Kilcoy’s Most Notable Son

Arthur Graham Butler
While history remembers Arthur Graham Butler for being the first medical officer of the AIF to set foot on Gallipoli, for many more reasons, he was much more. Unquestionably A G Butler was one of Australia’s great heroes; but compared to our other heroic Anzacs, his brand of heroism was different. It was not propelled by the usual destructive side of war, but was motivated by a determination to save life and improve the welfare of his fellow man, no matter what the personal cost. In war, Graham Butler’s real enemy was the death and destruction that war brought. He fought this battle his entire life and, in this fighting, his courage excelled. Bravery, integrity, idealism, self-sacrifice and Christian humanity were the fundamental characteristics that made him a great Australian hero, and the conduct of his life serves as an inspiration to us all.

Born on the 25th May, 1872 at Kilcoy Station in the Brisbane Valley, Arthur Graham Butler (known as Graham) was the son of a pioneer family, well-known and highly respected in the Kilcoy and Brisbane district. His father, William Butler had migrated to Australia in 1854 from Royston, Cambridgeshire, England. After wandering the Australian outback for some years, William found a position as manager of Kilcoy Station. He managed the station for 36 years, and in 1908 purchased the homestead block. At Kilcoy he met and married Jane (Jeanie) Graham, an English born girl who was governess on nearby Cressbrook Station. Together they raised 10 children at Kilcoy, Arthur Graham being the eldest.¹
Graham’s brother, Colin described their childhood at Kilcoy as a “tale of happiness... blessed with wonderful parents and brothers and sisters.” Days were spent “on the Kilcoy Creek building dams, canals, shrimping and a hundred and one things one could do. So life went on never lonely. What a life of sheer joy, riding and going on picnics.” 2 Sister, Rosa also recalled that Graham “had a very active childhood learning to swim and paddle in the creek below the homestead. Abundant wildlife led to an interest in hunting... Wild raspberries and Bunya nuts were collected in season. Horse riding was another activity readily available. The station was about 78 miles from Brisbane and took at least two days for stores to come up and then only twice a year for many years. The boys generally appeared to go bare footed, possible because of the difficulty of keeping the right sized boots up to a growing family.” 3

Graham grew up in a household where community service was regarded as a central aspect of life. His parents’ example showed the importance of respect earnt through deeds and actions rather than social position. Throughout the Brisbane Valley, the Butlers were noted for their hospitality and kindness. For instance during the economic depression of the 1890s, a considerable strain was placed on the Station’s stores because of William and June’s generosity towards travelling vagrants looking for work. 4 Local aborigines and settlers alike regarded, William Butler and his family with much love and esteem. Graham’s father was affectionately referred to as the “Grand Old Man of Kilcoy”. Aborigines gave him the title, “Winya”. He was instrumental in the foundation of Kilcoy township, the Kilcoy School and a railway link to Caboolture. The esteem with which he was held is evidenced by the clock monument in the centre of town erected to honour him and the many streets in Kilcoy that are named after members of his family.

There was no school at Kilcoy so Graham was tutored at home until he was 14. In 1886 he was enrolled at Ipswich Grammar School as a boarder. There he proved himself a gifted student who also excelled in sport, especially athletics. Academic prizes were achieved in Mathematics, Science,
English, History and Languages, and for four consecutive years he was awarded 1st prize in English and History at his class level. He represented the school in cricket, rowing and football and in 1890 became the school’s Athletics Champion, the 100 yards sprint race being his best event. Also in 1890 Graham matriculated at a level to gain entrance to Medical Science at Sydney University.

However instead of going to Sydney, Arthur Graham set off on his first overseas adventure. In Easter of 1891 he entered St John’s College, Cambridge to study medicine. His life at Cambridge University reflected his boundless energy, diverse interests and considerable academic ability. For instance, 1896 exam results show he tied first in Surgery and Pathology. Outside the lecture halls, he took an interest in the growing labour movement and became a keen supporter of the ‘young labour movement’. His support was unpopular with some and led to a rift with many of his friends.

