

## Three Apprentices Graduate - 26 July 2017

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 a small contingent of the Company's apprentices – Daniel Hadfield, Daniel Oppenheimer, and myself – graduated from the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

The ceremony itself – which took place within the Barbican – was a touching display of pomp and pageantry. A throng of professors, dressed in their academic regalia, marched into the main hall with an orchestral accompaniment and took their places centre-stage. Each of the graduates then processed across the auditorium in turn, before the entire ensemble stood reverently for a rendition of God Save The Queen.

The Barbican Centre was bustling with activity, with parents cooing over their newly-qualified offspring and gaggles of friends assembling for the obligatory post-graduation 'selfie'. For many it was the emotional culmination of three years of hard-work and scholarly labour, and a chance to celebrate our cohort's success, before the eventual onset of that most dreaded inevitability: a 'job'.

But it was also a chance to reflect on the extraordinary events of the last three years, all of which have had a considerable bearing on our studies. In our time at King's College London, from September 2014 to July 2017, we have observed two referendums of huge historical and constitutional significance; two general elections with two equally surprising results; and a string of deadly terror attacks in London and Manchester.

Global affairs have been no less tumultuous over this period, witnessing noteworthy presidential elections in France and the United States, through to the continuing conflict in the Donbas and the rise of *Daesh* in Iraq and Syria. These events have only reinforced the importance of the War Studies department at King's if we are to engage with, and critically analyse, this changing geopolitical landscape.

As the threats to international security grow, and the distribution of global power ebbs and flows with each passing month, the role of The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals will become all the more relevant in helping to shape our collective response to these challenges. As apprentices and new graduates I hope we will continue to contribute to this effort, and that there will be many more who follow suit in the future.

Harry Richardson  
Apprentice  
31 July 2017