

**London Road Cemetery,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

**War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**3521 PRIVATE**

**T. BUTLER**

**32ND BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**4TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 32**

*In Memory  
Of The Dearly Loved Son  
Of J. Butler  
Australia*

## Thomas (Tom) BUTLER

Thomas Butler was born at Wallaroo, South Australia around 1886 to parents John & Kate Butler.

Thomas Butler attended the Public School at Wallaroo, South Australia.

Thomas Butler was a 29 year old (Embarkation Roll lists his age as 20), single, Labourer (Waterside Worker) from Cannon Street, Wallaroo, South Australia when he enlisted at Kadina, South Australia on 10th April, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 3521 & his religion was Roman Catholic. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr John Butler of Cannon Street, Wallaroo, South Australia. Thomas Butler stated on his Attestation Papers that he had served 3 years with South Australian Infantry Regiment.

Private Thomas Butler was posted to "B" Company, 2nd Depot Battalion on 27th April, 1916 for recruit training. He was transferred to 8th Reinforcements of 32nd Battalion at Mitcham on 16th May, 1916.

Private Thomas Butler embarked from Adelaide, South Australia on HMAT *Ballarat* (A70) on 12th August, 1916 with the 8th Infantry Brigade, 32nd Infantry Battalion, 8th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England (D Port) on 30th September, 1916.

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

Private Thomas Butler was marched in to 8th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire from Australia on 30th September, 1916

Private Thomas Butler proceeded overseas to France via Folkestone on *Princess Victoria* on 5th December, 1916 from 8th Training Battalion. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Etaples, France on 6th December, 1916.

Private Thomas Butler was admitted to 26th General Hospital at Etaples on 19th December, 1916 with Varicose Veins from 5th A.D.B.D. He was listed for transfer to England on 22nd December, 1916 & embarked from Calais, France on 24th December, 1916 on Hospital Ship *Cambria*.

Private Thomas Butler was admitted to 3rd Australian General Hospital at Brighton, England on 24th December, 1916 with Varicose veins - slight. The Hospital Admissions form recorded "*Several groups of veins excised from both legs.*" He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 14th February, 1917.

Private Thomas Butler was discharged from 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent to furlough on 5th March, 1917 & was then to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Wareham on 20th March, 1917.

Private Thomas Butler was medically assessed on 2nd April, 1917 at No. 4 Command Depot, Wareham – "*left ankle swells on exertion*" – B1A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 or 3 weeks). He was assessed again on 12th April & 17th April, 1917 as B1A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 or 3 weeks). Private Butler was medically classified as B1A4 (Fit for overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit) on 20th April, 1917.

Private Thomas Butler proceeded overseas to France via Southampton on 27th May, 1917 from Infantry Draft Depot at Perham Downs, Wiltshire. He was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) on 28th May, 1917.

Private Thomas Butler was marched out from 5th A.D.B.D. on 19th September, 1917 & admitted to 39th General Hospital at Havre, France - cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined). He was discharged on 17th October, 1917 – V.D. Total period 29 days.

Private Thomas Butler was marched in to 5th A.D.B.D on 17th October, 1917 from 39th General Hospital. He was marched out to his Unit on 24th October, 1917 & was taken on strength of 32nd Battalion in the Field on 25th October, 1917 from Reinforcements.

Private Thomas Butler was sent sick to Hospital on 5th January, 1918. He was admitted to 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 5th January, 1918 with Fibroma of both feet. Private Butler was transferred & admitted to 3rd Canadian General Hospital at Boulogne, France on 5th January, 1918 with new growth on feet. He was transferred &

admitted to 7th Convalescent Depot at Boulogne of 13th January, 1918 with Fibroma feet. Private Butler was transferred to 25th General Hospital at Hardelet, France on 23rd January, 1918. He was discharged to Details on 30th January, 1918.

Private Thomas Butler was marched in to A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot) at Havre on 4th February, 1918 from Hospital.

Private Thomas Butler was sent to Hospital sick on 5th February, 1918 from A.I.B.D. (Australian Infantry Base Depot). He was admitted to 40th Stationary Hospital at Harfleur on 5th February, 1918 – cause N.Y.D. (not yet determined) feet. Private Butler was admitted to 4th Convalescent Depot on 27th February, 1918 with Fibromata of both feet. He was discharged to Base Depot on 24th March, 1918.

