

**Western Necropolis Cemetery,  
Glasgow, Scotland  
War Graves**



*Lest We Forget*

**World War 1**



**2783 LANCE CPL.**

**T. C. W. BUTLER**

**37TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.**

**16TH OCTOBER, 1918 Age 27**

*Loved Son*

*Of Mary A. Williams*

*Of Rutherglen, Victoria*

*Duty Nobly Done*

## Thomas Carter Winchester BUTLER

Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was born at Bright, Victoria in 1891 to mother Minnie Butler (father listed as unknown).

Mary Ann Butler, mother of Thomas Carter Winchester Butler, married Henry Elisha Williams in 1898 in Victoria.

Thomas William Butler (alias of Thomas Carter Winchester Butler) stated he was a 25 year old, single, Miner from 389 High Street, Northcote, Victoria when he enlisted at Broadmeadows, Victoria on 13th November, 1916 with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). His service number was 2783 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his mother – Mrs Minnie Williams, Wahgunyah Road, Rutherglen, Victoria.

Private Thomas William Butler was posted to 1/4th Battalion at Broadmeadows from 10th October to 13th November, 1916 for recruit training. (Dates as per Statement of Service Sheet). He was to report to Sturt St. on 20th November, 1916 & was posted to Reserve Company of 37th Battalion on 20th November, 1916 then transferred to "M" Company on 22nd November, 1916. Pte Butler was transferred back to Reserve Company of 37th Battalion on 28th November, 1916 then transferred to 6th Reinforcements of 37th Battalion on 30th November, 1916.

Private Thomas William Butler embarked from Melbourne, Victoria on HMAT *Medic (A7)* on 16th December, 1916 with the 10th Infantry Brigade, 37th Infantry Battalion, 6th Reinforcements & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 18th February, 1917.

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 William Butler was marched in to Camp Details, Sutton Mandeville, Wiltshire from 14th Training Battalion at Hurdcott, Wiltshire on 3rd March, 1917.

Private Thomas William Butler was admitted to Hospital with mumps on 27th March, 1917 & discharged to duty on 15th April, 1917.

Private Thomas William Butler was transferred to 66th Battalion on 28th April, 1917. He was taken on strength of 66th Battalion at Windmill Hill on 28th April, 1917.

Private Thomas William Butler was marched in from War Sg. on 1st May, 1917 from No. 1 Command Depot, Perham Downs, Wiltshire.

Private Thomas William Butler proceeded overseas to France via Southampton with 66th Battalion on 25th August, 1917 to reinforced 3rd Australian Division.

Private Thomas William Butler was marched in to 3rd A.D.B.D. (Australian Divisional Base Depot) at Rouelles, France on 26th August, 1917. He was marched out to his Unit on 31st August, 1917.

Private Thomas William Butler was transferred back to 37th Battalion on 1st September, 1917.

Mrs M. Williams advised the Defence Department (received by Base Records, Melbourne) in July, 1917 that when her son had enlisted he had made a mistake when giving his name. She stated that her son had omitted the letter "C" from his name & tried to have the mistake fixed before he left Australia in December, 1916. Base Records replied that Mrs Williams would need to complete a Statutory Declaration with the details. A Statutory Declaration was signed by Minnie Williams on 12th July, 1917 stating that the full name of her son was Private Thomas Carter Winchester Butler, No. 2783, 37th Battalion not Thomas C. William Butler.

A Statutory Declaration was signed on 9th October, 1917 near Ypres by Private Thomas Carter Winchester Butler, 2783, 37th Battalion, A.I.F. stating that he *"enlisted on 13th November, 1916 under the name of Thomas William Butler which name I now declare to be incorrect. The name of Thomas Carter Winchester Butler I now declare to be my true name.....I do further declare that my next of kin is (Mother) Minnie Williams, Wahgunyah Road, Rutherglen, Victoria."*

Thomas Carter Winchester Butler, by sworn declaration, assumed his correct name from 9th October, 1917.

Base Records advised Assistant Adjutant General, 3rd Military District on 4th January, 1918 that Private T. W. Butler had furnished a Statutory Declaration stating he had enlisted under an incorrect name & that his correct names was Thomas Carter Winchester Butler. Base Records advised that the necessary alterations had been made to all records.

Private Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was reported to be with his Unit on 9th June, 1918.

