

## David Grant

By Alan McKenzie

David Grant was born at Waihi Bush near Geraldine on the 2 Nov 1873.

He married 28 year old Ann Watt Liddell in 1903 and they lived in Duntroon in North Otago where he was recorded as being a carpenter. He was also a volunteer in local military activities.

The family moved to Timaru in 1907 and lived in Le Cren Street. David and a Mr Seaton commenced a partnership in the butchery business setting up a shop in Stafford Street. On the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1914 David said goodbye to his family and went to war. His first and only front line action was in Gallipoli. On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 Major Grant and others were attempting to ambush a Turkish machine gun post when a sniper fatally wounded him. Some days later his body was recovered and eventually he was buried at the Walkers Ridge Cemetery. Like many other soldiers his time at the front was short - measured in days. Anne Grant never recovered from the news that her husband would not be returning home. Her children later recorded that their mother changed and their home lost the warmth it once had. She never remarried and died in 1952 a lonely widow for 37 years.

The sadness of war continued to haunt the family when in 1965 granddaughter Rosalind Webb travelled to Europe and visited Gallipoli to see her grandfather's grave. She never reached Walkers Ridge – she was killed in an accident when a lorry hit the car she was travelling in. She was three kilometres from the cemetery and now rests in the Canna kale cemetery in Turkey 50 kilometres from her grandfather.



*David Grant*