

Jim Lobb



Private 5445354, 2nd Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Died May 7th 1943, aged 22

Commemorated at Medjez-El-Bab Memorial

Son of William John Lobb, and of Lizzie D Lobb, of Port Isaac, Cornwall

Jim Lobb was born in spring 1920. His mother, Lizzie Durham Lobb (*nee Honey*) had remarried after her first husband was killed in World War 1. He was Richard Hocking, and is also on our War Memorial. Jim is the uncle of Gina Rowe.

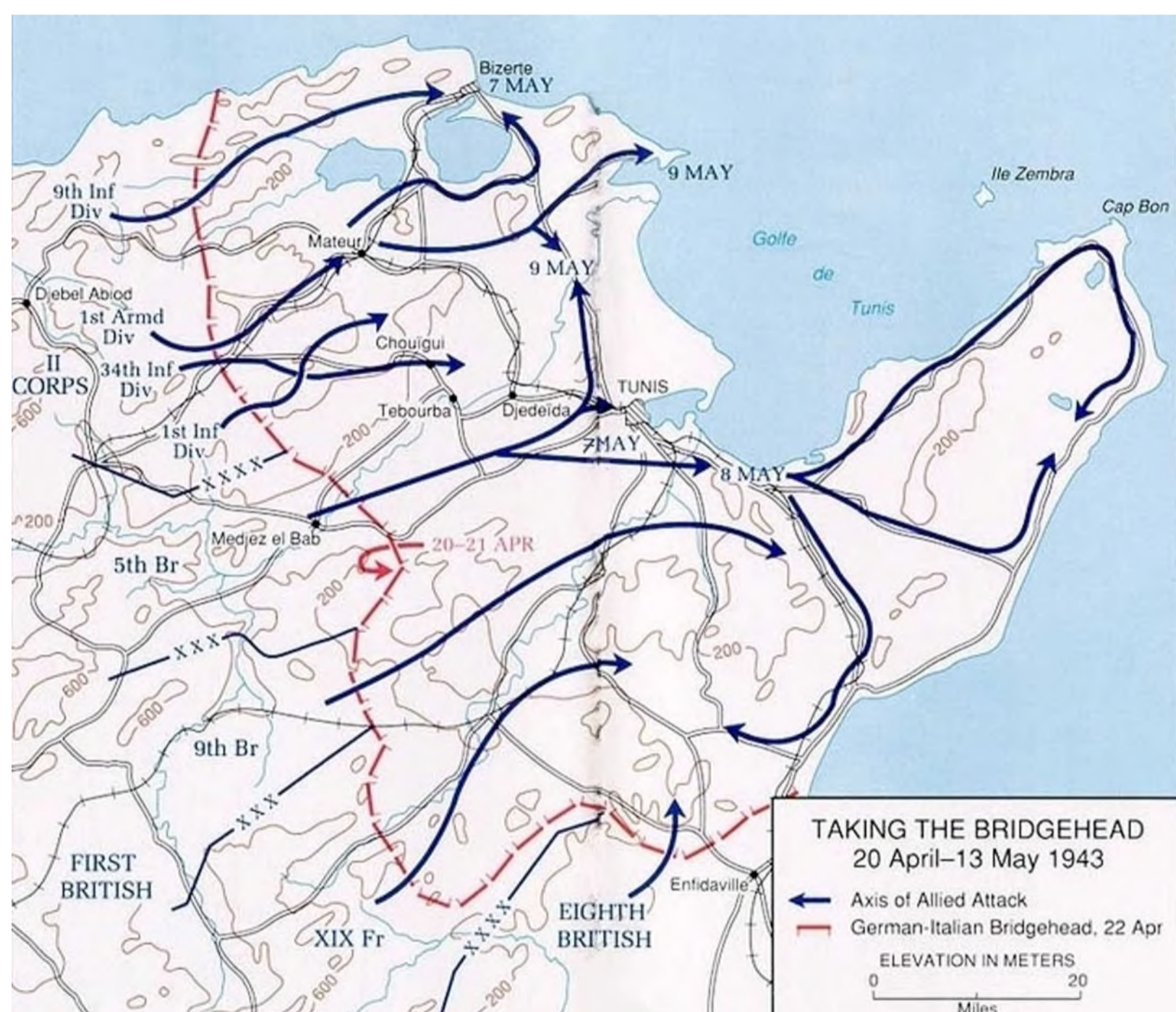
Jim was in 2nd Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, no doubt joining at Bodmin Barracks. 2 DCLI was part of the 10th Infantry Brigade within 4th Infantry Division. At the start of war, 4th Infantry Division was sent to France, arriving on October 1st 1939 and evacuating from the beaches of Dunkirk on May 31st 1940. For the next 3 years it was in the UK. In March 1943 it was transferred to Tunisia in North Africa, arriving on March 25th as part of 1st Army Group, then became part of V (5th) Corps from April 2nd 1943.

4th Infantry Division first entered the fighting on April 7th. They pushed the enemy hard to the north of Hunt's Gap and by April 14th, after much hard fighting and against many counter attacks, had reached the hills around Sidi Nsir, east of Bedja (*now Beja*). The next few weeks saw grim hand to hand attacks and counter attacks against the Hermann Goering, 334 and 15 Panzer Divisions. By April 30th most of the enemy's defensive positions facing Mendjez had been captured, and were now 30 miles west of Tunis.

The main push towards Tunis began at 0330 on May 6th. 4th Infantry Division concentrated their forces on a narrow front and supported by heavy artillery broke a hole in Axis defences enabling 6th and 7th Armoured Division to pass through and storm ahead to Tunis.



Jim Lobb, c1940



Attack on Tunis May 1943. 4th Infantry Division was at Medjez-El-Bab as part of 5th (V) Brigade



British Churchill Tank in the Medjez-El-Bab area April 1943

On the afternoon of May 7th allied forces entered Tunis. Snipers were everywhere in and around the city. It was in this final part of the Tunisian Campaign that Jim Lobb was killed. Ted Rowe's uncle was with Jim when he was killed. He had just raised his head to look out, when a sniper killed him instantly.



Private Jim Lobb is commemorated on the Medjez-El-Bab Memorial

In Memory of
Private
Jim Lobb

5445354, 2nd Bn., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry who died on 07 May 1943 Age 22

Son of William John Lobb, and of Lizzie D. Lobb, of Port Isaac, Cornwall.

Remembered with Honour
Medjez-El-Bab Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Medjez-El-Bab Memorial in Tunisia

Sources
10th Infantry Brigade: <http://www.ordersofbattle.com/Units/UnitTheatres?UniX=3531>
Tunisian Campaign: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia_Campaign
and <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/37779/supplement/5459>
Final Stages: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia_Campaign#Endgame
We are grateful to Gina and Ted Rowe for information on Jim Lobb