He also joined the Cambridge rowing team and achieved fame as an outstanding middle distance runner. A record for running half a mile in 2 minutes was set and he won the University Challenge Cup two years in a row. Family tradition has it that Graham was invited to participate in the 1896 Olympics but regrettably was forced to decline due to lack of finances. In 1894 he completed his Bachelor of Arts and subsequently gained a university scholarship to study at St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington, London. In 1897 he sat successfully for the Bachelor of Surgery, Cambridge and in 1899 he graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine.

With his education completed, Graham was eager to return to Australia and his family. There were now more siblings whom he was yet to meet. He arrived back at his hometown of Kilcoy in July 1899 to very proud parents keen to show off their eldest son’s achievements to the community. Graham’s father requested his son set up a fee free practice in Kilcoy for the first year of his return.

Just months after his return, an event occurred at Kilcoy Homestead that perhaps helped persuade Graham to set up his first medical practice in Kilcoy. In October 1899 the parents of a critically injured 5 year old boy brought their son to Kilcoy Station seeking emergency help. Dr Butler used chloroform to operate on the boy at the Station and saved his life. The settlers in the district responded by holding a town meeting to persuade Dr Butler to remain in Kilcoy. A committee was formed to raise a retaining fee of £200 per annum and by the end of November a government appointment had also been received. Graham therefore was officially the first medical officer at Hopetoun (Kilcoy).

However, Dr Butler was ambitious. He was keen to further his medical career and as a result resigned in July 1901 to take up an appointment as hospital surgeon at Gladstone. A year later he also purchased a general practice in Goondoon Street, Gladstone.

The next 7 years in Gladstone were happy years. In 1904 he married the hospital matron, English born, Lilian Mills. The young Doctor and his new wife became popular residents in Gladstone, both heavily involved within the community through clubs, gardening and tennis. He became president of the Lawn Tennis Club and was an enthusiastic founding member of the Gladstone Flower Show. In Gladstone, Graham developed what was to become a lifelong interest in horticulture and a special love of roses. As early as 1904, he was winning prizes for his roses at the Gladstone Flower Show. In typical fashion, however, Graham was not content for gardening to be just a relaxing hobby. Like most aspects of his life, he was gripped by a thirst for knowledge and perfection so that gardening, and in particular roses, had to become an area of expertise. Perhaps the perfection of roses
appealed to the meticulous nature of his own personality. Later in life he jointly authored a book titled “National Roses of Canberra”

By September 1907, Graham had become restless and concerned about his future career. He feared he was not keeping abreast with the latest medical developments and so the decision was made to leave Gladstone. He wished to complete 12 months’ postgraduate work at the University of Sydney and so he reluctantly handed in his resignation as Gladstone Hospital’s surgeon. His public spirit and dynamic personality had endeared him to the local community and as a result 3 large public farewells were held. At a Town Hall reception, the Mayor presented the Butlers with a cheque for £80, and at the Theatre Royal another 200 people gathered to pay tribute to his work within the community. The Gladstone Tennis Club farewelled the Butlers with another large tribute party.

Upon leaving Gladstone, the Butlers returned temporarily to Kilcoy. In November 1907 he was once again providing medical services at Kilcoy and by May 1908 was again appointed the Medical Officer for the Kilcoy district. However a medical career in the city was his long term goal and his immediate plan was to embark on post-graduate study and research at Sydney University. So in July he resigned from his country doctor position, and he and Lillian moved to Sydney. For the next 12 months he studied and worked in the Sydney Medical School and conducted research into pathology and bacteriology.

In 1909 they moved back to Brisbane. Graham resided in a fashionable boarding house, Selby House on Wickham Terrace while his very pregnant wife returned to Kilcoy Homestead to have their baby. Their only child, Joan was born on 4th October 1909. In Brisbane Graham’s career progressed well. He set up practice with highly respected doctor and surgeon, Dr Wilton Love. They were visiting house doctors at Brisbane Boys Grammar School. On prestigious Wickham Terrace he started a practice specializing in gynaecology and obstetrics. Between 1912 and 1914, he held the position of honorary secretary of the Queensland branch of the British Medical Association.

With the introduction of compulsory military training in 1912, Graham joined the Australian Army Medical Corps and became the medical officer for the local citizen militia, the Moreton Regiment. At the outbreak of war, he was in charge of the base medical stores at Victoria Barracks, Petrie Terrace. In the days before the formation of Australia’s first expeditionary force, the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) he was frantically busy collating, purchasing and organizing large quantities of drugs and medical equipment at the Barracks depot. When war was declared on 5th August, Graham was one of the first to volunteer. He applied for his officer’s commission on 13th August, and was immediately commissioned captain and appointed regimental medical officer of the newly formed 9th Battalion at Enoggera Camp.

As an officer, Graham’s character did not help him foster popularity. His insistence on attention to detail at Enoggera Camp earned him the unfortunate nickname “Gertie”. 9th Battalion historian, Norman Harvey concurs that Captain Butler was “at first not so popular with the rank and file”. He was perceived as overcareful, even finicky and added to this was his reserved manner and an obsessive meticulousness. However, although the “Gertie” nickname stuck, its irreverent connotations did not stay. When Captain Butler’s true character revealed itself in battle, “Gertie” became a term reflecting genuine affection and respect.
On 24 September, 1914, Captain Butler, with the 9th Battalion, embarked on the SS Omrah for Albany, Western Australian where it joined the Australian convoy for the long journey to Egypt. The scenes at Pinkenba Wharf were of sadness and great patriotic enthusiasm. In the crowd was Lillian nursing their little daughter, Joan. It would be another 5 years before they would be again reunited.

At the onset of war, Graham was 42 years old, twice the average age of members of the AIF. Yet in physical fitness he was more than their equal. Since university, running and regular training had continued to be an important part of his fitness regime. In the desert camp in Egypt and on the island of Lemnos prior to the Gallipoli landing, he regularly trained with the troops. He even coached them on long distance running, giving tips such as periodically stopping to complete several minutes of deep breathing exercises. Graham would join the route marches carrying a full soldier’s
pack. Commenting on his own fitness, he wrote to his wife, “I am glad to say your ancient but still active old husband was the hardiest of the lot and can walk the youngsters to a standstill.”

At Gallipoli Graham Butler earned undying fame. His actions revealed his true character and heroic qualities. Moments after touching shore, he received a brutally confronting introduction to war. Sparks were flying as bullets hit shingles on the beach as they landed. In the pre-dawn darkness, the Captain stepped ashore. The British seaman, standing in the boat, calmly (“as if he had been landing a pleasure party”) reached out to hand the Captain his satchel. This first boat ashore had landed moments before the first gunfire. As the Captain grasped hold of his satchel, the seaman suddenly fell backwards into the boat. He had been shot through the head. The battle had begun and the unrelenting sound of deadly gunfire was now everywhere.

Stunned, the Captain did not let shock or panic override his emotions. Instead he proved himself to be a man without fear. On the beach he immediately set about treating wounded soldiers. With every passing minute, the beach became more chaotic. Several of his stretcher bearers had been shot. Men from various battalions who had lost contact with their officers, began shooting wildly at the rifle fire coming from the hills above. Captain Butler saw their futile action as endangering the lives of those Anzacs already climbing the hills. He tended Sgt Major Fowles of the 9th Battalion who had been wounded by one of their bullets. Enraged by the loss of life that already occurred, he urged the men to use bayonet alone and to climb the hill with him. He thus led a heroic charge up the steep hill to Plugge’s Plateau.

“ ‘Come on, men; we must take that gun’, he cried, and started climbing the cliff, his revolver in his hand. We stormed up the cliff behind him. Sergeant Fowles and Partick Courtney were on either side of me as we climbed the cliff, and both were shot dead. We rushed the gun and bayoneted the Turks who formed the gun crew. Smashing the gun so that it could not be again used, we dashed forward to storm the next trench, the line growing stronger as the boys rushed up to reinforce. On and on we went right up the cliff to the summit.”

On reaching the top of Ari Burnu, Captain Butler’s humanity caused him to stop to dress a wounded Turk. At a depression at the junction of 400 Plateau and Bolton’s Ridge he found a suitable spot to set up his aid-post, from which the wounded were transported back to the beach.

He and his stretcher-bearers worked tirelessly all day and throughout the night. The terrain was so steep that ‘those who were wounded rolled or slid down it until caught or supported by some tuft or scrub. Here and there a man hung over a slope so precipitous that Butler, going to his help, had to cut steps in the gravel face with his entrenching tool in order to reach him.” By 3am the next morning, the beach had been successfully cleared of the wounded. Captain Butler reported that over 1700 soldiers had been evacuated and praised the efforts of the stretcher-bearers. He later wrote, ‘The 25th indeed, was the stretcher bearers’ day. At the bottom, nothing was of real service to the severely wounded man but the courage, enterprise and endurance of those whose duty it was to find him and to carry him to safety.”
Captain Butler inspired many that day. About 4 pm on the 25th some soldiers succumbing to confusion and chaos, began to retreat. As they came running back they came across Captain Butler at his aid-post, and it was he who managed to turn their retreat. With his example and stirring words, he rallied them. “Remember, boys! What would Australia think of you if you retired now?” Private AF Fraser wrote from the trenches to his parents in Brisbane, “he was simply magnificent, and led a charge himself.... He was tearing about with only a pair of trousers and boots on, having torn up his other garments to bandage the wounded.” One of his stretcher-bearers wrote “I can still picture him as I saw him on 25 April, practically in rags, here, there, and everywhere, looking after the wounded and organising parties to take them back to the beach.”

Three days after the landing, the remnants of the 9th Battalion assembled. For the men it was a heartbreaking assembly as the extent of their heavy losses became apparent. Among the missing was Captain Butler, already a hero to many. Concerned officers mounted an immediate and thorough search, sending messengers to discover his fate. To much relief he was located, still carrying out his good work at an aid post in Shrapnel Gully, but in a near state of exhaustion. For the last 3 days he had had no rest and little to eat or drink. When offered food and drink that the messengers had brought, he refused, stating his patients had first call. He only agreed to partake when the messengers threatened to eat the food themselves.

More than a week after the landing, Graham found time to reflect, “I think today we have woken up to the fact that we are still alive. The time since last Sunday week is not a number of days but a hideous space of time......I am not hurt at all but have had some extraordinary experiences like everyone, and one bullet took a fragment out of the top of
my cup. I have not been through 1/100 what our chaps have as you will have heard our chaps lost very heavily and fought very bravely and are still doing so... The Queenslanders have good reasons to be proud of their men for their fighting and tenacity. I got 4 hours sleep in three and half days. After the landing there was such a rush that we all got scattered, every unit was mixed up. I got separated from most of our chaps and attended other units more than our own which I had to stop. ... I and my stretcher bearers have a very difficult job. We have to get the men out of the firing line when wounded as soon as possible and render first aid to them. It makes such a good mark for the enemy when there are two men moving along with a wounded man, and they are always potted at.\footnote{40}

By the beginning of May, the amount of enemy fire had eased and the 9th Battalion settled down to steady trench warfare. However, death and danger always remained close. On 8th May, Captain Butler was working at a dressing station at the head of Clarke Valley when, without warning, a shell burst directly in front of the entrance to the station. Three of his stretcher-bearers were killed instantly and seven more wounded. When men nearby arrived they expected to find the body of Captain Butler but, instead found him working frantically on his less fortunate stretcher-bearers.\footnote{41}

At home the work he did for the wounded soon became known and was widely praised. Citing a daring rescue he carried out on 24\textsuperscript{th} June, 1915, of wounded men left lying between the trenches, a Brisbane newspaper wrote in 1917, “As long as wounded men needed attention he would work, no matter where the men were; whether they were lying on the enemy’s parapet or in the trenches, he would get to them and render the necessary assistance to them.”\footnote{42}
But it was early in the campaign that courageous actions of Captain Butler were officially recognized. On 3rd June he was selected to receive the Distinguished Service Order, the first and only medical officer to be so honoured. The commendation read,

"During operations in the neighbourhood of Gaba Tepe on 25/4/15 subsequent later for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in attending wounds under heavy fire continuously displaying courage of a high order" 43(Casualty Form – Active Service)

The news that their MO had been selected for this honour did much to uplift the spirits of the men of the 9th Battalion. However for a long time Captain Butler refused to wear the ribbon. He believed he was no more worthy than anyone of his stretcher-bearers, and argued that the award should not have been presented to him personally but to the whole Australian Army Medical Corps at the landing.44 On 5th October, he was further recognized with a promotion to Major.
This strong belief that the deeds and sacrifice of regular soldiers were not being sufficiently recognized led Captain Butler to plant the idea that led to a special unofficial medal. In a letter from the trenches to his sister, he wrote of his hope that the Queensland people would give recognition to the 100 surviving 9th Battalion men who at the 25th October had served 6 continuous months in the trenches at Gallipoli. His wish brought to reality by the residents of his hometown, Kilcoy. A small Kilcoy committee, headed by Butler family members, raised the funds to provide and engrave a medal that became known as the “Kilcoy Medal” or “Butler Medal”. It was to recognize the strain and test of endurance suffered by soldiers at Gallipoli and was presented only to those members of the battalion who managed to serve at ANZAC for six continuous months. It bore the formation shoulder colour patch of the 9th Battalion and the words ‘ANZAC 1915, APRIL 25 GALLIPOLI OCTR 25’. The medal was awarded to only 94 surviving soldiers.

Captain Butler was well aware of the great strain and test of endurance that it was to remain on Gallipoli for 5 or 6 months. He had been with the 9th Battalion on the peninsula for almost seven months. They left Gallipoli on the 16th November when it was their turn for a rest period on the island of Lemnos, unaware the evacuation would occur in a month’s time and that they would not return to Gallipoli. Up until that time, Captain Butler had left Gallipoli only twice; for a 3 day spell on the hospital ship on the 5th July and a 3 weeks evacuation to hospital on 27 July to 19 August due to a bouts of influenza and gastritis.
As with all soldiers, homesickness was a problem for Graham. It was made worse by the news of his mother’s passing in August, 1915. He missed Lillian and Joan immensely. “I have been looking at my photographs and it does make me so home sick, but I have very much work to do and can’t afford to show my feelings and so I work harder and it is better for me.”

In January 1916, the Gallipoli campaign was over and Major Butler proceeded with the 9th Battalion to the hot desert camp of Gebel Habieta, in the Suez Canal Zone. But the next month the 9th Battalion lost its highly regarded medical officer. Major Butler was transferred and appointed Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services of I Anzac Corps, second medical officer on Birdwood’s staff. He held this position for the next 12 months until March, 1917.

When in the Spring of 1916, the Australian troops were transferred to the Western Front, Major Butler as DADMS, found himself in France. The responsibility he felt for the troops welfare brought him intense anxiety (IX Preface) but he proved himself very capable in the roll. A medical colleague described him as ‘a most efficient D.A.D.M.S. … Enthusiastic in his work, quiet in manner and a very brave gentleman.’ He continued to work tirelessly to alleviate the hardships of the troops. In the terrible winter of 1916-17, the troops suffered severely from trench feet due to the Somme mud which in some trenches was 12 inches to 2 feet deep. Higher staff said it was due to poor discipline but Major Butler disagreed. He doubted that the true facts were known about the causes, so went to the front line to live in the trenches for 10 days to study the problem.

