

EVERYDAY OBJECTS, TRAGIC HISTORIES

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Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with the correct words from the box

1. These are simple objects: clocks, keys, combs, glasses.
2. We are all familiar with these mundane, everyday objects.
3. The fact that some of the victims carried personal items such as toothpaste and a toothbrush is a clear sign they had no idea what was about to happen to them.
4. These items have been recovered from numerous mass graves across my homeland, and as we speak, forensics are exhuming bodies from newly discovered mass graves, 20 years after the war.
5. During the four years of conflict that devastated the Bosnian nation in the early '90s, approximately 30,000 citizens, mainly civilians, went missing, presumed killed, and another 100,000 were killed during combat operations.
6. Most of them were killed either in the early days of the war or towards the end of the hostilities, when U.N. safe zones like Srebrenica fell into the hands of the Serb army.
7. The international criminal tribunal delivered a number of sentences for crimes against humanity and genocide.
8. Genocide is not only about the killing; it is about the denied identity.
9. These items are recovered from numerous mass graves, and the main goal of this collection of the items is a unique process of identifying those who disappeared in the killings, the first act of genocide on European soil since the Holocaust.
10. Thousands of artifacts are packed in white plastic bags just like the ones you see on CSI. These objects are used as a forensic tool in visual identification of the victims, but they are also used as very valuable forensic evidence in the ongoing war crimes trials.
11. Once the forensics and doctors and lawyers are done with these objects, they become orphans of the narrative. Many of them get destroyed, believe it or not, or they get simply shelved, out of sight and out of mind.
12. Once all the missing persons are identified, only decaying bodies in their graves and these everyday items will remain.