

Waiting for Dad, 1981
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Ink jet print

I took *Waiting for Dad* in a Catholic neighborhood during the 1981 hunger strike. Irish Republican prisoners were refusing food in their campaign to be designated as political prisoners rather than criminals. Ten prisoners starved to death during the hunger strike, which intensified the political atmosphere in Northern Ireland. Rioting broke out, and the funerals were heavily attended. The strike helped solidify support for Sinn Féin. This boy is seven or eight, and he's waiting outside a pub in West Belfast.

Milltown Cemetery, 1981
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Ink jet print

Seven-year-old Paul McNally (who is the same age as the boy named on the tombstone) is at a Catholic cemetery on Falls Road attending a commemorative ceremony for Irish Republican Army soldiers who had died. Paul believed World War III was going to start very soon and that the U.S. Army was heading to Ireland to throw the Brits out; he also recalled that when he “was a kid” he painted the colors of the Irish flag—orange, green, and white—on buildings. But he had evolved to throwing petrol bombs, paint bombs, and rocks, and he told us about the advantages of petrol bombs over other street-fighter weaponry.

The event was sponsored by the Felon’s Club, a nearby pub with membership limited to men who had been imprisoned by the British for at least a year. The club was started by the father of Gerry Adams. Adams was a member of parliament and a leader of the Sinn Féin political movement. Paul’s father and brother were both in prison.

Natural Causes, 1984
La Libertad, El Salvador
Ink jet print

Children are saying goodbye to this elderly man who died of natural causes. The only embalming technique used was a slice of lime stuck in his mouth. The boy closest to the casket is the man's grandson.

Barbershop, 1984
Bluefields, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

Bluefields is on the Caribbean coast. This young boy is getting a haircut in a barbershop; the posters show Ho Chi Minh, Augusto Sandino (the Nicaraguan revolutionary—and namesake of the Sandinista rebels—who was killed in the 1930s by Anastasio Somoza), Lenin, and Che Guevara. There is also a little red fire wagon in the background. When the young children were frightened of the barber's chair they would sit in the pushcart fire wagon for a haircut.

Aftermath, 1982

Beirut, Lebanon

Ink jet print

There were two Palestinian refugee camps in southern Beirut that had been bombed repeatedly by the Israelis during “Operation Peace for Galilee” because the PLO was using southern Lebanon as a base to fire rockets or launch attacks into Israel. *Aftermath* was taken in the rubble of the camp Shatila.

The Shot, 1984

El Salvador

Ink jet print

This treasury police soldier is playing basketball at a school in rural El Salvador. The weapon on his back is a German G-3 automatic rifle.

On Duty, 1988
Nebaj, Guatemala
Ink jet print

In 1988 I was covering the presidential elections in Guatemala. This soldier, carrying an Israeli-made Galil assault rifle, is in the town of Nebaj, the last town before what's referred to as the *frontera*, or frontier, where the guerrillas operated freely because it was easy to employ hit-and-run tactics. As a result there was a large military presence in this town. We stayed in a dirt-floor boarding house called the Three Sisters for 50 cents a night.

Peace Pigeons, 1982
Masaya, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

This photograph was taken at a huge government-sponsored peace rally. These children had seen nothing but war—first the Sandinista revolution to overthrow Somoza and then the Contra fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas—and they were living under an economic boycott. Food shortages were common. These identical twins didn't have doves to release at the end of the peace rally so they're holding pigeons.

Glove and Gun, 1984

Esteli, Nicaragua

Ink jet print

I had been in Esteli in 1979 when the Sandinistas held the town against the Somoza government. At that time it was rubble, and there were so many bodies that they were squirted with gasoline and burned in the street to prevent the spread of disease. I wanted to see what it was like a few years later. The city had been beautifully restored.

One boy, about age 7, is on his way to play baseball. The other boy, about age 9, was conscripted by the Sandinistas and is patrolling the town because the adults had been sent to the Honduras border to fight the Contras.

Makeshift Morgue, 1982
San Salvador, El Salvador
Ink jet print

Makeshift Morgue was taken during the height of death squad activity. The death squads, trained and funded at least in part by the U.S. government, would frequently single out and kill teachers, religious leaders with left-wing leanings, and people out past curfew. They decapitated victims in order to frighten the living and also to make it difficult to identify corpses.

This makeshift morgue in the Ferro Carro district of downtown San Salvador was in a building normally used for arranging flowers and doing other maintenance for the cemetery. Bodies were brought there, and relatives—many of them children—would come looking for their parents or a brother or someone who hadn't shown up from the night before.

Front Yard Find, 1978

Esteli, Nicaragua

Ink jet print

Esteli was one of seven cities taken over by the Sandinista rebels when they were struggling against Anastasio Somoza. Somoza had become so desperate that he started bombing his own villages and cities. When I came into town this little boy indicated that he wanted me to see something, and when we arrived in his front yard he showed me this giant shell. It's probably a defused (but possibly undetonated) 122 mm or 130 mm shell.

