

Fig.142 Screenshot showing me early on in the project checking an Italian newspaper. Reading national newspapers especially in my own country, I was seldom able to get a global perspective. There were often no hints of actual conflicts going on in countries I might have in fact visited or I might have had a first person account of.

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In some respects my listing of casualties reflects the work of some conceptual artists. For example On Kawara used to glue newspaper articles behind his date-paintings. It also reflects the work of some outsider artists. For example Vivian Maier collected newspaper articles as part of her archive. Both their works are like messages in a bottle. They are the surviving traces of the past. In the course of the project I was also able to find old newspapers. When renovating a farm in Sweden I found newspapers from the 1920s used as isolation. It was interesting to see how much drier news used to be in the past. I guess they were less addicting. In the age of information I feel myself addicted to news. Not only news from around the word but also news about my friends. I do no use any social media account but I am in the habit of regularly talking to friends that are scattered around the world so as to get updates from them. I do this out of kindness and I try to do it only once in a while but still there is a thirst to be informed. It feels like that smartphones activate a part of my brain that desire information. With this information I can then start to gossip mostly with my partner. I guess this is a very human feature but generally I prefer to just meet people in person a more in depth dialogue with them.