

= Lindsay Merritt Inglis =

Major General Lindsay Merritt Inglis CB , CBE , DSO & Bar , MC , ED ( 16 May 1894 ? 17 March 1966 ) was a New Zealand military leader , lawyer and magistrate .

Born in Mosgiel , Inglis volunteered for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the First World War . He served on the Western Front and won the Military Cross for his actions during the Battle of Flers @-@ Courcellette . He ended the war as a company commander and returned to New Zealand in 1919 . In civilian life , he was a solicitor and barrister in Timaru but also served in the Territorial Force . He volunteered for service during the Second World War and commanded the 4th Infantry Brigade in the campaigns in Crete and North Africa . He had two periods in command of the 2nd New Zealand Division . After the war , he was appointed to a military court of the Allied Control Commission , which administered occupied Germany . He later served as chief judge of the Allied Control Commission 's Supreme Court from 1947 to 1950 .

= = Early life = =

Inglis was born in Mosgiel , Otago , New Zealand on 16 May 1894 to a banker and his wife . After completing his education at Waitaki Boys ' High School in Oamaru , he commenced legal studies at the University of Otago in 1913 .

= = Military career = =

In late April 1915 , Inglis volunteered for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force ( NZEF ) . He had some military experience , having served as an officer in the Territorial Force with the 2nd ( South Canterbury ) Regiment . Posted to the New Zealand Rifle Brigade , he served in Egypt and on the Western Front . As a company commander in his battalion , he participated in the Battle of Flers @-@ Courcellette during the Somme Offensive in September 1916 . He was awarded the Military Cross for his part in the battle , after which he was the only surviving officer from his section of the front line .

Inglis later transferred to the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps , in which he commanded a company for the remainder of the war . Present at the capture of Le Quesnoy in late 1918 , he was discharged from the NZEF in April 1919 and returned to New Zealand .

= = Interwar period = =

Inglis resumed his legal studies , completing them in 1920 . He also became married to his fiancée , Agnes , and the couple had two children . Now a solicitor , he moved his young family to Timaru and established a legal practice there . He remained involved with the Territorial Force , and in 1926 was commander of 1st Battalion , Canterbury Regiment , with the rank of lieutenant colonel . Promoted to colonel in 1931 , he commanded 3rd New Zealand Infantry Brigade before retiring from the Territorial Force in 1936 . As a long serving member of the territorials , he was awarded the Efficiency Decoration . In 1935 , he was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal .

= = Second World War = =

Inglis enlisted in the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force ( 2NZEF ) following the outbreak of the Second World War . He needed to have treatment on his thyroid before he could go on active service . He commanded the 27th Machine @-@ Gun Battalion , part of the first echelon of the 2NZEF which had been shipped to Egypt , from December 1939 to August 1940 . In early 1941 , Inglis was promoted to brigadier and given command of the 9th Infantry Brigade , composed largely of training battalions .

= = = Crete = = =

Having missed the Battle of Greece , Inglis was appointed commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade of 2nd New Zealand Division in May 1941 . During the Battle of Crete , his brigade served as the reserve for the Allied forces , codenamed Creforce and commanded by Major General Bernard Freyberg , on Crete . The battle ended in the evacuation of Creforce to Egypt . Freyberg selected Inglis to travel to the War Office in London and provide a report on the battle . When he met with Winston Churchill the month after the evacuation from Crete , Inglis was critical of Freyberg 's conduct of the battle and made a number of inaccurate and misleading statements . However , Inglis ' own conduct in the battle had not been exemplary . At one stage , he disobeyed an order to take over a newly created reserve and remained at divisional headquarters , possibly with hopes of taking over command of the division .

= = = North Africa = = =

Despite this show of disloyalty to his commander , Inglis remained in command of 4th Brigade through much of the North African Campaign . He led his brigade in the capture of Belhamed , a hill adjacent to Sidi Rezegh , which resulted in the opening of a corridor to Tobruk during Operation Crusader , for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order ( DSO ) .

