



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2019

For more details go to our website: www.sahr.org.uk

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING 2019

A record number of Members gathered for the Annual Members' Meeting at the National Army Museum on 9th April in the presence of our royal patron **HRH The Duke of Kent**. Society President Lt Gen **Sir Barney White-Spunner** opened the meeting with Chairman Maj Gen **Ashley Truluck** in support.

The day began with a tour of the recently refurbished Museum and was followed by the AGM when we confirmed **Christopher Phillips** and **William Fletcher** as new Council members. This was followed by a masterly account of Wellington's generalship by **Dr Rory Muir**, author of the acclaimed two-volume biography of Wellington and winner of the 2015 Templer Medal. This led seamlessly into the Awards Ceremony and the evening concluded with a convivial wine & canape reception during which HRH generously circulated amongst members and spoke to all the prize winners – see below.



HRH with prize winners (see next page):

L to R: Lt Gen Sir Cedric Delves, Dr Aimee Fox, HRH, Prof Douglas Delaney, Prof Helen Parr

It was a most successful evening made possible by the hard work of many Council members – of whom **Adam Storing** (Events Coordinator) and **John Peaty** (Chair of the Templer Medal panel) deserve particular mention.

ANNUAL PRIZEWINNERS

Templer Medal Competition

The Medal is awarded annually to the author of the book published during the preceding year which is judged to have made the most significant contribution to the history of the Land Forces of the British Empire and Commonwealth. This year SAHR received 56 entries from 19 publishers on 3 continents (Australasia, Europe, North America). The overall quality of the submissions from both new and established authors was high – reflecting the prestige that the competition attracts.

Medal Winner: Prof Helen Parr (Keele University) with *Our Boys: The Story of a Paratrooper* (Allen Lane/Penguin).

Runner up: Prof Douglas Delaney (Royal Military College, Canada) with *The Imperial Army Project* (Oxford University Press).

Commended: Prof Ian Beckett (Prof Emeritus, University of Kent at Canterbury) with *A British Profession of Arms: The Politics of Command in the Late Victorian Army* (Oklahoma University Press).

Best First Book Competition

This supporting competition was established in 2014 to encourage new authors.

First Prize: Dr Aimee Fox (King's College London / Joint Services Command and Staff College) with *Learning to Fight: Military Innovation and Change in the British Army 1914-18* (Cambridge University Press).

Runner up: Lt-Gen Sir Cedric Delves with *Across an Angry Sea: The SAS in the Falklands War* (Hurst).

Commended: Col Dr Alison Hine (formerly of the Women's Royal Army Corps) with *Refilling Haig's Armies: The Replacement of Infantry Casualties on the Western Front* (Helion).

The Essay Competition

For the best essay or report written by a student or undergraduate.

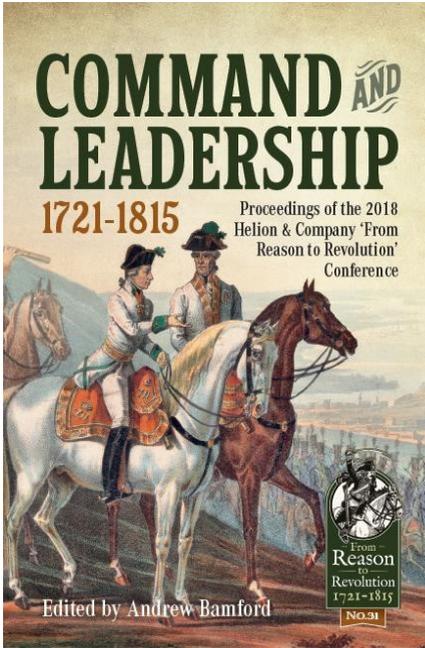
Schools: Zeb Micic (Dulwich College) – for his essay: The Victoria Cross: Its formation and evolution.

Undergraduate: Jake Gasson (King's College, London) – for his work: Learning Lessons? *Fifth Army Tank Operations, 1916-1917*.

