

About the author

Peter Cooke specialises in New Zealand military history and industrial heritage, having written a dozen books to date. He has also written on such diverse topics as Shell Oil NZ Ltd, Wellington Returned and Services Association, water supply, rugby in war, and mine-proof vehicles. As a product of the British diaspora, he brings an internationalist perspective to works on New Zealand history, showing the country as part of a global whole.

Peter edits two New Zealand military history periodicals, lobbies for defence heritage sites under threat and runs field trips to local battle sites. Married with children, he lives in central Wellington and is actively involved with his community.

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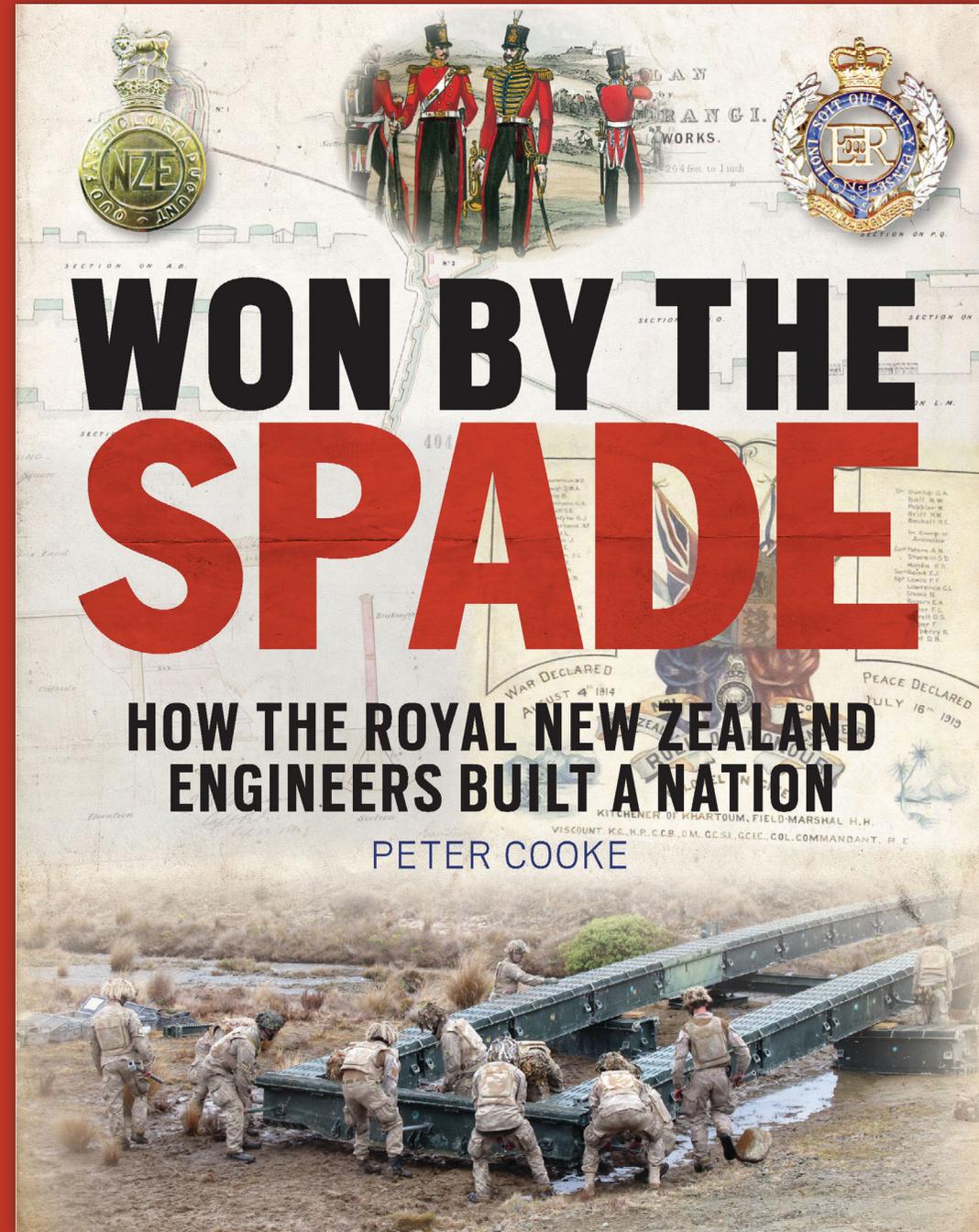
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Won by the Spade is the definitive history of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers, providing a comprehensive account of the corps' actions, events and personnel from the New Zealand Wars of the nineteenth century to the present. It examines military engineering in New Zealand, including that of Māori and their influence on the corps, the role of the corps in overseas wars and home defences, and provides a contemporary record of New Zealand's contribution to military engineering, including demining operations, peacekeeping and civil aid missions. Key themes are those of military innovation and the Engineers' contribution to national infrastructure and professional development.

Contents

- 1 1500–1860s: Maori Military Engineering
 - 2 1840s–1870s: Royal Engineers in New Zealand
 - 3 1870s–1900s: Rise of the New Zealand Engineer
 - 4 First World War–1930s: Territorial Engineers and the Great War Sapper
 - 5 Second World War: Mobilized Works in New Zealand and Pacific Defence
 - 6 Second World War: Combat Engineering
 - 7 1950s–1960s: Desert to Jungle
 - 8 1970s–1980s: Inward Looking
 - 9 1990s–2000s: Peace and Terror
 - 10 2010s: Ubiquitous in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Conclusion
- Appendices:
- 1. Died in Service
 - 2. Senior Appointments
 - 3. Awards and Honours
 - 4. NZ Engineer Units and Formations
 - 5. New Zealanders in other Military Engineer Forces
 - 6. The Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers

