

**Hartshill Cemetery,  
Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**4460 PRIVATE**

**J. L. BUTCHER**

**9TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**20TH AUGUST, 1916    Age 29**

*The Angels Know  
Your Grave To-Day  
& Wear For You  
The Victory Crown*

## John Lewis (Jack) BUTCHER

John Lewis Butcher was born at Lawrence, NSW on 6th April, 1887 to John and Anna Bella Butcher (nee McFarlane).

John Lewis Butcher was a 28 year old, single, Herd Tester from Burringbar, Tweed River, NSW when he enlisted in Brisbane, Queensland on 9th September, 1915 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 4460 & his religion was Methodist. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Butcher, of Burringbar, Tweed River, NSW.

Private John Lewis Butcher was posted to 14th Reinforcements of 9th Battalion on 9th September, 1915 for recruit training.

Private John Lewis Butcher embarked from Brisbane, Queensland on HMAT *Wandilla* (A62) on 31st January, 1916 with the 9th Infantry Battalion, 14th Reinforcements & disembarked at Alexandria on 5th March, 1916.

Private John Lewis Butcher embarked at Alexandria on H. T. *Caledonia* from 3rd Training Battalion to join B.E.F. (no dated recorded). He disembarked at Marseilles, France (no date recorded).

Private John Lewis Butcher reported to 1st A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 29th May, 1919 from Egypt. He was marched out from 1st A.D.B.D. on 25th June, 1916 to join Entrenching Battalion. Private Butcher was marched out from Entrenching Battalion on 10th July, 1916 to join 9th Battalion & joined the 9th Battalion in the Field on 12th July, 1916 from Reinforcements.

Private John Lewis Butcher was wounded in action in France on 23rd July, 1916. He was admitted to 57th Field Ambulance on 25th July, 1916 with a bullet wound to left arm. Private Butcher was transferred to Casualty Clearing Station the same day then transferred & admitted to 3rd Stationary Hospital at Rouen, France on 28th July, 1916 with G.S.W. (gunshot wounds) to arm & chest. Private Butcher was invalided to England on Hospital Ship Western Australia on 28th July, 1916 with G.S.W left arm – amputated.

### 9th Battalion

The 9th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. It was the first battalion recruited in Queensland, and with the 10th, 11th and 12th Battalions it formed the 3rd Brigade....

In March 1916 the battalion sailed for France and the Western Front. From then until 1918 the battalion took part in operations against the German Army. The battalion's first major action in France was at Pozieres in the Somme valley. The 9th Battalion attacked on the extreme right of the line and it was during this action that Private John Leak won, with the bayonet, the battalion's only Victoria Cross. Later the battalion fought at Ypres, in Flanders, before returning to the Somme for winter. ....

*(Extract of Battalion information from the Australian War Memorial)*

Private John Lewis Butcher was admitted to Stoke-Upon-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England on 29th July, 1916.

Private John Lewis Butcher died on 20th August, 1916 at Stoke-on-Trent War Hospital, Newcastle, Staffordshire, England from wounds received in action in France – G.S.W. Arm (amputated) and chest hyperpyrexia.

Private John Lewis Butcher was buried on 23rd August, 1916 in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England Grave site 3rd Class, Grave No. 4920.

Mr J. Butcher, "Burringba, Tweed River, NSW", was advised by Base Records on 19th April, 1920 that the remains of his son had "been extracted from former site Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, and re-interred in Grave No.15401, Section Blk. 39 of the same Cemetery. This work is carried out with every measure of care and reverence in the presence of a Chaplain."

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Private John Lewis Butcher has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Mr J. Butcher, "Burringba, NSW", father of Private John Lewis Butcher, was advised by Base Records on 24th August, 1916 that his son was dangerously ill with a gunshot wound to arm amputated.

A War Pension was granted to Ann Bella Butcher, mother of the late Private John Lewis Butcher, in the sum of £1:12:6d per fortnight from 31st October, 1916.

Private John Lewis Butcher was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Butcher's father - Mr J. Butcher, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent November, 1921 & Plaque sent January, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private John Lewis Butcher – service number 4460, aged 29, of 9th Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Anna Bella Butcher, of Burringbar, New South Wales, Australia.

J. Butcher is remembered on the Burringbar War Memorial, located in Burringbar Park, Upper Burringbar Road, Burringbar, NSW.



**Burringbar War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – John Huth)



Private J. L. Butcher is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 55.



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

(33 pages of Private John Lewis Butcher's Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website).

*Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll) & National Archives*



## **Newspaper Notices**

### **DISTRICT NEWS**

#### **BURRINGBAR**

The Roll of Honor is being added to by representatives from the Burringbar district. News has been received that Private Jack Butcher has died of wounds. The first cable stated he had had his left arm shattered and the arm amputated and was suffering from other serious gun shot wounds. Private Butcher was well-known in Burringbar, and was one time herd tester at Burringbar and Mullumbimby. His parents reside at Burringbar and are well-known and highly esteemed and the deepest sympathy is felt for them in their sad loss.

