



Wendy Sharpe *Christmas Eve Concert, Suai*  
soft ground etching and aquatint on paper  
produced at Falls Gallery, Wentworth Falls, Blue  
Mountains, NSW in 2000  
acquired in 2000

(Accession number 91174)  
Australian War Memorial

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### About the artwork:

Wendy Sharpe arrived in East Timor in December 1999, in time for the Christmas celebrations which marked the turning point and a new beginning for the East Timorese.

In this work, she records the Christmas Eve concert and re-enactment of the massacre that had taken place in the cathedral earlier in the year. The concert, which Sharpe depicts with drama and emotion, conveyed not only the grief and loss felt by the East Timorese people, but also their appreciation for the assistance provided by Australian peacekeepers during the conflict. Her use of dark, grainy etching juxtaposed against the central space of white light vividly conveys the theatrical atmosphere of the concert.

### Questions:

1. How did you spend last Christmas?
2. List five things that make Christmas special for you? Why?
3. Why do we all like music so much?
4. So, how would you feel if you were a soldier at this concert?