PLO Recruit, 1983

Tripoli, Lebanon

Ink jet print

When I took this picture Yasser Arafat was under siege in Tripoli, where Syrian-backed rebels were trying to remove him as leader of Fatah. Despite the siege, he successfully negotiated a trade of six Israeli soldiers for 4,800 Palestinian fighters. The Israeli soldiers were on a ship in the Tripoli harbor that was nearly sunk by the shelling.

Arafat held a press conference with international media. He stated that the PLO, despite this factional split in Tripoli, was doing very well, and the dedication to the Palestinian movement could be seen in the hearts and eyes of the children of Palestine.

When I went outside, the first child I saw was this boy holding an AK-47. An adult PLO fighter told me the boy was admired for his cunning and speed, and he was so small he could get into places the grown men couldn't go for sniping and other activities. Tripoli was in ruins, without water and electricity for several days. He's standing in front of a pile of trash.

Rocket-propelled Grenade, 1983

Tripoli, Lebanon

Ink jet print

I was walking through the streets of Tripoli and saw this boy with an AK-47. The boy to his left behind him had an RPG-7, which can devastate tanks and small armored vehicles; he hid his face behind it.

Nazi Youth, 1980

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ink jet print

This boy was attending a Nazi rally in Humboldt Park. There were about ten Nazis, and probably two or three times as many members of the press, plus some protesters. Art Jones, a Chicago white supremacist, was speaking from a truck bed with another neo-Nazi standing guard at the podium.

Fleamarket Booth, 1978

Tupelo, Mississippi

Ink jet print

Fleamarket Booth was taken in Tupelo, Mississippi, when I was covering the Hines trial taking place a few hours away in Cullman County, Alabama. Tommy Lee Hines was a young black man with the mental capacity of a six-year-old who had been charged with the rape and murder of a white woman. The circumstances of the crime seemed implausible: he was accused of driving the woman a fair distance, but was mentally incapable of operating a car. The trial sparked protests by people who considered it unjust and racially motivated, and the Ku Klux Klan organized heavily in response. At the booth in this photograph there was an announcement for a rally that evening in Moulton, Alabama, about forty minutes from Cullman.

Beasts of Burden, 1981
La Libertad, El Salvador
Ink jet print

This *campesino* and his children are repairing their roof; the oxen are hauling a load of tiles. I traveled to this area with a priest by the name of Paul Schindler from Ohio, who had been living with two of the three nuns murdered and buried (along with a church worker) in shallow graves in 1980. The people who lived in this area were deeply ashamed that the nuns were murdered, and they wanted to protect Paul and me wherever we traveled. This family lives in one of the rural cantons where Paul held church service; the nuns would have accompanied him to help with the service, had they been alive.

Break Time, 1981
San Salvador, El Salvador
Ink jet print

I was in San Salvador covering the presidential elections and at the same time doing a story about the death squads. This boy was drinking a cup of water given to him by his grandmother. He was sitting next to the house where he lived with his extended family, which earned a living by making large, crude cement castings of Disney characters like Mickey Mouse, Scrooge McDuck, and Goofy. Sometimes the boy would help his father dig in the white sand used for the casting process; his body is coated with it.

Bombmaker's House, 1981
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Ink jet print

We were in this Catholic neighborhood just off Falls Road for more than two weeks before we found anyone who was employed. People were essentially living in rat-infested squalor. The boy, four years old, was wandering alone. The ruins behind him were the result of an explosion from an IRA bombmaking operation; three people were killed.

Lads of the Murph, 1981

Ballymurphy, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Ink jet print

There wasn't a lot for children in working-class Belfast neighborhoods to do in 1981. Their daily activities usually consisted of throwing rocks or petrol bombs at the British troops, building barricades in the streets to prevent British troops from driving their trucks through the neighborhood, or building a bonfire to entertain themselves and burn the trash that had been thrown out into the street. These lads had built a bonfire in Ballymurphy, just off the Falls Road, and they're doing IRA cheers.

Cheeky Chaps, 1986

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Ink jet print

The photograph was taken in West Belfast near an abandoned linen factory. These boys wanted to know in which pocket I carried my wallet. Each of them went by nicknames, from left to right: Waterman, Cue Ball, Milky Bar Kid, Big Nose, Squeak, and Shaggy. Squeak, in white shirt with his dukes up, wasn't sure if his nickname came from his voice or the sound his bike made.

Falls Road Bus, 1981
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Ink jet print

During the 1981 hunger strike, we parked our car in this neighborhood just off Falls Road, the main road through the Catholic neighborhood of West Belfast. At that time, when you parked a car in Northern Ireland you knocked on the doors closest to the car and informed the residents who you were and why you were there. There were so many car bombings that people suspected any strange car might be packed with explosives. After notifying the neighbors, we rounded the corner and there was a bus, still smoldering and blocking the road, that had been fire-bombed the night before. This child from the neighborhood had climbed aboard.

Playground, 1982
Beirut, Lebanon
Ink jet print

In 1982 I was in Lebanon covering the U.S. Marines, who were deployed in the fall as part of a multinational force to stabilize the country after "Operation Peace for Galilee." This photograph was taken in southern Beirut; the tank was a Russian T-34, World War II vintage. It was permanently parked due to damage, and the children turned it into the neighborhood playground.