Private Thomas Butler was marched in to A.I.B.D. at Havre, France on 24th March, 1918. He was marched out to his Unit on 6th April, 1918 & rejoined 32nd Battalion in the Field on 10th April, 1918.

Private Thomas Butler was wounded accidentally on 28th April, 1918. He was admitted to 14th Australian Field Ambulance on 28th April, 1918 then transferred & admitted to 20th Casualty Clearing Station the same day with rifle bullet wound to right foot. Private Butler was transferred to Ambulance Train 37 on 28-29th April, 1918 & admitted to 24th General Hospital at Etaples, France on 30th April, 1918 with G.S.W. (gunshot wound/s) to right foot (accidental). Private Butler embarked for England on 1st May, 1918 on Hospital Ship *Princess Elizabeth*.

### **32nd Battalion**

The 32nd Battalion was raised as part of the 8th Brigade at Mitcham, on the outskirts of Adelaide, on 9 August 1915. Only two companies were raised from South Australian enlistees - another two were formed in Western Australia and joined the battalion at the end of September. The battalion sailed from Adelaide on 18 November 1915.

The 8th Brigade joined the newly raised 5th Australian Division in Egypt, and proceeded to France, destined for the Western Front, in June 1916. The 32nd Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles on 19 July 1916, having only entered the front-line trenches 3 days previously. The attack was a disastrous introduction to battle for the 32nd - it suffered 718 casualties, almost 75 per cent of the battalion's total strength, but closer to 90 per cent of its actual fighting strength. Although it still spent periods in the front line, the 32nd played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.....

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

Private Thomas Butler was admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England on 2nd May, 1918 with bullet wound to right foot – severe. He was transferred to 3rd Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford, Kent on 26th June, 1918. Private Butler was discharged to furlo from 28th June, 1918 to 12th July, 1918 & then was to report to No. 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire.

Mr John Butler, Wallaroo, South Australia, father of the Private Thomas Butler, was advised by Base Records on 16th May, 1918 that Private T. Butler had been wounded accidentally. Mr John Butler was advised further on 24th May, 1918 that Private T. Butler had been admitted to 1st Southern General Hospital, Edgbaston Section, England on 2nd May, 1918 suffering from gunshot wound to right foot severe. Mr John Butler was advised on 7th June, 1918 that Private T. Butler was progressing favourably.

Private Thomas Butler was marched in to No 4 Command Depot at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 11th July, 1918 from furlo. He was medically classified on 12th July, 1918 as B1A1 (Fit for light duty for 4 weeks) "*Foot stiff, pain after walking*". Private Butler was assessed again on 20th July, 1918 as "*improving*" - B1A3 (Fit for Overseas Training Camp in 2 or 3 weeks). He was assessed on 23rd July, 1918 as B1A3 & again on 27th July, 1918 as B1A4 (Fit for overseas Training Camp when passed dentally fit).

Private Thomas Butler was sent sick then admitted to Military Hospital at Fovant, Wiltshire, on 28th September, 1918 with Gastric Ulcers (perforated) & was seriously ill. The Medical Case sheet recorded "*Pat. [patient] admitted in collapsed state & said that he had been very ill for 2 days with pain in his stomach. On admission:- Temp 96 Pulse about 140 & imperceptible. Colour very bad & vomiting. Chest Pleurisy on both sides in front. Abdomen – rigid & acutely tender all over....*"

Private Thomas Butler died at 1.15 pm on 4th October, 1918 at Military Hospital, Fovant, Wiltshire, England from Ulceration of Stomach – perforated. A telegram was sent from Military Hospital at Fovant to Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. on 4th October, 1918 advising the death of Private Thomas Butler. It was stated his next-of-kin were in Australia & Miss J. Bartholomew of 520 High Road, Tottenham, London had been notified by wire.

A death for Thomas Butler, aged 31, was registered in the December quarter, 1918 in the district of Wilton, Wiltshire, England.

Mr John Butler, Wallaroo, South Australia, father of the Private Thomas Butler, was advised by Base Records on 7th October, 1918 that Private Thomas Butler had been admitted to Fovant Military Hospital on 28th September with Gastric Ulcers perforating & was seriously ill.