Private Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was appointed Lance Corporal on 10th August, 1918.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was wounded in action (Gassed) on 25th August, 1918. He was admitted to 11th Field Ambulance on 25th August, 1918 then transferred to 53rd Casualty Clearing Station on 26th August, 1918. Lance Corporal Butler was admitted to 5th General Hospital on 26th August, 1918. He was invalided to England on Hospital Ship *Queen Alexandria* on 5th September, 1918.

### **37th Battalion**

The 37th fought in its first major battle at Messines, in Belgium, between 7-9 June 1917. For his actions during this battle, Captain Robert Grieve was awarded the Victoria Cross. The battalion fought in another two major attacks in this sector - the battle of Broodseinde on 4 October, and the battle of Passchendaele on 12 October. Belgium remained the focus of the 37th Battalion's activities for the next five months, until it was rushed south to France in late March 1918 to meet the German Army's Spring Offensive.

The Allies launched their own offensive on 8 August 1918, but the 37th Battalion was in reserve on this day and was not ordered into action. It was involved, however, in an ill-conceived attack that failed to capture the village of Proyart on 10 August. The battalion nevertheless continued to play an active role throughout August and early September in the 3rd Division's advance along the Somme Valley.

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

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was admitted to the Lord Derby War Hospital, Warrington, England on 6th September, 1918 with gas shell poisoning (mustard). He was discharged on 1st October, 1918.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was on furlough from 2nd October, 1918 till 16th October, 1918 & was then to report to Littlemore Camp.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was admitted to 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland with Pneumonia (seriously ill) on 10th October, 1918 while on leave.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler died at 12.50 on 16th October, 1918 at 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow, Scotland from Broncho-Pneumonia.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was buried on 22nd October, 1918 in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland – Plot number N.7. and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler - *Coffin was white pine, cloth covered. The deceased soldier was accorded a full Military funeral, Firing Party, Bugler and Pallbearers being in attendance. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack and surmounted by a beautiful wreath sent from Lady Primrose. The "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and the Rev. C. Mollan Williams conducted the burial service. The grave will be turfed and an oak cross erected by the A.I.F. London. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London were represented at the funeral.*

The Red Cross Wounded & Missing file for Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler contains a request from the Red Cross regarding details of his death. A letter was received from E. O. Thomson, 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow which reads: "*Re Pte T. C. Butler, who died in Ward 25 B in this Hospital. I have requested the sister in charge to write and give you full particulars of his illness and death, I sympathise greatly with his relatives, but they may rest assured that every care was taken of him and he was under the care also if an*

*excellent physician.*” Another letter from E. Hastings, Sister in Charge, 4th Scottish General Hospital, Stobhill, Glasgow which reads: *“Re Pte Butler. I wrote to his Mother shortly after his death, as I was too busy just at the time, giving her all the particulars, but there was so little to give. He was in a very short time and most of the time he was very ill. He told me he was on leave from France, but he had been in a Hospital in England before coming to Scotland. I found out while speaking to him, but his breathing was so bad. I refrained from asking him questions, always hoping he would get better. Three of the boys from the ward went to his funeral, also the lady of the Australian Red Cross. He did not leave any message and everything that could be done was done. I am so sorry for the boys who are so far away from home, and cannot even get home for their leave.”*

Private Thomas Carter Winchester Butler requested in his Will, dated 13th July, 1917 that all his personal estate be bequeathed to his mother – Mrs Minnie Williams, of Wahgunyah Road, Rutherglen, Victoria.

Base Records contacted Mrs M. Williams, mother of the late Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler & listed as next-of-kin, on 10th May, 1921 asking if there were any nearer blood relatives than herself & specifically if his father was still alive due to the “Deceased Soldiers Estates Act 1918” which stated that the War Medals & Mementoes of a deceased soldier were to be handed in the following order of relationship – Widow, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving daughter, father, mother, eldest surviving brother, eldest surviving sister etc. Mrs M. Williams replied to Base Records stating that she was her son’s only next-of-kin & she was not aware if her son’s father was dead or alive as he never supported her son.

Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler was entitled to British War Medal & the Victory Medal. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Lance Cpl. Butler’s mother – Mrs M. Williams, as the closest next-of-kin. (Scroll sent June, 1922 & Plaque sent November, 1922).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Lance Corporal Thomas Carter Winchester Butler – service number 2783, aged 27, of 37th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Mrs Mary Ann Williams, of Wahgunyah Rd, Rutherglen, Victoria, Australia. Born at Bright, Victoria.

