

In Memoriam

Prof Jeffrey Grey, 1959-2016



Jeff Grey at an ADFA graduation ceremony in 1999

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden passing of Professor Jeffrey Grey in Canberra on 26 July 2016. Jeff was a model military historian. He represented the best of our profession and espoused, often stridently, the merits of history as a discipline, its relevance to armed forces as organisations, and as its importance as a pillar in the education of military and naval officers. We were most fortunate to have had Jeff on our editorial board at *Scientia Militaria* from 2000.

Jeff had an enormous capacity for work and was a driving force behind numerous projects and initiatives. Professor of history in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University College, Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, and the founding director of the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society, at the University of New South Wales, he

was the author or editor of some twenty-six books. Jeff wrote about the Korean and Vietnam wars, about Australian involvement in Southeast Asian conflicts, and about military historiography and the official history programmes in the United States and the British Commonwealth. But he is perhaps known best for his much acclaimed *Military History of Australia*, which first appeared in 1990 and saw revisions in 1999 and 2008. More recently, he made anchor contributions to *The Australian Centenary History of Defence Series* (he wrote volume one – *The Australian Army*, 2001) and the *Centenary History of Australia in the Great War*, for which he was the series editor and author of the volume on *The War with the Ottoman Empire* (2015). In

between there were other books, including a solid biography of General Sir Thomas Daly that appeared in 2012, and many articles, book chapters and reviews.

Jeff stood as a colossus in our field and was admired and respected by colleagues and peers from around the world. He spent two years (2000-2002) as the Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair in Military Theory at the Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia, and, after two terms as a trustee of the Society for Military History (US), he became the Society's first non-American president. This was a massive achievement and perhaps the pinnacle of a brilliant career.

But Jeff was also humane and generous to a fault. He served his community, in Australia and far further afield, and in so many areas. To mention a few: he sat on the editorial and advisory boards of several journals – the *Journal of Military History* (US), *War in History* (UK), *First World War Studies* (UK) and our own *Scientia Militaria*, and was managing editor of the *Australian Army Journal* and editor of *War & Society* (Australia) – and, alongside Peter Dennis and Roger Lee, convened the annual Chief of Army History Conference in Canberra, drawing together scholars from around the world working on particular themes. A long run of conference proceedings, edited meticulously by Peter and Jeff in the following year, testify to the quality and import of the Chief of Army History Conference, which soon became a premier Commonwealth military history event.

Here, in South Africa, Jeff helped found the War and Society in Africa Conference Series, which we launched in 2000, and twice gave our Turner Lecture (2000, 2015). He was always generous with his “time”; he had time for his own students, and for the students of friends, and was always willing to write a letter to support a promotion or grant application. At a personal level I shall miss the company of a fine friend and the ready invitation to enjoy a catch-up pint before the start of the next conference. RIP Jeff. Our thoughts go out to your wonderful family.

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