

# Private Thomas SPENCER



William and Susan Spencer received a letter in May 1917 at their home in Timberland from Private Thomas Spencer's



Commanding Officer of his Platoon in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment. The Lieutenant expressed sorrow at Thomas's loss and said he had been a good soldier and generous comrade and would be missed very much. He had been killed in action by machine

gun fire near Arras on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917 when his Battalion took part in an attack against strongly held German positions.

## Lincolnshire Chronicle 12<sup>th</sup> August 1916

Pte George Spencer, son of Mr & Mrs Spencer of this village, sends us the following verses from "somewhere" in France:

### A THOUGHT OF HOME.

*I stand at dawn in the trenches  
And the shells are falling fast  
And each moment I am thinking  
That it will be my last*

*I think of my dear old mother  
And also my dear old dad  
They shed bitter tears when I left them  
Far away to roam*

*'Twas a clear, bright morning in July  
When I left old England's shore  
And my heart was beating lonely  
As I thought of the canon's roar.*

*I am one of the 5<sup>th</sup> Lincolns  
From Timberland village I come  
I have fought and bled in Flanders  
A place now known to fame*

*And though I am only a soldier  
I gave up my duties at home  
To fight for my King and Country  
And dear old folk at home.*

Thomas was born at Timberland in 1897 and after leaving school worked as a farm labourer for Mr John H Copping of Thorpe Tilney Hall. He enlisted into the colours at Sleaford in July 1916 and after training in County Durham went out to France in September 1916. His brother George enlisted into the army in July 1915 and also served on the Western Front.

Sadly, Thomas Spencer has no known grave and his name was listed on the Arras Memorial in France. A well-attended memorial service was held in St Andrew's church, Timberland in his honour on Sunday afternoon 7 June 1917 when the Vicar, Revd Canon Foster, spoke in glowing terms of Thomas, whom he had known from boyhood.

