

The Templer Medal Book Competition

The Templer Medal was established by the Society for Army Historical Research in 1981 to commemorate the life and achievements of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer KG (1898–1979) and to mark his Presidency of the Society between 1965 and 1979. The medal is awarded annually to the author of the book published during that year that has made the most significant contribution to the history of the British Army, as defined in the Templer competition rules, set out here and in the Society's website (www.sahr.co.uk). For the 2009 Competition, there will be a cash award attached to the Medal.

Candidate publications must be about the **History of the British Army** by which is understood any aspect of the Army and its activities, including its Reserve or Auxiliary formations/units (Militia, Yeomanry, Fencibles, Volunteers, Home Guard or other temporary and part time units) or the land forces of the Crown before 1660, or the "Offices" and institutions which supported them. Candidates may also deal with the same material in respect of **the countries of the British Empire/ Commonwealth** including forces maintained by non-Crown bodies within the Empire (the Honourable East India Company) or forces allied to and forming an integral part of the land forces operating on behalf of the Crown (North America Indians, for example).

The work must make **a significant contribution to advancing knowledge and understanding** of the History of the Army, as defined above, by broaching **new subjects or re-examining old ones by means of extensive, original research from primary sources.**

To be eligible for the prize, the book must be published during the year of the annual competition. Thus for example only books published between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009 that also state the publication year as 2009 in the book will be eligible for the 2009 prize. Where there is a discrepancy between the two elements mentioned above (for example, a book published say in December 2008 but bearing the publication year 2009 in the book itself), then the work will only be eligible for the annual Templer competition run during the year of publication stated in the book itself. The only exception to this is the situation where the publication year as stated in the book is the year before that in which the book is physically published, in which case the later year shall be the year that the work is eligible. Finally again as an example for the 2009 prize the book must have been received by all the five judges by early January 2010 to be considered.

No restrictions are made concerning whether a work is authored, edited or compiled nor as to whether one or several persons are responsible for its content.

Titles competing for the prize will normally have been produced by companies which are members of the Publishers Association of the UK or a similar body in their country of origin. Works produced in very limited runs by "desk top publishing" methods will not normally be eligible for the competition. Notwithstanding the above, privately published books shall be eligible if "called in" by the sub-committee. Works produced for private circulation that are not commercially available, are ineligible.

Works must be in conventional printed book format. Works produced exclusively in electronic format are not acceptable.

Works must be in the English language originally or by translation and, in cases of translations, the English version shall be that upon which the judgement is based. The publication date of the English language version shall constitute the date of publication of the work for the purpose of the competition. Candidate works may be published anywhere in the world.

Successful candidates shall:

- a) be accurate and thoroughly researched and shall include sufficiently full bibliographies and references to allow the judges to satisfy themselves that adequate sources have been used in the writing of the work.
- b) be written in such a manner that constant and detailed reference to other works on the subject is unnecessary; the narrative and arguments of the work must stand alone and be comprehensible to a well-informed reader of military literature.
- c) be sufficiently well written that the style of presentation does not, regardless of subject matter, obscure the message of the work.

The organisation of the competition and the recommendation of a title to Council shall be in the hands of a sub-committee consisting of members of the Society of which the Chairman and at least two members shall be members of the Society's Council. The sub-committee shall consist of at least three members representing as wide a background of interests as possible. Members of Council who are employees of the National Army Museum shall not be eligible to sit on the sub-committee.

It shall be permissible not to make an award in respect of any year if no book is of sufficient quality to merit it.

The sub-committee will "call in" those books which it thinks most appropriate to consider for the competition. Unsolicited books received by the sub-committee will be examined for inclusion, but will not necessarily form part of the short list to be read for the competition. Publishers are urged therefore to submit catalogues of appropriate material to the Chairman of the sub-committee:

Dr Mark Nicholls

St John's College

Cambridge

CB2 1TP

Tel: 01223 338661
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Publishers may submit copies of Proof form before publication date; the book must however be available through normal commercial outlets before 31st December of the year in which it is included in the competition. Publishers should advise the sub-committee chairman as soon as possible if a title which has been submitted is not going to appear in the year of the competition for which it is being considered.

