

Private George Henry DOWSE



St Andrew's church at Timberland was full on Sunday 3 December 1916 for a memorial service conducted by the Vicar, Revd Canon Foster, in honour of George Henry Dowse, who had died of wounds in France on 16 November 1916, aged 23 years. George was one of the first to volunteer from the village when he enlisted into the 7th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment at Billingham in September 1914. After nine months training in England he was sent out to France in June 1915 and became a sniper. He was wounded in July 1916 during the British Somme offensive, but after a few weeks treatment in a hospital at Boulogne, returned to his unit. On 12 November 1916 George was again wounded, this time more seriously, and he died four days later and buried in Grove Town Cemetery at Meaulte near Albert. The son of Henry and Mary Dowse, George was born at Timberland in 1894 and became a wagoner on the local farms. His younger brother William also joined the army and was wounded on the Somme in September 1916 when part of his right hand was blown off.