Lance Corporal T. C. W. 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 128.

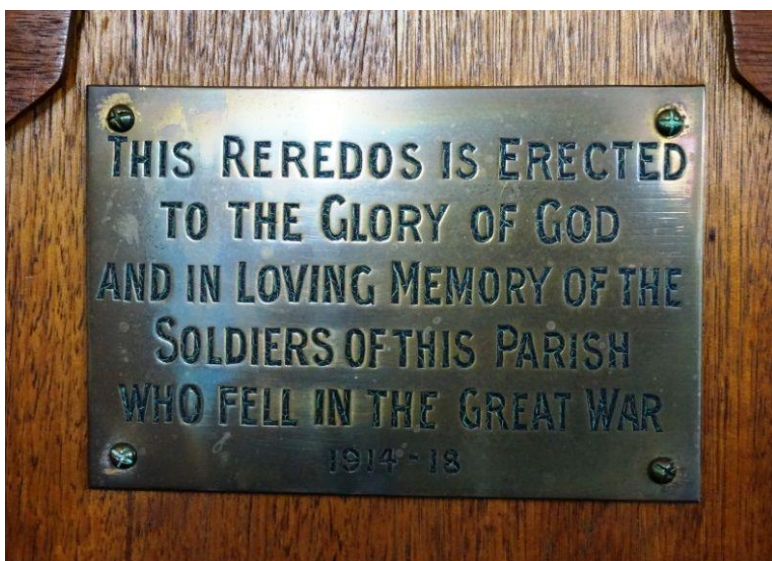


*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

T. C. W. Butler is remembered on St. Stephen's Anglican Church Reredos commemorating the soldiers from the parish who died in World War 1. St Stephen's is located at 160 High Street, Rutherglen, Victoria.



St. Stephen's Anglican Church Reredos, Rutherglen (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



T. C. W. Butler is remembered on the Rutherglen District Honour Roll, located in Soldiers Memorial Hall, High & Murray Streets, Rutherglen, Victoria.



Rutherglen District Honour Roll (Photos from Monument Australia – Chris McLaughlin)



T. C. W. Butler is remembered on the Rutherglen War Memorial, located in Memorial Park, Murray Street, Rutherglen, Victoria.



**Rutherglen War Memorial** (Photos from Monument Australia – Peter F. Williams & Graeme Saunders)



(87 pages of Lance Corporal Thomas William Butler / Thomas Carter Winchester 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, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DA16747

**Thomas Carter Winchester Butler**





## **Newspaper Notices**

### **GALLANT AUSTRALIANS**

Mrs L. Grant, of 382 High street, Northcote, has received word that Private T. C. W. Butler, of the 37th Battalion, has died in hospital in England from the effects of gas. He enlisted in October and sailed 16th December, 1916. He was the eldest son of Mrs H. Williams of Rutherglen. He was 27 years of age.

*(Preston Leader, Victoria – 26 October, 1918) & (Northcote Leader, Victoria – 26 October, 1918)*

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### **DEATHS**

BUTLER – ON 16th October, at No. 4 Scottish General Hospital, Private (Gnr.) T. C. W. Butler, died of Broncho-pneumonia (previously reported gassed), the dearly beloved son of Mrs H. E. Williams (Rutherglen), after two years active service and many months of continuous fighting; aged 27 years.

Loved by all who knew him.

The memory of his splendid life,  
His brave and fearless end,  
Bids all who loved him carry on  
For Britain and her men.

He has crossed the great horizon  
Of Eternity's great span;  
He has earned the crowning glory  
Of a soldier and a man.

Some time we'll understand.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother, step-father, sisters and brothers, Bennedin, Wahgunyah Rd., Rutherglen.

*(Alpine Observer and North-Eastern Herald, Victoria – 1 November, 1918)*

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### **SOLDIERING**

The Rev. J. L. Watt, of Rutherglen, received word on Wednesday from the authorities that Private T. C. W. Butler had died on October 16, 1918, from bronchial pneumonia, at No. 40 Scottish General Hospital.

*(Federal Standard, Chiltern, Victoria – 1 November, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

BUTLER – In loving memory of our dear nephew, Private (Gnr.) T. C. W. Butler, who died on October 16th, 1918, of Broncho-pneumonia, in No. 4 Scottish General Hospital (previously reported gassed); aged 27 years.