*(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 6 September, 1916)*

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### **ROLL OF HONOR**

BUTCHER – Died in France August 20, 1916, of wounds, Private John Louis Butcher, beloved Brother of Florence and James Anderson.

Sadly a sister's thinking,

Of her soldier brother, brave,

Who fell for the cause of freedom,

And lies in a hero's grave.

Inserted by his loving Sister and Brother-in-law, Mrs and Mr Jas. Anderson, Lawrence.

*(Daily Examiner, Grafton, NSW – 9 September, 1916)*

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### **AUSTRALIANS IN ACTION**

#### **210th Casualty List**

Queensland

Died of Wounds – Private J. L. Butcher

*(Barrier Miner, Broken Hill, NSW – 12 September, 1916)*

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### **THANKS**

Mr and Mrs J. BUTCHER and Family wish to THANK all those kind friends and relatives for their letters, telegrams, and cards of sympathy in their recent sad loss of their son and brother, John Lewis, who died in military hospital, France, of gunshot wounds, on 20th August, 1916.

*(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 19 September, 1916) & (Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 21 September, 1916) &*

*(Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 20 September, 1916) & (Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 21 September, 1916) & (Northern Star, Lismore, NSW – 22 September, 1916)*

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## BURRINGBAR'S PATRIOTIC ROLL OF HONOUR



LATE PTE. J. BUTCHER.

Late Pte J. Butcher

(*Sydney Mail*, NSW – 27 September, 1916)

## ROLL OF HONOR

BUTCHER – In loving memory of our dear brother Jack, who died of wounds received in action in France, 20th August, 1916.

Far away from all who loved him,  
In a soldier's grave he lies;  
Tho' his body resteth,  
His memory never dies.

Inserted by his loving sisters, Mrs W. E. G. Green (Woodford Leigh) and Mrs J. Anderson (Lawrence).

(*Daily Examiner*, Grafton, NSW – 20 August, 1917)

## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BUTCHER – In sad but loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private John Lewis, who died of wounds in England, on the 20th August, 1916.

No loved ones stood around him to catch his last faint sighs,  
Or whisper just one loving word before he closed his eyes.

Not gone from memory, not gone from love,  
But gone to the Father's home above.

Ere yet his weary soul was free,

What sad thoughts filled that dying mind;

He dreamed of those across the sea,

The broken hearts he left behind.

Inserted by his sorrowing Mother, Father, Sisters and Brothers.

*(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 20 August, 1917)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BUTCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Jack, who died of wounds, in England, on 20th August, 1916.

Oh, how we pictured the dear boy returning,

And longed to clasp his hand;

But death has postponed our meeting,

Till we meet in a better land.

Inserted by his loving mother, father, sisters and brothers, of Burringbar.

*(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 20 August, 1918)*

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## **ROLL OF HONOR**

BUTCHER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother (Jack), who died of wounds in England, 20th August, 1916.

He did not shun his country's call,

But gladly gave his life, his all;

He died the helpless to defend,

An Australia soldier's noble end.

May the heavenly winds blow softly,

O'er that sweet and hallowed spot;

Though the sea divides his grave from us,

He will never be forgot.

Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

*(Tweed Daily, Murwillumbah, NSW – 20 August, 1919)*

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## ROLL OF HONOR

BUTCHER – In loving memory of our dearly beloved son and brother, Private J. L. Butcher, who died of wounds in England, August 20th, 1916.

Just as his life was brightest,  
Just as his hopes were best;  
He was called from this world of sorrow,  
To a home of eternal rest.

Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brothers, Burringbar.

(*Tweed Daily*, Murwillumbah, NSW – 20 August, 1920)

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### 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. 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*)

A letter from Base Records, dated 5th July, 1921, to Mr J. Butcher, "Burringba, Tweed River, NSW" advised that a letter from the Defence Dept. concerning an inscription on the headstone of his son, the late Private J. L. Butcher, had not been answered & non-receipt of a reply within 21 days would have to be accepted as indicating that no further action was to be taken. A reply was sent to Base Records by Mr J. Butcher on 13th July, 1921.

Private J. L. Butcher does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*The Angels Know Your Grave To-day & Wear For You The Victory Crown*



## Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England

Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent contains 151 Commonwealth War Graves Commission War Graves – 91 from World War 1 & 60 from World War 2. There are 8 Australian WW1 Graves in this Cemetery.



### 8 Australian War Graves in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent

*(Photo above by ken perkins 2017 – Find a Grave; below by Callan Chevin)*





Photo of Private J. L. Butcher's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, England.



*(Photo by Alf -28<sup>th</sup>61st)*