



George Gittoes, *UN Bunker OP 54, Golan Heights*
 pencil on paper
 drawn in Bundeena, NSW in 1994
 acquired in 1994

(Accession Number 90366)
 Australian War Memorial

UN Bunker OP 54, Golan Heights

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About the artwork:

George Gittoes travelled to Israel in 1993. Many of the images he created during this time reveal an understanding of the fear, anger and violence he witnessed while in the Middle East.

In this work, Gittoes depicts one of the United Nations observation posts (OPs) in the Golan Heights. The OP, with its uneven stone walls blends into the parched and stony desert landscape. The isolation of the OP in this landscape is made more evident by the telegraph pole in the foreground – the only visible link with the outside world. In the spaces alongside many of his drawings, Gittoes has included text that records his impressions of the scene and its context. In this scene, he is able to convey a strong sense of the stillness and strain of an area in which temporary ceasefire lines have cut across people's lives for more than a quarter of a century. His works tell a story and have been described as “art that has a symbolic resonance that has a sense of drama and psychological intensity”.

Questions:

1. Write a few sentences explaining what you can see in this drawing.
2. Why would people want to attack the peacekeepers working for the United Nations (UN)?
3. In this painting, how is the bunker connected to the outside world?
4. How would having no electricity affect your weekend?
5. List all the arguments you can think of for and against the UN being armed.
6. Why are there no people in this painting? Where might they be?

