



FROM THE GALLERIES AND COLLECTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



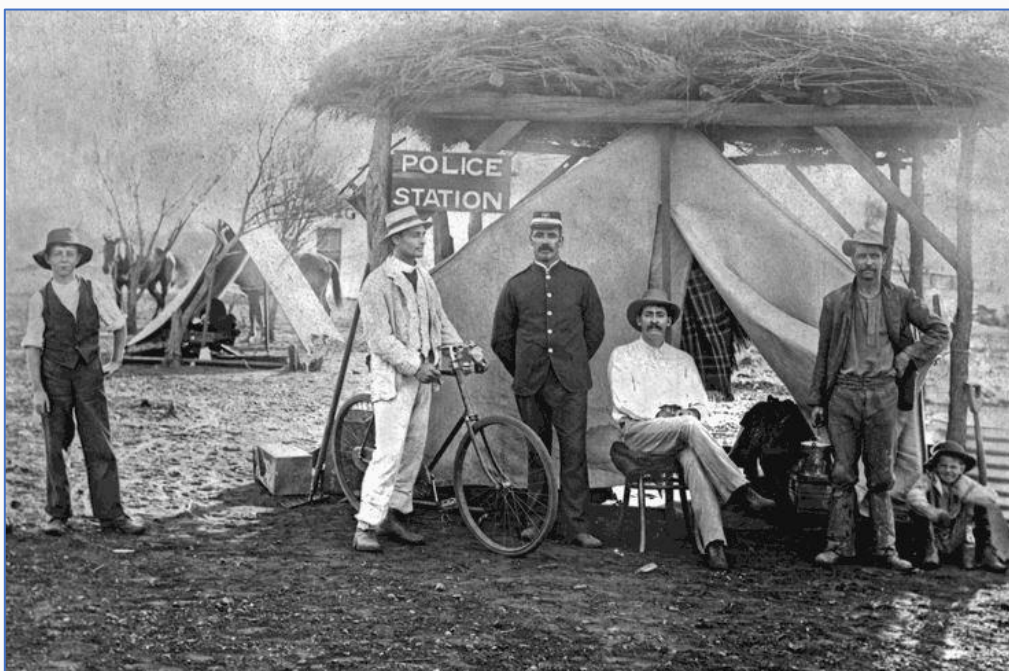
Typically only a small portion of a museum collection is exhibited at any one time. This is due not only to practical consideration of display space but a range of professional considerations designed to protect and preserve the artefact.

This series highlights objects and stories you may have overlooked in the galleries or collection items awaiting the opportunity to be viewed and share their story. Enjoy and explore further.

Portable Altar and Communion Set Presented to Canon Robert Henry Moore Rural Priest and Australian Imperial Force Chaplain

Robert Henry Moore was born on 8 June 1872 at Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland. He read theology at Trinity College, Dublin and was ordained priest on 13 June 1897. Moore responded to an appeal by Bishop Riley for additional clergy to minister to Western Australia's gold rush population.

He reached Fremantle in the *Oruba* on 1 June 1898 and spent 10 years in bush parishes. A miner's saying of the time was, "As soon as the women and goats come, then the parsons". Moore's response was, "I decided that I would get there before the goats".



Robert Henry Moore (with bicycle) was Anglican priest in Mount Morgan from February 1900 until March 1901.

Recognition of Moore's energy and leadership came in 1910 when he was appointed a canon of St George's Cathedral, Perth, and in 1911 when he was assigned as priest to St John's Church, Fremantle.



After the death of his first wife in 1916, he was commissioned in November 1917, as a chaplain in the Australian Imperial Force. He served with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade in the Middle East in 1918-19. This portable altar and communion set was a departure gift from the parishioners of St John's, Fremantle.

The communion set and portable altar forms part of the Chaplaincy exhibit in the Traditions Gallery at the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia.



After he was discharged from the AIF he returned to Fremantle. On 14 September 1921 he married Margaret, the daughter of Archbishop Riley. Moore served as Archdeacon of Northam and rural dean in 1921-29, before his election as dean of Perth in October 1929. The Traditions Gallery also displays the medals and uniforms of three generations of Riley's as military chaplains and senior clergy.

Moore maintained the Cathedral's position as Western Australia's leading Anglican church. Financial constraints imposed during the Depression thwarted his intention of creating a large-scale ministry to the working class. Nevertheless, as Dean he saw that the lower dining room of the Burt Memorial Hall was used as a soup kitchen during the Great Depression of the 1930s. In World War II, it was used to house Dutch refugees fleeing from Indonesia (Dutch East Indies) and to provide meals to returned servicemen.



As Dean, Moore encouraged relations with the Greek community and invited Orthodox prelates to the cathedral on special occasions. In 1947 Moore resigned as Dean. He then played an active role in the parish of Scarborough as its rector (1947-54). He died on 20 February 1964 at Subiaco and was buried in Fremantle cemetery.

RMS Oruba, the ship on which Moore travelled to Australia had an interesting career including a Gallipoli connection. She was built in 1889 for the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's Britain to Valparaiso service. In 1890 she was transferred to the Orient Line service and sailed from London on 4 July 1890 for Melbourne and Sydney via Suez and served for several years on the Australian run. In February 1906 she was transferred to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. and continued on the Australia service until 16 October 1908 when she commenced her last sailing to Australia. *Oruba* was the first vessel to use the newly opened Outer Harbour wharf at Port Adelaide.

During World War I the Royal Navy decided to convert a select number of merchant ships, particularly ocean liners, into imitation capital ships. Fourteen ships in total were selected for the task, each re-modelled individually with mock turrets, guns and other sham devices made of wood and canvas, and specially ballasted, to enable them to masquerade as the capital ships of the Grand Fleet. *Oruba* was one of these ship and was prepared to represent the battleship HMS Orion. After this duty, she was eventually scuttled as a breakwater at Mudros Harbour, Lemnos, off Gallipoli in 1916.



RMS Oruba on the Australian run 1912



RMS Oruba configured as HMS Orion, 1915



HMS Orion 1910– 1922. The *Orion*-class ships were designed in response to the beginnings of the Anglo-German naval arms race and were much larger than their predecessors of the *Colossus*-class battleship to accommodate larger, more powerful guns and heavier armour. (5 twin gun turrets with 13.5 inch Mk V guns) In recognition of these improvements, the class was sometimes called "super-dreadnoughts".

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/27455094?searchTerm=Moore%20chaplain>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/28003048?searchTerm=Riley%20marriage>



A Mowbray's private purchase field altar of similar design to that presented to Rev Moore with issued chalice, paten and cruets from WW2 similar to the Tobruk provenanced Communion set also displayed in the Chaplaincy exhibit.