



George Gittoes, *Morning after night patrol*  
oil on cotton  
painted in Bundeena, NSW, in 1993  
acquired in 1993

(Accession Number 90100)  
Australian War Memorial

## Morning after night patrol

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### About the artwork:

Arriving in Somalia in 1993, George Gittoes lived and worked with the Australian soldiers. This experience enabled him to record the entire range of their peacekeeping activities.

The Australian army prides itself on its ability to dominate an area through intensive, often exhausting patrolling. In his journal, George Gittoes noted the variety of behaviour of Australian peacekeepers: "Some were detached, some were eager for 'contact', while others brought a real warmth and compassion to the situation."

In this work, Gittoes depicts a morning scene with soldiers engaged in a number of routine activities. He has depicted them cleaning weapons, eating, drinking, checking equipment and grooming. Each is busy, yet quietly absorbed in his own task. Through his use of green, brown and ochre tones, the artist blends the soldiers, their camouflage uniforms and the landscape into one.

### Questions:

1. What is each of the soldiers doing? On the basis of how they are shown in the painting, what do you think they are feeling?
2. Imagine you are on night patrol. You are sitting or lying in the jungle, or out in the desert. It is very quiet. It may be raining; it may be very cold.
  - What sounds might you hear?
  - What insects, or "creepy-crawlies", would be in the jungle?
  - How dark would it be in the jungle? How bright would the stars appear?
  - How would you keep yourself awake?
  - What do you think you might be waiting for?