

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



6254 PRIVATE

C. A. BUTLER

12TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

26TH JULY, 1917 Age 23

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte C. A. Butler is located in Grave Plot # 252
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

Claude Arthur BUTLER

Claude Arthur Butler was born in Kentishbury near Sheffield in Tasmania on 21st August, 1894 to parents Josiah and Eliza Butler. Claude Arthur Butler attended Nook State School. He was a 21 year old, single, Farmer from Nook, Tasmania when he enlisted at Claremont on 13th June, 1916 with the 12th Infantry Battalion, 20th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6254 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J Butler of Nook, Tasmania. Claude Butler was serving with Australian Light Horse (Tasmania) at the time he enlisted – 3 years.

Pte Claude Arthur Butler embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Botanist (A59)* on 24th August, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 19th October, 1916.

Pte Claude Butler was admitted to 3rd Australian Hospital at Dartford with Synovitis of left knee on 28th November, 1916. The Medical Case Sheet states *“Twisted knee while on board ship 11 weeks ago. Was in bed 7 weeks after injury. Some distention of bursar around left knee joint”*.

Pte Claude Arthur Butler was marched in to Dartford on 1st December, 1916 & then marched in to No. 2 Command Depot Weymouth on 4th December, 1916. He was marched out to No. 1 Command Depot Perham Downs on 16th December, 1916.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. These were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

On 4th January, 1917 Pte Butler was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion, Larkhill, Wiltshire from Command Depot.

On 5th January, 1917 Pte Butler was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire with synovitis.

On 26th January, 1917 Pte Claude Arthur Butler was marched in to 3rd Training Battalion at Durrington - Camp No. 3, Wiltshire after being discharged from Fargo Military Hospital.

Pte Butler was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital with Influenza on 3rd June, 1917. He was reported seriously ill with Tubercular Peritonitis on 17th June, 1917.

A message was sent to Mr J. Butler of Nook, Tasmania on 26th June, 1917 advising *“Private Claude Butler admitted Hospital seventeenth June Tubercular Peritonitis Severe. Will advise anything further received.”* On 7th July, 1917 another message was sent stating *“Private Claude Butler progressing favourably”*.

Pte Claude Arthur Butler died at 7.30 p.m. on 26th July, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire of Tubercular Peritonitis.

A death for Claude A. Butler, aged 22, was registered in the September quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Pte Claude Arthur Butler was buried on 30th July, 1917 in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – plot number 252 with Military Honours and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private C.A. Butler is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 65.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

A War Pension was granted to Eliza Butler, mother of late Pte Claude Arthur Butler, in the sum of 40/- per fortnight commencing 1/10/17.

On 13th November, 1917 the last Will and Testament of Claude Arthur Butler was exhibited and proved & committed to Eliza Butler – mother of deceased, in the Supreme Court of Tasmania.

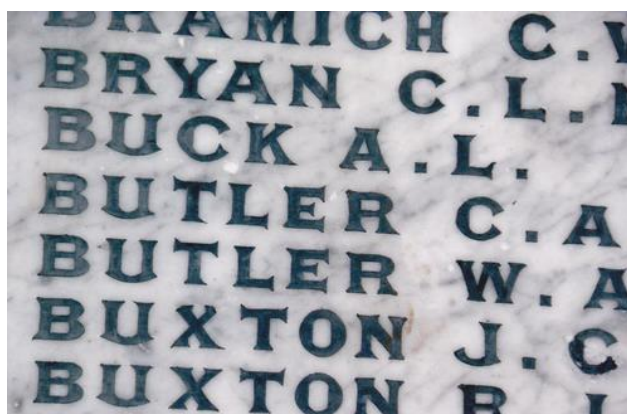
Pte Claude Arthur Butler was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Butler's father – Mr J. Butler, Flora Street, West Ulverstone, Tasmania (September, 1921 & September, 1922)

C. A. Butler is remembered on the Sheffield War Memorial - South face, located on Main Road and Henry Street, Sheffield, Tasmania.



Sheffield War Memorial

(Photos courtesy of David Innes)



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Claude Arthur Butler – service number 6254 as being 23 years old & served with 12th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Josiah and Eliza Butler. Born in Tasmania.

(64 pages of Pte Claude Arthur Butler's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website). *Information obtained from the Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*

NEWSPAPER REPORTS

ROLL OF HONOUR – 320TH CASUALTY LIST

ILL

Butler, Claude Arthur, The Nook (severely).

(*The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania Tuesday 10 July 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR -CASUALTY LIST NO. 331

DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte C. A. BUTLER, Nook 26/7/17 (previously reported seriously ill).

(*The Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania Tuesday 21 August 1917)

IN MEMORIAM

On Active Service

BUTLER – In sad and loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Claude Arthur Butler, who died in Fargo Military Hospital, England, on July 26, 1917, in his 23rd year.

No loved ones stood around him,
 To bid a fond farewell;
No word of comfort could we give
 To him we loved so well.

He leaves behind some aching hearts,
 That loved him ever dear;
Hearts that never shall forget
 His memory written here.

Inserted by his loving father and mother J. and E. Butler, sister and brother, E. and L. Butler, of Nook, and Eli, on active service.

(*The Examiner*, Launceston, Tasmania Friday 26 July, 1918)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte C. A. Butler does not have a personal inscription on his headstone. No reply had been received from Defence Department from their original request & another request was dated 5th July, 1921 to Mr J. Butler of Nook, Tasmania.

Photo of Pte C. A. Butler's Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)