In November 1916 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and during the Passchendaele Offensive of 1917 was given the command of the 3rd Field Ambulance. Despite these many promotions and commendations, Colonel Butler continued his preference to identify with the ordinary soldier. Victor Harley (later Sir), a field medical officer recalled,
“He became a familiar sight among the units, dressed as he was in digger issue uniform although a Colonel.”\textsuperscript{52} Another of his officers at the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Field Ambulance remembered, “My first acquaintance with him was on reporting for duty with the ambulance early in 1917. Failing to find him in the OC’s quarters, I sought him around the lines and at last located him freeing an open air drain which had ceased to run. It was there in the drain that I reported to him. I was later to learn that he was everything in the unit from CO to sanitary officer.”\textsuperscript{53}

His unit served at Bullecourt as the 1\textsuperscript{st} Division’s main dressing station. Then two months duty at Buire, followed by Menin Road, Flanders where he took over command of the advanced dressing station.\textsuperscript{54} He was mentioned twice in despatches (Oct 1916 and Sept 1917 AIF Service Records)

After the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Battle of Ypres, he reluctantly left the front. He had been sent to London to help collate the medical records of the AIF, but often returned to the front to advise unit officers on medical record keeping and the compilation of war diaries.\textsuperscript{55} While working in London, he attended the inter-allied health conference (Paris) and made a systematic study of the evacuation of wounded and sick from the front line.

In July 1918 he returned to France to take command of the No.3 Australian General Hospital at Abbeville. He was a popular CO. His fair treatment of the Australian nursing staff brought him great respect and admiration. One Australian nurse recalled, “He treated us all like human beings and Australian women and not like a lot of children from an orphanage.”\textsuperscript{56}

In June 1919, No.3 Hospital closed and Colonel Butler went to London to again work in the war records section of AIF Headquarters. Finally, six months later, in February 1920 the army demobilized him and eagerly he began his return journey home to his much loved family and Brisbane. 5 years of his life had passed. His daughter was now 11 years old.
At last his life returned to some normalcy. The family lived at 231 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill where the popular doctor worked to create a very successful private practice. His career progressed well. He was elected State President of the BMA and was on the way to having the largest medical practice in Brisbane. A blossoming career and family life were just rewards for the service he had given in war.

Unfortunately, just two years later his future again spun out of control. A request came from the Minister of Defence asking Dr Butler to compile a history of the Australian Army Medical Services during World War One. The request was seen as a great honour but it was not the destiny he had chosen for himself. Accepting the commission meant leaving a rewarding career and enjoyable life in Brisbane. He was very reluctant to accept, but after much reflection, once again his strong sense of public duty took precedence over self-interest. He accepted the commission. Like many returned soldiers, he was desperate to advance a positive outcome from the destruction and darkness he had experienced in the war. He harboured a strong belief that a comprehensive war history could be used to help avoid the mistakes of the past. He once wrote in a letter to CEW Bean, “We have not the excuse that we have no ‘lessons’ from the past to guide us.”

In 1923 he moved to Canberra and his meticulous research commenced. His plan was to be away from Brisbane for a couple of years, but instead the size of the task was underestimated. Writing the history would dominate the rest of his working life, more than 20 years, and be the cause of much personal, professional and financial loss. For the first few years the research and writing required him to spend much of his time in Melbourne sometimes away from family. Then in 1927 he was appointed Medical Officer at Royal Duntroon College and later Medical Officer for the Federal Capital Territory (1928 to 1931).

The first volume of the history was published in 1930, but the huge amount of research and writing that still remained to be done was overwhelming. Frustrated by the delays, Dr Butler decided to devote himself totally to the task and for several years, at his own private expense, he worked full time as an historian. His once promising medical career was being sacrificed. Colonel A.S. Walker, the medical historian of the Second World War, made the observation that because Dr Graham Butler was “long neglected in his onerous task, he was not able to bring his history to fruition earlier.”

