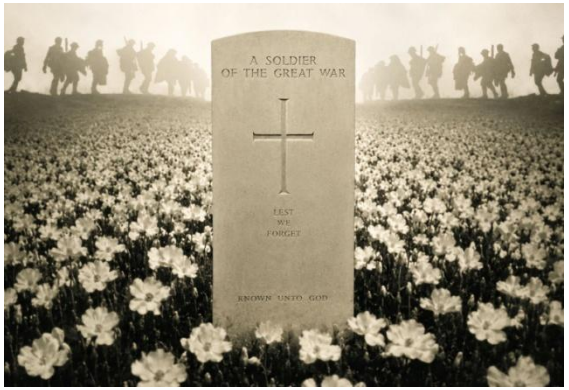






Basil George Butler

1893 - 1916

Civilian Research

Field Name	Field Data	Source of data
Casualty Name	Butler, B on war memorial Basil George Butler	CWGC
Date of Birth	C 1893 8/12/1893	Online Family Tree source unknown (Ancestry) Baptism Register
Date of Death (from Spreadsheet)	3/2/1915	CWGC
Age at death (from Spreadsheet	22	CWGC
Marital Status		
Children (if any)		
Occupation prior to Call up	Having completed 3 year of training on the	Obituary

	Conway in Liverpool he was in reserves then called up	
Parents	Son of George Henry and Emily Agnes Butler, of Ravens Court, Spencer Road, Wealdstone NB: CWGC says George Harry and Baptism register says George Henry. Of course Harry may be nickname for Henry.	CWGC and 1911 census
Listed Address(s)	Ravens Court, Spencer Road, Wealdstone	1911 census
Parents /Fathers occupation	Physician	Baptism register
Brothers and Sisters	Gertrude M Butler (older), Cuthbert J Butler (older), Maurice H Butler (older), Dorothy M Butler (older), Marjorie G Butler (older), Dora J Butler (younger)	
Years at John Lyon School		
University (if any)	Cadet at School Ship Conway, Liverpool, age 17	1911 cenus
Obituary		
Additional sources of data		
War Memorials:	Wealdstone Clocktower as B G Butler	https://memorials.iwm.org.uk/memorial/11101
	John Lyon School plaque as B Butler	https://memorials.iwm.org.uk/memorial/11204
	John Lyon School sundial as B Butler	https://memorials.iwm.org.uk/memorial/11318
	Chatham Naval Memorial	According to CWGC

Military Data

JLS WWI RoH	BUTLER B.G.
CWGC Reference	https://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/4003755/butler,-basil-george/
Age	21
DoD	03-Feb-15
Rank	Mid
Regiment	Royal Navy Reserve
Location	CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL
Military details	Son of George Harry and Emily Agnes Butler, of "Ravens Court," Wealdstone, Harrow. Midshipman Basil George Butler died when his ship, HMS Clan McNaughton, sank with all hands on February 3, 1915. He was 21 years old. Lost at sea (missing, presumed drowned) when his vessel foundered. No distress signals were ever sent, and there were no survivors among the 261 crew members. HMS Clan McNaughton was a passenger-cargo liner converted into an Armed Merchant Cruiser. It was assigned to the Royal Navy's 10th Cruiser Squadron to enforce the naval blockade between Scotland, Iceland, and Norway. On the night of February 3, the ship encountered a severe, blinding gale in the North Atlantic. It is believed that the ship either capsized due to stability issues in the heavy weather or struck a German sea mine. The ship went down in the Atlantic Ocean, north-west of the Hebrides (Scotland) or off the north coast of Ireland. Wreckage and empty lifebuoys from the ship were discovered floating in those waters a few weeks later. Because he was lost at sea and has no known grave, Midshipman Butler is permanently commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent, England

Story of Sacrifice

Basil George Butler (1893 – 1915)

Basil Butler was educated at John Lyon School and trained for three years aboard the *Conway* before becoming a Royal Naval Reserve midshipman and serving aboard the armed merchant cruiser HMS Clan McNaughton. Aged 21, he was lost at sea when HMS Clan McNaughton disappeared in severe weather on 3 February 1915. His brother Peter also served on the same ship and died with him.