Private Thomas Butler was buried on 8th October, 1918 in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England – Plot number R. 32 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Private Thomas Butler - *Coffin was good, polished Elm with brass mounts. Deceased was buried with full Military honours, the body being conveyed to the graveside on a Gun Carriage preceded by a Firing Party and a band of No. 4 Australian Command Depot. Six of deceased's comrades acted as Pallbearers. The funeral was attended by a large number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men from No. 4 Command Depot. Wreaths from Officers, N.C.O.'s and men from No. 4 Command Depot and the Nursing Staff of Fovant Military Hospital were placed on the grave after the "Last Post" was sounded. Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in U.K. were represented at the funeral.*

The Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. Ltd, Sydney wrote to Base Records on 22nd November, 1918 requesting the death certificate & identification particulars for Thomas Butler No. 3521.

Mr John Butler, Wallaroo, South Australia, father of the late Private Thomas Butler, wrote to Base Records on 14th January, 1919 stating that he had not yet received the death certificate of his son which he required for "*certain business affairs that cannot be settled until we get it...*"

Private Thomas Butler was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Private Butler's father - Mr J. Butler, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent May, 1922 & Plaque sent September, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Thomas Butler – service number 3521, aged 32, of 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry. He was the son of John and Kate Butler, of Cannon St., Wallaroo, South Australia.

Private T. Butler is commemorated on the Roll of Honour, located in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 120.



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

T. Butler is remembered on the Soldiers' Memorial located at the Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwin Street, Wallaroo, South Australia.



**Wallaroo Soldiers' Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Roger Johnson)



T. Butler is remembered on the National Soldiers Memorial in Adelaide. The Adelaide National War Memorial commemorates those from South Australia that served in the First World War. The names of those that died are listed inside the Memorial, which is located on the corner of North Terrace & Kintore Avenue, Adelaide.



**National War Memorial – Adelaide** (Photos by Bilby)

(72 pages of Private Thomas Butler'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*



**Private Thomas Butler**

## **Newspaper Notices**

### **AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS**

#### **DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY**

Private THOMAS BUTLER, of the 32nd Battalion, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Butler, of Wallaroo, died in a hospital in England on October 4 from perforating gastric ulcers. Private Butler, who was born in Wallaroo, enlisted in March, 1916, and sailed on August 12 in the same year. He had been twice laid aside with illness, and after returning to France to join his battalion was wounded again in May, 1918. On receipt of the news the flags at the institute, Waterside Workers' Hall, and other places at Wallaroo were flown at half mast.

(*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, South Australia – 16 October, 1918) & (*Chronicle*, Adelaide, South Australia – 26 October, 1918)

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### **GENERAL NEWS**

#### **Death of Pvte Butler -**

News has been received in Wallaroo that Pvte Thomas Butler, (32nd Battalion) died in hospital, England, on 4th October, from gastric ulcers. He was the son of Mr and Mrs John Butler, of Wallaroo, highly respected residents of the town. Pvte Butler was born in Wallaroo, and was one of the executive officers of the Waterside Workers' Union. His loss is severely felt by his parents. He enlisted in March, 1916, and sailed on 12th August of the same year. He was twice laid aside with illness, and after returning to France to join his Battalion was wounded again in May 1918. His parents were since advised he was convalescent. On receipt of the news the flags at the institute, Waterside Workers' hall and other places were flown at half-mast. General regret is felt at the loss of such a brave and sterling young man.

(*The Kadina and Wallaroo Times*, South Australia – 16 October, 1918)

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### **Local and General**

The death of Private Thomas Butler, of Wallaroo, occurred in a hospital in England on October 4, from gastric ulcers. He was the son of Mr and Mrs John Butler, respected residents of Wallaroo.

(*Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser*, South Australia – 18 October, 1918)

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL**

#### **LATE PTE THOMAS BUTLER**

News has been received in Wallaroo that Pte. Thomas Butler, 32nd Battalion, died in a hospital in England on October 4. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Butler, of Wallaroo. Pte. Butler was born in Wallaroo, and was one of the executive officers of the Waterside Workers' Union. He enlisted in March, 1916, and sailed on August 12 in the same year. He was twice laid aside with illness, and after returning to France to join his battalion was wounded again in May, 1918. On receipt of the news the flags at the institute, Waterside Workers' Hall and other places were flown at half-mast.