In 1940 the second volume was published but by this stage the doctor’s eyesight was beginning to fail. Yet he continued to work, largely unpaid and inflicting further damage to his eyes. Finally in 1943 the third volume was completed. His good friend and associate at the War Memorial, A.W. Bazley concluded, “As in war-time, so in peace he sacrificed his profession, his health – and for many years his home – bending all his energies to the end that the medical history of the AIF should be a true record and a sure beacon to those who follow”. 
His three volume history was to be recognized with acclaim around the world. It was not just a record of facts but a controversial study of important problems and an analysis that would guide future policy and management. The Official War Historian, Dr C.E.W. Bean wrote, “Vast knowledge and sheer genius ...... Unquestionably those volumes are great writing. I know nothing like them” 60 His work also earned him the acclaim of the Australian branch of the British Medical Association which in 1944 awarded him the Gold Medal for service to the profession.

Dr Butler lived in Canberra for more than 26 years and despite his huge workload, was an active member of the early Canberra community. He was a foundation member of the Canberra Horticultural Society and as a keen gardener often exhibited his roses. In 1933 he jointly authored a book, “National Roses of Canberra.” His dynamic public spirit caused him to be involved in many organizations and civic services. He was a foundation member of the Canberra Grammar School and served on the school’s board of directors until his death. He was an active member of St John’s Anglican Church, and closely associated with the Regional Council of the World Council of Churches. For many years he was Vice President of the ACT branch of the Returned Soldiers League, and a member of the local division of the UN Association. His links with Queensland’s 9th Battalion always remained close to his heart. He highly valued the honour of being Patron to the “Omrah” Association until his death.

On 27 February, 1949, after a short illness, Arthur Graham Butler passed away aged 76 years. Almost his entire adult life had been lived in the shadow of World War 1. War had robbed the young country doctor of his dreams and aspirations. Yet as a soldier, a Colonel and an historian, Arthur Graham Butler has earned Australia’s undying love and respect. In particular, for the soldiers at Gallipoli he was almost a legendary figure who repeatedly disregarded personal safety to ensure their care. Selflessness was a hallmark in all aspects of his life. The words of a bronze plaque placed on the wall of his church make a fitting tribute,

“A practical Christian, a gallant soldier, a national war historian, a kindly physician, a man loved by all; he fought the good fight; he finished the course; he kept the Faith”
Victory Medal with Mentioned in Despatches oakleaf. Medals awarded to Colonel AG Butler, on display at the Australian War Memorial. (Australian War Memorial, RELAWM14957.004)

References:

2 Hancock, Richard. Such a Noble Man was He. Unpublished manuscript. p.6
3 Ibid, p.6
4 Pioneers of the Kilcoy District Volume 1. (2002) p.15
5 Queenslander, 28 Dec 1889. p
6 Queensland Times 18 Dec 1886; 17 Dec 1887; 17 Dec 1888. Queenslander 28 Dec 1889
7 Bean, Dr C.E.W., “Medical Historian Dies”. Sydney Morning Herald, 28 Feb 1949, p.2
8 Queensland Times, 3 Sept 1896. The Australasian (Melb) 14 Dec 1895
9 Hancock, p.13
10 Queensland Times, 8 July 1899
11 Pioneers of Kilcoy District Volume 1,2002. p.16
12 Brisbane Courier, 1 Nov 1899
13 Queensland Times, 28 Nov 1899
14 Queensland Times, 8 Nov 1902, p6
15 Capricornian, (Rockhampton) 28 Sept 1907
16 Ibid, 1904?
18 Capricornian. 12 Oct 1907; 19 Oct 1907
He applied for commission on 14th August, medical test on 20th August, commissioned on 29th August as RMO of 9th Battalion.