Civilian Life

Basil was born on 8 December 1893, the son of George Butler, a physician, and Emily Butler of Ravens Court, Spencer Road, Wealdstone. He was one of several children, with older brothers and sisters including Gertrude, Cuthbert, Maurice, Dorothy and Marjorie, and a younger sister, Dora. He was educated at the John Lyon School and, at the age of 17, entered the training ship Conway in Liverpool.
Details of Butler's civilian life are limited in the surviving research. His family lived at Ravens Court in Wealdstone, where his father worked as a physician. After leaving the John Lyon School, he embarked on three years of training aboard the Liverpool training ship Conway. After completing his training, he entered the Royal Naval Reserve as a midshipman.

Military Life

Butler was a member of the Royal Naval Reserve and held the rank of midshipman. When the First World War began, he was called into active service. The Harrow Observer reported that he was drafted to HMS Clan McNaughton when the vessel was commissioned on 22 December 1914. The ship was a merchant vessel that had been requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted into an armed merchant cruiser for wartime patrol duties.



On 3 February 1915, HMS Clan McNaughton disappeared during severe weather in the North Atlantic. No distress signal was received and there were no survivors. Wreckage and empty lifebuoys were subsequently found, and the Admiralty stated that the vessel had sunk with all hands. Butler, aged 21, was among those lost.

As Butler had no known grave, he is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent. The research also records that his brother Peter Butler died with him aboard HMS Clan McNaughton.

Photos

The Graphic 20/3/1915



Midshipman BASIL GEORGE BUTLER, R.N.R.

Butler Photo Original #2



Midshipman BASIL GEORGE BUTLER, R.N.R.

