

## **JOHN HENRY WINFIELD**

6502 Private John Henry Winfield, 2nd Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry    KIA: 13/11/1916

John Henry Winfield was born in Swyncombe, near Ewelme in 1881, the third child of Samuel and Jane Winfield. Samuel was an agricultural carter on a farm in Swyncombe, although he himself had been born in Hayes, Middlesex whilst Jane was a local lass born in Upperton. Mother Jane died when John was around 20 and his father remarried, as was the custom in those days, and there were another 5 children from the second marriage.

In 1910 John Henry married Anna Maria Rowland, a widow with two children and they lived with Anna's elderly parents in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. John worked as a carter for a coal merchant. In 1916, Anna was living in Slade End, Wallingford.

After the outbreak of war, John Henry Winfield joined the 2nd Battalion Ox & Bucks L.I. and went to France on 4th January 1915. The battalion took part in the Battle of Aubers Ridge and the Battle of Loos, although we cannot be sure that John Winfield was with them. The 2nd Bn Ox & Bucks then fought on the Somme, like most of the British Army, including the bloody attack on Delville Wood and the final large battle often known as the Battle of the Ancre.

The fighting was fierce as the Ox & Bucks attacked Redan Ridge at Beaumont Hamel, where on the evening of 13th November the surviving men of the battalion were ordered to attack a German strongpoint. The attack failed and only a handful of survivors made it back to the start line. John Winfield was not among them.

The Somme offensive was called off five days later.

He is buried in Waggon Road Cemetery, Row E Grave 32, Beaumont-Hamel, The Somme (see Battle Map for details of the final assault).