Duty called him, he was there  
To do his bit and take his share;  
His heart was true, his spirit brave,  
His resting place a hero's grave.

-Inserted by his loving uncle and aunt (T. and C. Ford) and cousins (Bertha, Charles and Clarrie).

*(Alpine Observer and North-Eastern Herald, Victoria – 8 November, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BUTLER - In loving memory of our dear nephew, Private (Gunner) T. C. W. Butler, who died at Fourth Scottish Hospital, England, dearly loved eldest son of Mrs H. E. Williams, Rutherglen.

Our Hero.

His cheery, sunny countenance will not from memory fade,  
Nor yet will we forget the noble sacrifice he made,  
And when our hearts are sad we seem to hear him say,  
Break not your hearts, dear loved ones, we shall meet again some day.

-Inserted by his loving aunt and uncle, L. and F. Mills, Fremantle, and cousins.

*(The Age, Melbourne, Victoria – 8 November, 1918)*

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## **AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

### **447th Casualty List**

Other Victorians

### **DIED OTHER CAUSES**

Pte T. C. W. BUTLER, Rutherglen.

*(Bendigo Advertiser, Victoria – 28 November, 1918)*

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BUTLER – To the cherished memory of our dearly loved son and brother, Lance-Corporal T. C. W. Butler, who fell asleep on the 16th October, 1918 (after much suffering), from affects of gas poisoning received on Somme on the 25th August, 1918. Buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland, with full military honors. Also his much loved comrade, Private G. H. Busby, died of wounds in France 11th August, 1918.

Fought so bravely until near the end, and died as bravely as they fought. 37th Battalion heroes.

Through tribulation great they came,  
They took the cross, despised the shame;  
From all their labors now they rest,  
In God's eternal glory blest.  
The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
Now is the victor's triumph won;  
No longer somewhere now.

-Inserted by his sorrowing mother, step-father, sisters and brothers, Wahgunyah Rd., Rutherglen.

BUTLER – A tribute to the memory of T. C. W. Butler, died of illness on the 16th October, 1918, the true comrade of the late Private G. H. Busby, died 11th August, 1918. Lest we forget.

-Inserted by Mr, Mrs Burgess, Ivanhoe.

BUTLER – A tribute of memory to my dear pal, Lance-Corporal T. C. W. (Tom) Butler, late 37th Battalion, who died from illness in Glasgow October, 1918. Remembered.

-Inserted by Jack Elder.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 16 October, 1919)

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **On Active Service**

BUTLER – A tribute of esteem to the memory of Lance-Corporal T. C. W. Butler, died from the effects of gas poisoning in Scotland on 16th October, 1918.

-Inserted by Mrs Busby and family.

(*The Age*, Melbourne, Victoria – 15 October, 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*)

Lance Corporal T. C. W. Butler does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

*Loved Son Of Mary A. Williams Of Rutherglen, Victoria*

*Duty Nobly Done*

## **Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland**

The Western Necropolis is a large cemetery complex north of Glasgow City Centre. Adjoining this site are the following large cemeteries: Glasgow Lambhill and Glasgow St Kentigerns Cemetery, all three are separate but adjoin each other. Glasgow Garnet Hill Hebrew Burial Ground and Glasgow Crematorium Memorial is also at this site.

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Glasgow was one of the ports of embarkation for the British Expeditionary Force in 1914 and several military hospitals opened in the city during the First World War, including the 3rd and 4th Scottish General (1,200 beds each), and the Merryflats War Hospital (500 beds). Battalions of a number of Scottish regiments had their headquarters at Glasgow during both wars, most notably the Highland Light Infantry. The Clydeside shipyards were targeted by German bombers during the Blitz, and Glasgow suffered a particularly ferocious attack on the night of 13/14 March 1941 when many civilians and servicemen were killed.

Glasgow Western Necropolis contains 355 First World War burials, many of them grouped together in Section P, with a small group of Australian graves in Section N. A screen wall near the main entrance carries the badges of the regiments represented in Sections P and H. The 124 Second World War burials are scattered throughout the cemetery, although there are two among the earlier war graves in Section P. Also in this group are two inter-war service burials and two German war graves.

There are 11 Australian Soldiers from World War 1 buried in Western Necropolis Cemetery.

