

## **Archibald Morgan**

By Alan McKenzie

Archibald was born in 1895 the son of William and Margaret Morgan. The family are recorded living at Temuka on Woodlands farm. Archie worked as a labourer on the family farm.

In July 1915 he is recorded along with a number of other young men as passing the medical ready for enlisting for service. Archie embarked for overseas service in February 1916. He was killed in action in Belgium on 7 June 1917 aged 20 years. He is buried in the Messines British Cemetery at Mesen in Belgium. When his mother was sent his Army paybook a message had been written it by the Captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Tunnelling Corps. "Sergeant Morgan displayed excellent conduct during the evening raid".

By the time of his death his parents had moved to Timaru and are listed in Archie's war records at varying addresses in the Waimataitai area including 21 White Street.

The Morgans were one of those families who were doubly hurt by the tragedy of war. Their son William Stanley was also killed in action at Havrincourt Wood in France in September 1918.

Besides family, others too were deeply affected by the deaths of young men who they had known in happier times. The Timaru Herald recorded a memoriam notice for Archie on the 11 June 1918. It had been inserted by "a friend". The verse also appears at times in other memoriams.

A brave one is sleeping,  
In a grave I may never see,  
But some gentle hand in that distant land,  
May lay down a flower for me.



*Archibald Morgan*