Pushcart, 1984

Nicaragua

Ink jet print

These children are returning from gathering a load of wood from the *campo*, or countryside. They're going back to their village, where the wood will be used by the women to cook tortillas or other food. On a chilly night it will be used for heat instead.

Fuera Yanqui, 1983

Managua, Nicaragua

Ink jet print

I was covering the Sandinista conflict with Contra rebel groups. These children are in the central *mercado*, or marketplace, in downtown Managua. One wears a mask that says "Fuera Yanqui," which means "Yankee go home." The other child wears a Porky Pig mask. These masks were sold at the *mercado*.

Going to the Field, 1983

Nicaragua

Ink jet print

This boy was working the fields with his oxen in rural Nicaragua. His complexion and hair were lighter than they should have been due to malnutrition, according to doctors who have seen this photograph.

Wood for the Oven, 1988

La Pista, Guatemala

Ink jet print

This six-year-old girl had recently been displaced, along with her surviving family, into a makeshift village called La Pista. Because of the killings by death squads, the indigenous peoples were moved around the country so the government could keep them safe, and also to keep an eye on them. The right-wing government viewed the indigenous people as revolutionaries trying to bring about land reform and other changes in Guatemala. This little girl was walking up a long, steep hill carrying wood to her mother, who would then use it to prepare tortillas and meals for the family.

Scavenger, 1979
Esteli, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

During the Sandinista rebellion, the Somoza government heavily bombed the city of Esteli. It was largely destroyed, with the Sandinistas fighting at night, street to street, behind barricades and sandbags. During the day the fighters would slip away and recharge. This boy found some corrugated metal, which he might have been taking for the roof of wherever he was living. He also had a few other scavenged finds in his belt.

Sandinista Baby, 1984
Bluefields, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

This young soldier was being sent from Bluefields to the Nicaraguan border to protect it from Contras crossing over, and he was saying goodbye to his baby.

The Little General, 1984

Peshawar, Pakistan

Ink jet print

Peshawar, Pakistan, is near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. In the 1980s, the city was filled with exiles from the Soviet-Afghan war, and it served as a base for the Afghan mujahadeen and supporters of the resistance. This photograph was taken at Dean's Hotel, which had live cranes walking around in the lobby. Next door a man sold bottled propane gas. He said there were but two things in life: the music and the hashish. This boy was dressed as a Pakistani general.

Toy Grenades, 1986

Belize

Ink jet print

Toy Grenades was taken at a Mardi Gras parade in 1986. I was in Belize working on a book project. This boy was dressed as a soldier and riding on a parade float. Belize is a former British colony (previously known as British Honduras). It has been independent since 1981 and is politically stable.

The Burial, 1984

San Raphael del Norte, Nicaragua

Ink jet print

I took *The Burial* when traveling from northern Nicaragua back to Managua. The local casketmaker was extremely busy in this small town of San Rafael del Norte; there were caskets piled and strung along the outside of his shop. Curious, our group of reporters got out of our vehicle and went to investigate. We noticed a church nearby with a funeral in progress. We arrived just as the dirt was being thrown on the casket of a Sandinista soldier killed in the conflict between the U.S.-backed Contras and the Sandinista government.

The Search, 1984
Bluefields, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

We flew into this scene on a 1937 Russian biplane. I was traveling with Daniel Ortega, the president of Nicaragua, and Sergio Ramirez, the vice president, while covering the presidential elections. They campaigned by speaking in every town and answering all the residents' questions about new hospitals, road repairs, and fixing other problems resulting from years of conflict. In Bluefields, there were rumors that the Contras had come across the Honduran border into the town or the nearby surroundings, and so a house-to-house search was launched. When they came to this shack the only person home was this young girl who opened the door.

Shoe Shiner, 1988
Chichicastenango, Guatemala
Ink jet print

I was in Chichicastenango, Guatemala, covering the presidential elections, and a shoeshine boy was sitting on the steps of the Catholic church, which was in the center of town. The indigenous people there still practice some of their Mayan rituals in the Catholic church service. The little boy is waiting outside to shine people's shoes as they go in.

The Trinity, 1984
Managua, Nicaragua
Ink jet print

These two boys and a girl were on the altar of a large Catholic church, as if it were a makeshift throne. The girl had her hands on one boy's hair. The cathedral no longer had a roof, as it was completely destroyed in the 1972 earthquake.

Ulster Freedom Fighters, 1981
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Ink jet print

These two boys were in the Shankill Road area, which was Protestant (Loyalist). There were political murals painted all over Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland. The UFF stands for the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a Protestant paramilitary organization that was a wing of the loyalist Ulster Defence Association. Below the acronym is a red fist.

Above It All, 1988
Lake Atitlan, Guatemala
Ink jet print

There had recently been a flourish of guerrilla activity in the area around Lake Atitlan and some government soldiers had been killed. I was walking around and climbed to the top of this mountain to see if I might meet up with a rebel band; instead I came upon this tranquil scene of a young boy flying his kite near the lake above Panajachel, Guatemala—also referred to as Gringotenango because so many Americans went there on holidays.