



## **CEW Bean Prize Citation - 2016**

**Mr Hayden Lammiman**

**‘The Senior Soldier: An Analysis of the Command Response of Australian, Canadian and New Zealand Infantry Battalion Commanders to the Momentum of the Hundred Days Offensive’**

**Honours, University of NSW (Canberra Campus)**

Hayden Lammiman’s thesis compares lessons learnt on the Western Front by examining the responses of Australian, New Zealand and Canadian commanders at the lower tactical level in 1918. He analyses three battles that took place during the mobile phase of operations that followed the set-piece Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918. These are the New Zealanders at Bapaume (21 August – 3 September), the Australians at Mont St Quentin (31 August – 4 September) and Canadians at the Second Battle of Arras (26 August – 3 September). The often slippery notion of command is clearly defined and the methodology used for the thesis is well set out. It is a fascinating study of three Dominion armies fighting a war for empire, arguing that tactical and cultural differences played a role in the way Dominion forces responded to Operation Michael and that battalion commanders were more significant in the tactical developments made that followed Amiens and which were consolidated and unified along the Allied front. He uses his cases studies to explore what he describes as lesson promulgation and the way that lessons learnt may well have been applied within individual Dominion forces (even if unevenly) but were not fully shared across the three forces, a reflection of the differing experiences of the battalion commanders and command culture. Lammiman’s approach may well provide a model for future studies to explore how the Australian Army functioned as a member of international forces at war. The thesis is based on solid archival research at Archives New Zealand, the Alexander Turnbull Library, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and Library and Archives Canada. Hayden Lammiman’s thesis is a worthy recipient of the CEW Bean Prize for an Honours thesis.