



Rick Amor, *Dili Wharf*
watercolour over pencil
painted in Melbourne in 1999
acquired in 2000

(Accession Number 91056)
Australian War Memorial

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About the artwork:

Rick Amor was appointed an official war artist in East Timor in 1999. During his time in East Timor, he accompanied the Australian peacekeepers on their missions. As a result, he was able to sketch and photograph the destruction he witnessed, as well as record the daily lives and activities of the soldiers.

In this work, Amor captures the early morning atmosphere of the Dili wharf. His use of subtle washes of colour and his ability to capture the early morning light combine to create a scene of haunting silence. The soldiers and the few men on the wharf are the only evidence of human activity at this deserted site. At the same time, Amor's work also reveals some of the more mundane, yet necessary, duties of military life. His work also powerfully conveys a sense of the reality of the peacekeeper's lives in East Timor.

Questions:

1. The people in the painting are carrying out different roles and doing different jobs. What are these?
2. Which job would you like to be doing? Why?
3. Write down what you would pack in this container if it was the very first container to be delivered to a small village that had been burnt down.