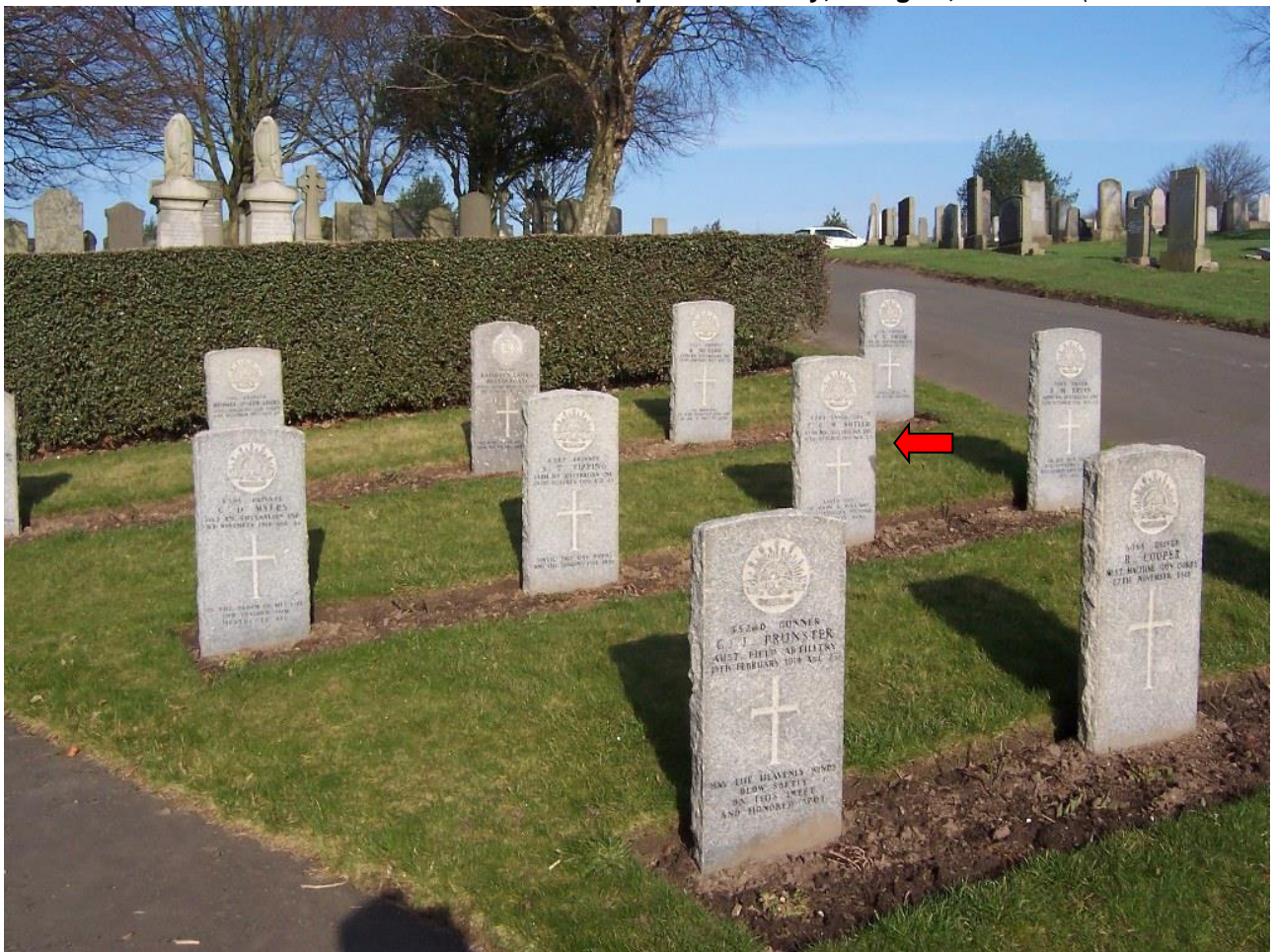
*(Information from CWGC)*



**Cross of Sacrifice in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland** *(Photo from CWGC)*



Some of the Australian Headstones in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland (Photos from CWGC)



T. C. W. Butler's grave marked with red arrow

Photo of Lance Corporal T. C. W. Butler's Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstone in Western Necropolis Cemetery, Glasgow, Scotland.



(Photo from Ben – Find a Grave)