Harvey, (1941) From Anzac to the Hindenberg Line The History of the 9th Battalion AIF. Naval and Military Press, London. p.101

Brisbane Courier, 11 June, 1915, p.8

Wrench, (1985) p.90

Hancock, p.33

A.G. Butler, Gallipoli Report


Harvey, p.41


Harvey, 1941 p.41

Wrench p.71

Ibid, p.71

Winter, 1994 p.177

Courier Mail, 11 June 1915, p.8


Winter,1994 p.178

Hancock, p.48

Harvey p68

National Leader. 5 Jan 1917, p. 7

Casualty Form – Active Service

Harvey p.78

The origin of the medal may have been in a letter to Lillian on 25 Oct 1915 “Graham made the following comment: “As you note it is six months since we landed. 100 of our 9th Battalion men have been in the trenches continuously all that time. I wish the Queenslanders would do something for them to record it. I have got all their names”. Hancock. P.67


Hancock p.67

He was DADMS until March, 1917. Wrench p.91

Gurner 1979

Wrench p142-3

Bean, Dr C.E.W. “Medical Historian Dies” Sydney Morning Herald, 28 February 1949.

Canberra Times, 4 June 1951

Bazley, “Passing of a Great Australian” Canberra Times, 28 Feb 1949

Gurner 1979

Gurner, 1979

Bazley, Canberra Times, 1949

Hancock, p103

Medical Journal of Australia, 10 Sept 1949

Bazley, “Passing of a Great Australian” Canberra Times 28 Feb 1949

Dr Bean, “Medical Historian Dies” Sydney Morning Herald, 28 Feb 1949, p.2
RECIPIENTS OF THE KILCOY MEDAL:
The following are the names of the only men of the 9th Battalion who received the Kilcoy Medal. Each served an unbroken period of 6 months on Gallipoli.  
(from Wrench 1985, page 433)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>P. Adsett</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H.F. Harley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>W. Aggett</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>M. Harty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>G.R. Harrington</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G. Higgerson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>A.R. Knightley</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Holding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>A. Warren</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C. Holdway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>N.L. Weynand</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>B. Hooper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.M.</td>
<td>E.A.B. Lynch</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.W. Hunter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.S.M.</td>
<td>J.L. Saunders</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G.E. Jamieson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>R. Brennan</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>W. Jarrett</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>R. Colvin</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.B. Jeffries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>S.A. McKenzie</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>E.A. Keid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>W. Morgan</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>P. Kelly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>G.H. Page</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.F. Kerr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>J. Keaney</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>E.J. Lamming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>J. McGlynn</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>T. Lewis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>N.T. Scrivener</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>N.W. Liddle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>W. Thrupp</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G. Little</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal</td>
<td>J. Wynd</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>S.F. Lucas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>J.W. Giles</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>P. Macaleff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>G.R. Gray</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. McFarlane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>E.F. Little</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>L. Mackay</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>J. Melrose</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>D. McKenzie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>A. Villiers</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C. McMillan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>G. Walker</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.C. Milne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L./Corporal</td>
<td>F.H. Whitnell</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.J. Mole</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bugler</td>
<td>A. Wardell</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Morris</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J.G. Allen</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>P. Morrison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Baker</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>T.H. Neale</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>R. Baker</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>W. O’Brien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>E.A. Bale</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>O.R. Patterson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C.J. Bangs</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Pirie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G. Bartlett</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>W.J. Rider</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>A. Brown</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Sales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>D. Buckley</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Sanderson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Chandler</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H. Sibbald</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>W. Chandler</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>E. Smith</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>R. Chatters</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C. Stubbs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C. Cooper</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>A.R. Summers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>A.G. Edwards</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G.H. Taylor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Ffelan</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>F. Thomas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>F.J. Finneran</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>W.J. Frawley</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>L. Thompson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C.H. Goodbye</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Trenant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Greenfield</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>G. Tyler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>B.B. Grimish</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>J. Wiltshire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>A. Grumont</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>E. Wreford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>H.S. Hadland</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>C. Young</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>