Butler Photo AI #2



Butler Photo Original #1

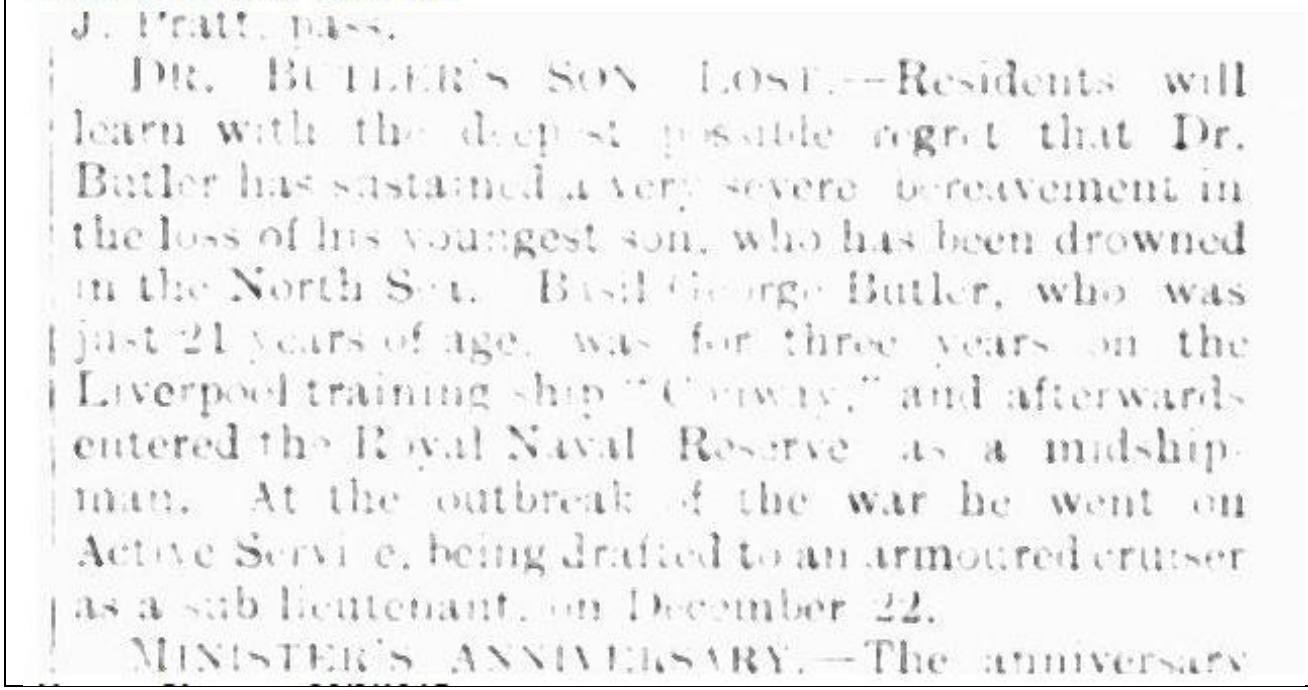


Butler Photo AI #1



Photo of S.S. Clan MacNaughton

Wikipedia entry: **HMS *Clan Macnaughton*** was a British cargo steamship. She was built in Glasgow for Clan Line in 1911. Early in the First World War, the Admiralty requisitioned her and had her converted into an armed merchant cruiser (AMC). She disappeared in the North Atlantic in February 1915, with the loss of all 284 men aboard.

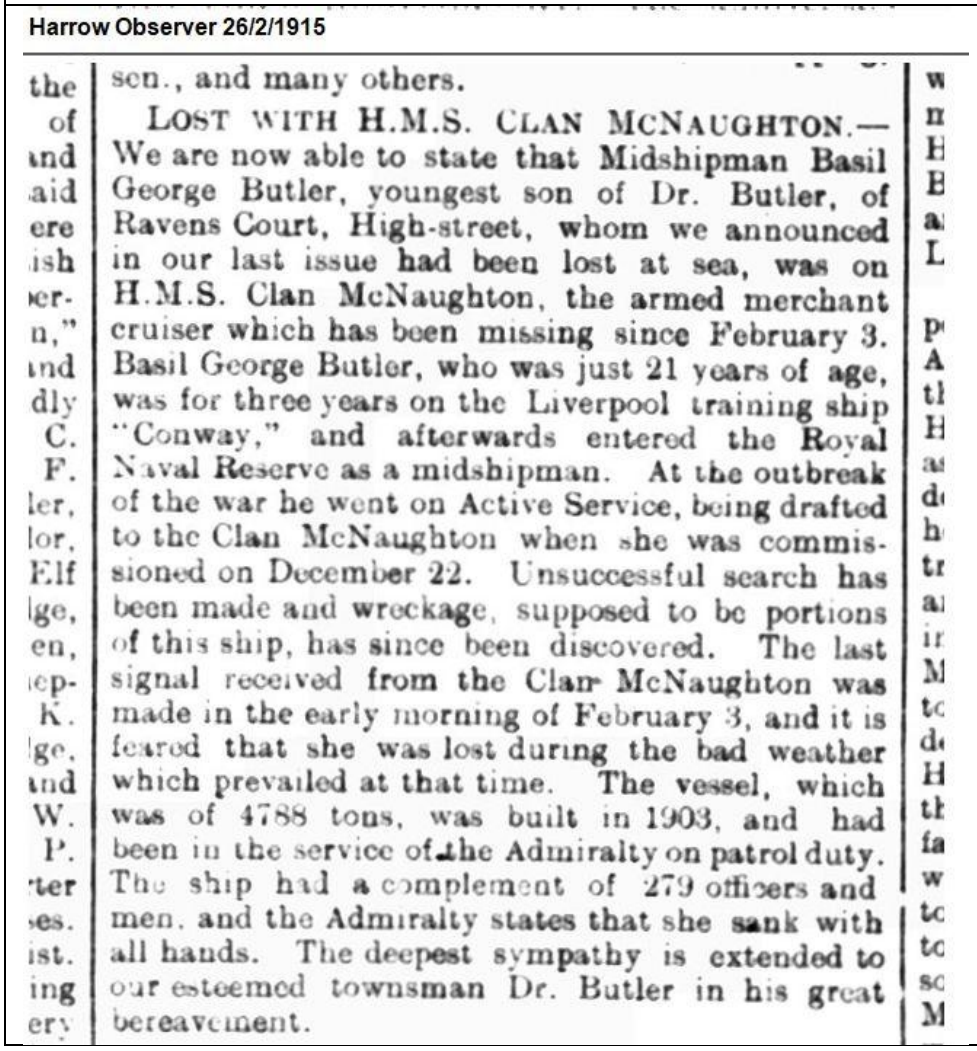
Harrow Observer 19/2/1915	
Harrow Observer 19/2/1915 	**Harrow Observer 19/2/1915** DR. BUTLER'S SON LOST.—Residents will learn with the deepest possible regret that Dr. Butler has sustained a very severe bereavement in the loss of his youngest son, who has been drowned in the North Sea. [Note: Wikipedia states North Atlantic] Basil George Butler, who was just 21 years of age, was for three years on the Liverpool training ship "Conway," and afterward entered the Royal Naval Reserve as a midshipman. At the outbreak of the war he went on Active Service, being drafted to an armoured cruiser as a sub-lieutenant, on December 22.

