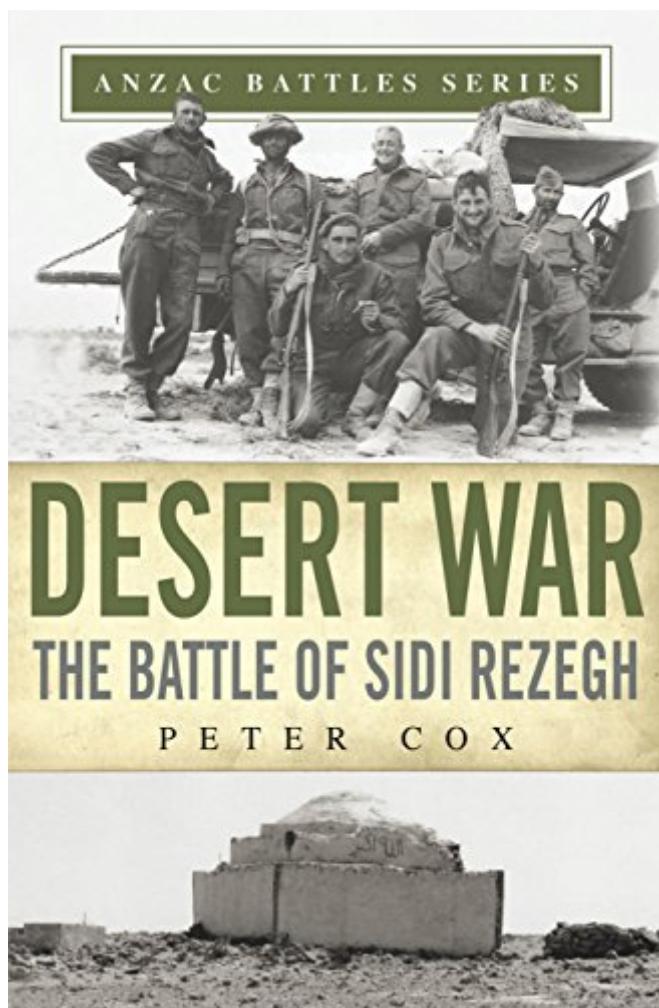


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Desert War: The Battle Of Sidi Rezegh



Synopsis

Sir Geoffrey Cox described Sidi Rezegh, fought during Operation Crusader in Libya over November and December 1941, as “the forgotten battle of the Desert War.” The objective of Crusader was to retake Cyrenaica, the eastern region of Libya, and ultimately drive the Italians and Germans out of North Africa. The campaign also involved British and South African troops, and did achieve the badly needed relief of Tobruk. Despite the New Zealand Division’s major role, and the importance of this campaign in achieving British victory in North Africa, it has largely been neglected by historians, failing to receive as much attention as Crete, El Alamein or Cassino. Yet more New Zealand soldiers were killed or taken prisoner during Crusader than in any other campaign fought by the Division during the war. Peter Cox, whose father fought at Sidi Rezegh, draws on his experience of twice visiting the battlefield to tell the story of this complex and costly campaign. He sets the scene for the fighting in Libya, describes the unforgiving and inhospitable desert landscape, follows the stages of the action itself and recounts the often moving and heroic stories of the New Zealanders who fought there. Many never returned home. This is both a very accessible account of a significant New Zealand contribution to World War II and a tribute to the thousands of men who took part in this punishing battle.

Book Information

File Size: 8866 KB

Print Length: 436 pages

Publisher: Exisle Publishing (February 24, 2015)

Publication Date: February 24, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00TZAYA34

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #457,518 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #149

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Australia & Oceania #268 in Books > History >

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Well researched and presented volume exploring a critical battle for New Zealanders in the western desert campaign. The experiences led to the nz Division forming its own armoured contingent in due course. Highly recommended

Fascinating study of a neglected campaign. I highly recommend this book.

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