(*Observer*, Adelaide, South Australia – 19 October, 1918)

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## **OUR HEROES**

### **LATE PRIVATE T. BUTLER**

Great regret was expressed at Wallaroo when it became known that another Wallaroo boy had fallen in action—Private Tom Butler. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Butler (two of Wallaroo's most respected residents). The deceased soldier was born at Wallaroo and resided there practically the whole of his life. He followed the occupation of a waterside worker till his enlistment in March, 1916. He left Australia on August 12, 1916. He was wounded in April, 1918, and returned to France early in September. He was admitted to hospital on September 28 suffering severely from gas, and died on October 4. The deceased was an active member of the Waterside Workers' Association, and for 12 months held the position of president. He took a great interest in rowing and was a member of the Wallaroo club. His genial kindly nature made him a favorite with all, and the family has the heartfelt sympathy of all.

*(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 25 October, 1918)*

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## **GENERAL NEWS**

The King's Appreciation.—Mr and Mrs John Butler, of Cameron Street, Wallaroo, recently received the following letter from Military Headquarters:—I am directed to convey to you the deep regret and sympathy of Their Majesties the King and Queen, the Commonwealth Government, and the District Commandant, in the sad loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son, the late Pvte T. Butler, 32nd Battalion, Australian Imperial Force, who died from ulceration of the stomach (perforated) at the Fovant Military Hospital on 5th October, 1918.—Yours faithfully, S. F. Rowell. Lieut.

*(The Kadina and Wallaroo Times, South Australia – 16 October, 1918)*

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## **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

BUTLER – On the 5th October, of gas effects, Fovant Military Hospital, England, Thomas, dearly beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Butler, Wallaroo, aged 32 years. R.I.P.

*(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 November, 1918)*

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## **DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Tom Butler, No. 3521, 32nd Battalion, A.I.F., who left South Australia August 12, 1916, and died from gas effects October 5, 1918, England, aged 32 years. R.I.P.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 2 November, 1918)*

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## **FINAL CASUALTY LIST**

**No. 450**

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

#### **Died Other Causes**

3521 Pte T. BUTLER, Wallaroo, 4/10/18, illness, p.r. died of illness

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 14 December, 1918)*

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#### **IN MEMORIAM**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother Tom (late 32nd Batt.), who died at Military Hospital. Foriant, England, on the 5th October, 1918. – Inserted by his parents, brother, and sisters.

*(Daily Herald, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 October, 1919)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Tom, late 32nd Battalion, who died at Military Hospital. Fovant, England, October, 5, 1918. – Inserted by his parents, brother, and sisters.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 11 October, 1919)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our loving son and brother, Private T. Butler, who died in Forant Military Hospital, England, on October 4th, 1918. – Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother. R.I.P.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1920) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 October, 1920)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private T. Butler, 32nd Battalion, who died at Military Hospital, Forant, England on October 4, 1918. R.I.P. – Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 8 October, 1921)*

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#### **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Tom Butler, who died at Fovant Military Hospital, England on the 4th October, 1916. – Inserted by his loving parents, brother, sisters.

*(The Express and Telegraph, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1922) & (The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1922)*

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Tom Butler, who died at Fovant Military Hospital, England on the 4th October, 1916. –Inserted by his loving parents, brother, sisters.

*(Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 7 October, 1922)*

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, No. 3251, Private T. Butler, 32nd Battalion, who died October 4, 1918, at Fovant Military Hospital, England. –Inserted by his loving parents, sisters and brother, Wallaroo.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1923) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 October, 1923)*

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## **THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**

BUTLER – Pte T. Butler, of 32nd Battalion, who died on 4th October, 1918.

*(Saturday Journal, Adelaide, South Australia – 9 October, 1926)*

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## **THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE**

BUTLER – Pte T. Butler, of 32nd Battalion, who died on 4th October, 1918.

*(The Register, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1928)*

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## **HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Private Tom Butler, 32nd Battalion, who died at Fovant Military Hospital, England, on the 4th October, 1918. –Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brother.

*(The Advertiser, Adelaide, South Australia – 4 October, 1928) & (Chronicle, Adelaide, South Australia – 6 October, 1928)*

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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)*

Private T. Butler does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*In Memory Of The Dearly Loved Son Of J. Butler Australia*

### **London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England**

London Road Cemetery, Salisbury contains 52 World War 1 burials & 52 World War 2 burials. There are 9 Australian WW1 War Graves & 1 WW2 Australian War Grave in this Cemetery.



*(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)*



(Photo by julia&keld – Find a Grave)



(Photo from CWGC)

Photo of Private T. Butler's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in London Road Cemetery, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England.



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)*



*(Photo from CWGC)*



*(Photo courtesy of Helen Roberts 2020)*