



CEW Bean Prize Citation - 2015

Mr Benjamin Studd

‘The fate of Reviews in the Australian Army: An analysis of the implementation of reviews between the Vietnam War and INTERFET’

Honours, University of NSW (Canberra Campus)

An important, and often overlooked, process in the organisational history of the Australian Army is the role of reviews in the evaluation of the Australian Army’s effectiveness as the instrument responsible for Australian defence and for the training up of the nation’s defence force. The review process is the focus of this thesis. Benjamin Studd has chosen four major reviews as case studies: the Hassett Review (1971), the Millar Review (1974), the Wrigley Review (1990) and the Grey Review (1998). Each signalled a shift in policy (though never in straight forward implementation) that shaped the workings of the current-day Army. The author works systematically through these reviews: identifying the factors that prompted them, the ways that the reviewers worked and the conjunction of internal Army structures and popular response that conditioned their separate outcomes. These included resistance from within the Army itself, the political and financial implications of the recommendations themselves, and the status of the chair of the review and the body conducting the review within the Defence Forces. Benjamin Studd’s work demonstrates commendable scholarship in the primary sources he uses and a thorough grasp of the secondary supporting literature. His study is a worthy recipient of the CEW Bean Prize for an Honours thesis.