Research Grant

Mr William Heap, SAHR are supporting research for his work on *Elizabeth's French Wars, 1562-1598*.

FEEDBACK ON RECENT EVENTS



Reason to Revolution Conference.

The proceedings of the 2018 Helion & Co 'From Reason to Revolution' conference, which was sponsored by SAHR, have now been published under the title '*Command and Leadership 1721-1815*'. As part of the Society's sponsorship arrangement with Helion, members may obtain a £5 discount when ordering the book from the Helion website (over and above the standard 10% online discount). To take advantage of this generous offer, order the book from <https://www.helion.co.uk/browse-title-series-more/reason-to-revolution-1721-1815/books-in-series/command-and-leadership-1721-1815-proceedings-of-the-2018-helion-company-from-reason-to-revolution-conference.html> and apply the discount code SAHR19.

Conference at Derby Museum – 27th April 2019

SAHR sponsored the Helion & Co conference '*Life in the Red Coat: The British Soldier 1721-1815*' at the Derby Museum and Fine Art Gallery on Saturday 27 April.

The conference was a success, with strong SAHR representation amongst the panellists and chairs, and the SAHR recruitment stand attracted lots of interest which will hopefully translate into new members. Helion are very grateful for SAHR's continued supports of events of this nature – and vice versa, as it is such partnerships which enable us to offer so many events.

Lecture at National Army Museum – 1st May 2019

Dr Jonathan Boff gave a fascinating lecture at the National Army Museum – in front of another record attendance of Society members and friends – including National Army Museum director **Justin Maciejewski** and guests from other military history societies.

NB: Full details and pictures of recent events, how they went, and any follow-up, are available on the ever-improving SAHR website under 'Events' and 'Event reports'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – REST OF 2019

All SAHR lectures are free for SAHR members and their guests. A charge is made for any associated optional meal/drinks. Further details of all events are posted and progressively updated on the Society website www.sahr.org.uk – keep checking!

17 June: ‘Churchill – Walking with Destiny’

Lecture by Prof Andrew Roberts at Durham University at 4pm

This will probably get to you too late for the lecture but hopefully you saw the notice on the website and registered by emailing secretary@dus.org.uk.

24-30 June: Chalke Valley History Festival – near Salisbury

Not a SAHR-sponsored event – but one with many SAHR connections including your Chairman whose house overlooks the site, and Helen Parr (2019 Templer Medal) and Jeremy Black (Templer Judging Panel) who will both be presenting. See www.cvhf.org.uk for directions, programme and bookings.

12 September: ‘Learning to Fight: Innovation & Change in the British Army 1914-18’ – Lecture at Kings College London at 7pm

Dr Aimee Fox (King's College London / Joint Services Command and Staff College) will present on the subject of her book which won this year's Templer ‘Best First Book’ Competition. For details see website and book in (free) at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/templer-first-book-prize-lecture-dr-aimee-fox-on-learning-to-fight-tickets-61754387034>

2-7th November: SAHR Annual Battlefield Tour - Malta

There are still a few places left if you want to join our Chairman and 20 other SAHR members & friends on our Malta Tour in November. Our six-day Valetta-based tour will cover all aspects of the military history and much of the culture of Malta - full details and prices are available on the website... *If you haven't already registered, want to book, or need further information, please contact the Chairman, Ashley Truluck, at chair@sahr.org.uk or ring direct on 01722-780852*

14 November: Annual Templer Lecture

Lecture and optional dinner at the Army & Navy Club starting 7pm.

Prof Helen Parr (Keele University) - the first female winner of the Templer Medal Competition will present on her excellent Templer medal-winning book: ‘**Our Boys: The Story of a Paratrooper**’ – an intimate account of her uncle's experience and death in the Falklands. To book for this lecture (free) go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/templer-lecture-prof-helen-parr-on-our-boys-the-story-of-a-paratrooper-tickets-61754558547>

The lecture will be followed by the traditional Templer dinner at the Club at 8.15pm for those who wish to stay (optional - payment required) – watch website for details.