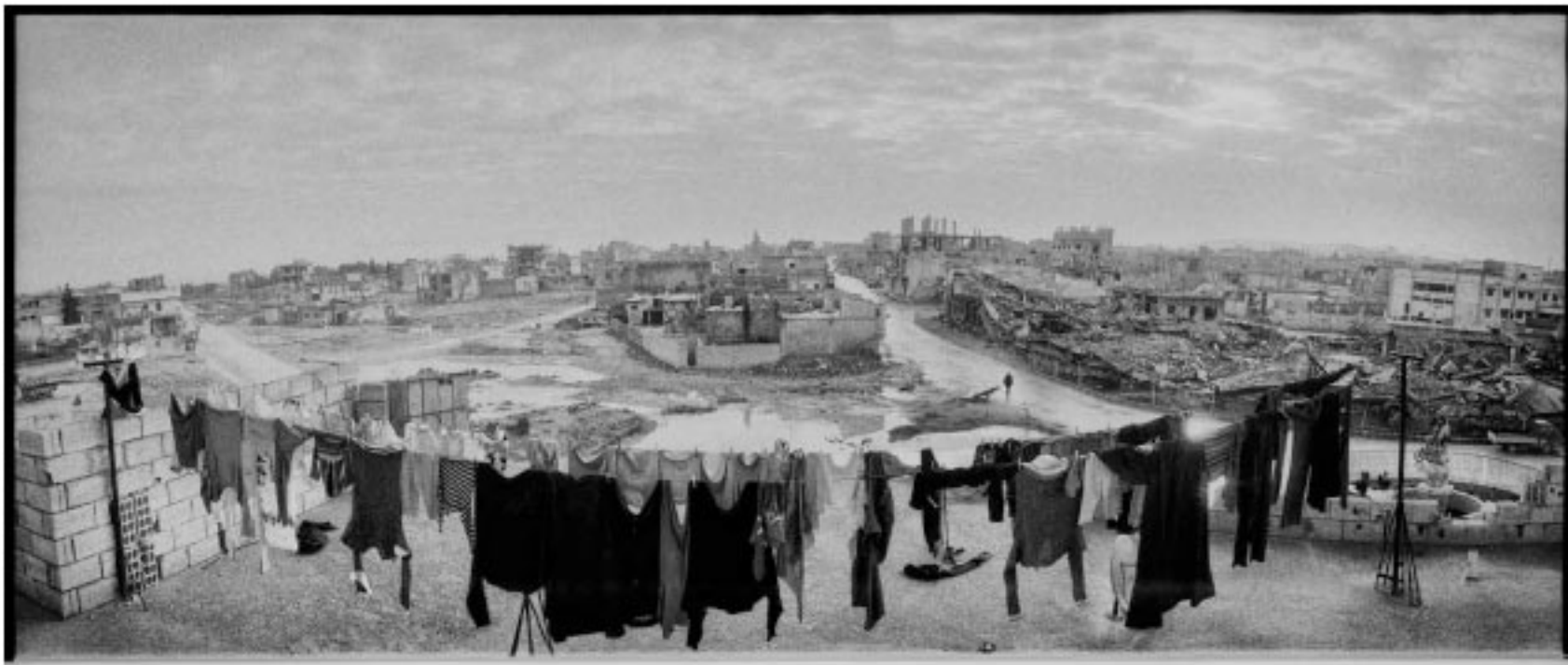
Iraq- 2008 - Hawreen District - All men from the village are placed in the school to be processed later after sunrise. Brigade members arm the rooftop to control anyone who tries to escape.



Iraq - September 2014 - Sunrise in Sharaf al Deen on Mount Sinjar. A local Yazidi man awakes, his weapon close by, he is part of a volunteer Yazidi Army made up of some 2000 members of all ages and little weapons. They do what they can to protect their holy places and to repel daily attacks by the Islamic State.



Iraq - September 2014 - Yazidi families that fled the city of Sinjar to the mountains after the Islamic State seized the city on August 3rd prepare bread in a makeshift camp. During the following days, IS militants perpetrated the Sinjar massacre, killing 2,000 Yazidi men and taking Yazidi women into slavery, leading to a mass exodus of some 50,000 Yazidi residents who fled to Mount Sinjar. According to a UN report, 5,000 Yazidi civilians were killed during the Islamic State August offensive.



Syria - Jan 2016 - Few live amongst the rubble of the Syrian Kurdish city of Kobane immediately south of the Turkish border. From September 2014 to January 2015, the city was under siege by Islamic State militants. Most of the city was destroyed and most of the population fled to Turkey.

Syria - Jan 2016 - In the small town of Al-Yarubiyah on the Syrian-Iraqi border, locals Syrians attempt to make fuel out of crude oil as most of the refineries are out of order causing a huge shortage of fuel.



Syria - Jan 2016 - A local couple ride a motorcycle through the rubble that was once Kobane, now completely destroyed by months of Islamic State siege, very few residents remain as most have fled across the border to Turkey.