



## **John Linfield**

**Trooper 1454 Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line 16<sup>th</sup> Queens Lancers,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Division**

**Died 21<sup>st</sup> October 1914 aged 22**

John, the 13<sup>th</sup> child of James Linfield and Sarah Charman, was baptised in Shipley Church on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1892. James and Sarah's children were Sarah (1864), Mary (1866), James (1867), Elizabeth (1870), Harry (1873), Florence (1876), Alfred (1878), Joseph (1879), Nellie (1882), Lucy (1884), Lily (1889) and **John** (1892). According to the 1911 Census one child had died prior to 1911. At the time of John's birth his parents were living at The Bar, Bouncers Lodge, West Grinstead and his father was employed as a labourer. The 1901 Census shows the family were at the same address and John was 9 years old. His older brother Joseph and sister Lily were living at home.

John enlisted at Horsham in November 1908 when he was 16 years old and would have been an experienced professional soldier at the outbreak of hostilities. Prior to enlistment he had worked as an agricultural labourer. His name was on the Roll of Honour published in the Shipley Parish Magazine in November 1914 and when his death was announced the Reverend Baker said prayers for him and his family. John was the first Shipley man to lose his life, and the Vicar recorded that he had "died gloriously".

The 16<sup>th</sup> Lancers embarked for France on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1914 as part of the British Expeditionary Force. John saw action during the early stages of the First Battle of Ypres, where Allied forces were attacking German lines around the Ypres Salient. The BEF was vulnerable to artillery fire and John was killed in action in manoeuvres which Allied Command had hoped would recapture Lille and Brussels as well as industrial cities of Belgium. His service in France qualified him to receive the 1914 Star, which together with the British War Medal and Victory Medal became known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

John was single and had named his father James as his next of kin and it was he who received his effects and war gratuity. On the Register of Soldiers' Effects John was listed as a Lance Corporal although this is the only document to do so.

John has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, and in Shipley Church.

John was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

Cap badge copyright National Army Museum <https://collection.nam.ac.uk/detail.php?acc=1964-04-83-23>



1914 Star



British War Medal



Victory medal

In Memory Of

Private

# JOHN LINFIELD

Service Number: 1454

16th (The Queen's) Lancers who died on 21 October 1914 Aged 22

Remembered with Honour

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL

Panel 5.



**COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY BY THE COMMONWEALTH WAR  
GRAVES COMMISSION**