The Society welcomes books from abroad and publishers are urged to bring potential candidates to the sub-committee's attention as soon as possible, as candidate titles qualify strictly by their year of publication and not from when they become known about and available in London.

The Short List of titles will be closed at the end of December.

The decision of the Council of the Society for Army Historical Research following the recommendation of the Templer Medal sub-committee shall be final and no correspondence concerning the decision will be entered into with publishers, authors, editors or compilers in respect to the merits of particular candidate publications.

The winning work will normally be announced in time for the presentation of the award to be made at the Society's Annual General Meeting, usually in April of the following year. Thus the prize ward ceremony for the 2009 Templer Medal would normally take place in April 2010, at which the winner will receive the prestigious silver Templer medal.

[Back to top](#)

Winners of the Templer Medal

1981 *Fit for Service: The Training of the British Army 1715-1795*, by J.A. Houlding. Published by the Clarendon Press.

1982 *A History of the British Cavalry, Volume 3: 1872-1898*, by the Marquess of Anglesey. Published by Leo Cooper in association with Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd.

1983 *For the sake of Example: Capital Courts-Martial 1914-1920*, by Anthony Babington. Published by Associated University Press.

1984 *The British Army and Theory of Armored Warfare 1918-1940*, by Robert H. Larson. Published by Associated University Press.

1985 *From Waterloo to Balaclava: Tactics, Technology and the British Army 1815-1854*, by Hew Strachan. Published by Cambridge University Press.

1986 *Monty: The Field Marshal 1944-1976*, by Nigel Hamilton. Published by Hamish Hamilton.

1987 *The British Army of William III*, by John Childs. Published by Manchester University Press.

1988 *Kitchener's Army: The Raising of New Armies 1914-16*, by Peter Simkins. Published by Manchester University Press

1989 No Award made.

1990 *British Counterinsurgency 1919-60*, by Thomas R. Mockaitis. Published by Macmillan in association with King's College, London.

1991 *The Crimean Doctors. A History of the British Medical Service in the Crimean War*, by John Shepherd. Published by Liverpool University Press.

1992 *Politics and Military Morale: Current-Affairs and Citizenship Education in the British Army 1914-1950*, by S.P. Mackenzie. Published by the Clarendon Press.

1993 *To Long Tan: The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1950-1966*, by Ian McNeill. Published by Allen and Unwin in association with the Australian War Memorial.

1994 No Award made.

1995 *British Victory in Egypt 1801: The End of Napoleon's Conquest*, by Piers Mackesy. Published by Routledge.

1996 *The English Ordnance Office, 1585-1625: a case study in bureaucracy*, by Richard W. Stewart. Published by the Boydell Press for the Royal Historical Society.

1997 *Smallarms of the East India Company, 1600-1856, Vols 1 and 2*, by David Harding. Published by Foresight Books.

1998 *British Logistics on the Western Front, 1914-1919*, by Ian Malcolm Brown. Published by Praeger.

1999 *British Military Intelligence in the Crimean War, 1854-1856*, by Stephen M. Harris. Published by Frank Cass.

2000 *Raising Churchill's Army: The British Army and War against Germany 1919-45*. Published by Oxford University Press.

2001 No award made

2002 *The British General Staff: Reform and Innovation*, edited by David French & Brian Holden Reid. Published by Frank Cass Publishers.

2003 *Phoenix from the Ashes: The Indian Army in the Burma Campaign*, by Daniel P. Marston. Published by Praeger.

2004 *Medicine and Victory: British military medicine in the Second World War*, by Mark Harrison. Published by Oxford University Press.

2005 *Military Identities: The Regimental System, the British Army, and the British People, c.1870–2000*, by David French. Published by Oxford University Press.

2006 *Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson: A Political Soldier*, by Keith Jeffery. Published by Oxford University Press.

2007 No award made

2008 *Douglas Haig and the First World War*, by J. P. Harris. Published by Cambridge University Press.