J. Pratt, pass.

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MINISTER'S ANNIVERSARY.—The anniversary

Harrow Observer 26/2/1915


Harrow Observer 26/2/1915

son., and many others.

LOST WITH H.M.S. CLAN MCNAUGHTON.— We are now able to state that Midshipman Basil George Butler, youngest son of Dr. Butler, of Ravens Court, High-street, whom we announced in our last issue had been lost at sea, was on H.M.S. Clan McNaughton, the armed merchant cruiser which has been missing since February 3. Basil George Butler, who was just 21 years of age, was for three years on the Liverpool training ship "Conway," and afterwards entered the Royal Naval Reserve as a midshipman. At the outbreak of the war he went on Active Service, being drafted to the Clan McNaughton when she was commissioned on December 22. Unsuccessful search has been made and wreckage, supposed to be portions of this ship, has since been discovered. The last signal received from the Clan McNaughton was made in the early morning of February 3, and it is feared that she was lost during the bad weather which prevailed at that time. The vessel, which was of 4788 tons, was built in 1903, and had been in the service of the Admiralty on patrol duty. The ship had a complement of 279 officers and men, and the Admiralty states that she sank with all hands. The deepest sympathy is extended to our esteemed townsman Dr. Butler in his great bereavement.

Harrow Observer 26/2/1915

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The Graphic 20/3/1915



Midshipman BASIL GEORGE BUTLER, R.N.R.
H.M. Submarine, *missing*.

NOTE: he was not on H M Submarine but HMS Clan McNaughton which was a merchant ship outfitted for the war- it was patrolling

From Centenary issue of the Lyonian, researched by students 2014	
 **Butler, B G** Basil George Butler was a midshipman aboard the H.M.S. "Clan McNaughton.", Royal Naval Reserve who died on 3rd February 1915 Age 21 Son of George Harry and Emily Agnes Butler, of "Ravens Court," Wealdstone, Harrow. Remembered with Honour at Chatham Naval Memorial. His brother Peter Butler also died with him. He died aboard HMS Clan McNaughton.	From Centenary issue of the Lyonian, researched by students 2014 Butler, B G Basil George Butler was a midshipman aboard the H.M.S. "Clan McNaughton.", Royal Naval Reserve who died on 3rd February 1915 Age 21 Son of George Harry and Emily Agnes Butler, of "Ravens Court," Wealdstone, Harrow. Remembered with Honour at Chatham Naval Memorial. His brother Peter Butler also died with him. He died aboard HMS Clan McNaughton.