After being reformed during the early part of 1942 , 4th Brigade spent time in Syria with most of the 2nd New Zealand Division . In June , the New Zealanders were rushed back to Egypt after the Panzer Army Afrika attacked Gazala , near Tobruk , to begin an advance into Egypt in pursuit of the retreating Eighth Army . The division made a stand at Minqar Qaim and was surrounded by German forces on 27 June . As the Germans probed the perimeter of the New Zealand positions , Freyberg was wounded . Inglis assumed temporary command of the division and successfully led it in an outbreak from Minqar Qaim that night . He would remain as divisional commander for the next two months as Freyberg recovered , and was later awarded a bar to his DSO which acknowledged his leadership of the division during this period .

However , during this time Inglis ' relationship with his brigade commanders , particularly Brigadier Howard Kippenberger deteriorated . Kippenberger had become highly rated as a field commander during the war and Inglis may have become resentful . This was uncomfortable for Kippenberger , who had served under Inglis in the Territorial Force and considered him a mentor in the art of warfare . This was further exacerbated on 30 June when Inglis went to Cairo without informing his staff who , in his absence , subsequently asked Kippenberger to take temporary command of the division . Inglis returned on 1 July having become lost when returning from Cairo .

Prior to the First Battle of Ruweisat Ridge , which commenced on 14 ? 15 July , Inglis failed to adjust his artillery support following concerns raised by Kippenberger and Jim Burrows , the commanders of the brigades involved in the planned advance on the defended ridge . Instead , he chose to rely on assurances from his corps commander , Lieutenant General William Gott , that British armour would provide any necessary assistance . This proved to be a mistake ; although the brigades manage to seize the ridge , they were unable to hold it in the face of stronger than expected counterattacks , and the expected armour support never fully eventuated . Afterwards , while Inglis was critical of the conduct of the brigades and laid primary blame for the failure on them and the lack of armour , he overlooked the influence of his own role as divisional commander on the outcome of the battle . An attack mounted a few days later by 6th Brigade was a further failure and highlighted Inglis ' failings as a divisional commander by not ensuring adequate support from his corps commander .

In September 1942 , Inglis reverted to command of 4th Brigade , and it was decided that the brigade would be converted to an armoured formation . As an infantry brigade , it had suffered heavy losses at Ruweisat Ridge . Inglis oversaw 4th Brigade 's transition to armour , a process which took a nearly a year . He was again acting divisional commander from June to July 1943 when Freyberg was occupied elsewhere . Afflicted with dysentery , Inglis was repatriated to New Zealand in November 1943 for treatment .

= = = Italy = = =

Inglis returned to 4th Brigade , now in Italy , in March 1944 . For much of the Italian Campaign the brigade did not participate in large @-@ scale operations ; instead , his armoured regiments were deployed piecemeal in support of infantry operations . In the absence of Inglis while he recovered from his illness the previous three months , Kippenberger had become the preferred acting divisional commander . Kippenberger , commanding the division while Freyberg commanded the New Zealand Corps , was wounded shortly after Inglis arrived in Italy . Command of the division passed to another brigade commander , despite Inglis ' seniority . Again overlooked as temporary divisional commander in September , Inglis requested to be relieved of his command and he was promptly sent home to New Zealand . For his wartime services , he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire .

= = Later life = =

After the end of the war in Europe , Inglis was one of New Zealand 's delegates for the Allied Control Commission for Germany , which administered the now occupied country . He was appointed president of a military court in the British @-@ controlled area of Germany dealing with crimes committed by the occupying forces . After six months in this role , in February 1947 he was promoted to major general and made chief judge of the Allied Control Commission 's Supreme Court . The following year he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath .

In 1950 , Inglis ended his appointment as chief judge and returned to New Zealand . He became a magistrate in Hamilton in 1953 , and retired in 1965 . He died in Hamilton the following year . His collection of military history books was donated to the Kippenberger Research Library in the QEII Army Memorial Museum at Waikourou .