Bodyline cricket series, 1932-33

In the summer of 1932-1933, a determined English touring side arrived to contest the Ashes Series against an in-form Australian team. These were the days of the legendary Sir Donald Bradman who was then at the peak of his career, averaging above 120 runs an innings.

In an attempt to contain his devastating batting, the English introduced 'bodyline' bowling, delivering a style of attack for the Australian batsmen that changed the nature of cricket.

Bodyline was an aggressive fast bowling style targeting the batsman's body rather than the wicket. Batsmen of the day wore little protection by modern standards. With a packed leg-side field waiting for a catch, there was little even the great Bradman could do but move out of the way as fast as possible.

While the bodyline tactic succeeded in curtailing Australia's run rate, it caused much controversy. During the 3rd test at Adelaide, Australian captain Bill Woodfull, was struck down by a ball to the chest and the team wicketkeeper, Bert Oldfield, suffered a fractured skull.

The new tactic even split the English side. The fast bowler George 'Gubby' Allen refused to bowl bodyline despite the urgings of his captain, Douglas Jardine. 'Gubby' Allen described Jardine as 'a perfect swine' in a letter to his parents, Sir Walter and Lady Allen.

Allen's letters contrast sharply with reporting of the matches in England. A series of cables were transmitted to Radio Paris from a journalist in Australia, each day, giving a brief description of the day's play. This text of the cable was then broadcast across the Channel to English audiences. The typed transcripts of these broadcasts show that the cables were often censored to erase critical references to the new bodyline bowling tactic.

Transcript:

'England takes field Friday am 1932-3 English tour of Aust. (Jardine, capt.)' inscribed on reverse in handwritten ink

'England takes field, Friday mor. 1932-3 English tour of Australia (Jardine, capt.)' inscribed on lower edge in handwritten ink probably by a librarian at a later date

a128179r.jpg [1]
England takes the field, 1932 / photographer unknown
About this item:
Sydney Exposures exhibition caption: A cricketing legend, Sydney, [1932] : Cricketer Donald Bradman is still recorded as being the world's greatest batsman. His batting average of 99.9 runs for 80 Test innings is unrivalled.

a128358h.jpg [5]
Don Bradman with his "Don Bradman" brand Sykes bat
Bodyline cricket series, 1932-33
Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Hood, Sam, 1872-1953
Call # Home and Away - 2389
Digital ID: a128358
View collection item detail

Page 5 of 88
13. Members Stand packed for Test, 8 December 1932 in Hood Collection part II : [Sports, Cricket]
Dense crowd at SCG for test cricket

Bodyline cricket series, 1932-33
Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

[2] sites\default\files\styles\thumbnail\https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\27871\hood_07649h.jpg?itok=_odcJmjI", "thumbnailLarge": https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au
[2] sites\default\files\styles\large\https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\27871\hood_07649h.jpg?itok=Gg6oM1K1", "mediaDerivativeUrls": {"thumbnail": https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au
[2] sites\default\files\styles\responsive__quarter_hd\https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\27871\hood_07649h.jpg?itok=wN1YsSHD", "responsive__half_hd": https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au
[2] sites\default\files\styles\responsive__full_hd\https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\27871\hood_07649h.jpg?itok=ZRXgFQMR", "mediaUrl": https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\27871\hood_07649h.jpg", "mediaMime": "image\jpeg", "transcriptUrl": null, "width": 1100, "height": 759} 1930s?

Hood, Sam, 1872-1953
Call # Home and Away - 7649 [12]
Digital ID: hood_07649
70. Wyatt gets out past O'Reilly in slips in Hood Collection part II : [Sports, Cricket]
Bradman and Stan McCabe take the field
Bodyline cables

Due to restrictions on commercial radio in the United Kingdom in the 1930s, radio stations were established on the continent to beam programs directly to the United Kingdom. The main station was situated in Paris. One of its advertisers was the Gillette Safety Razor Co. which sponsored reporting of the controversial 1932-33 cricket series played between Australia and England in Australia. These were the days before live radio and television broadcasts of international sporting events. Each day a reporter cabled very brief descriptions of play to Paris where they were transformed into full scripts which were then broadcast to the United Kingdom.
Transcript:
January 2nd, 1933. 3rd day Broadcasting.
2 mbcg ck to follow 2 1605

fine cool attendance tremendous prestart allen richardson oreilly 30 bowes four extras five 169 add bowling oreilly
24/3 63 17 5 grimmett 16 21 4 one innings soon over allen splendidly caught longon oreilly ovation fingleton
woodfull opened jardine surprised beginning allen instead voce fourth ball snick shortstop fingleton caught jardine
frequent changes field meet peculiarities batmen obrien bowled insignificant ball woodfull bradman full confidence
sounder intense enthusiasm every stroke bowlers field keenest no leg theory lunch 2/65 postlunch great duel
larwood bradman crowd silent partnership 51/55 minutes broken allen catching woodfull leg inswinger sudden
change fortunes mccabe bowled good length 4/81 bowling accurate steady 100 117 minutes bradman 50/93
minutes batsmen gradually mastered attack losing no opportunities taking no risks 50 partnership 41 minutes then
richardson leg hammond invaluable innings 2/4 bradman brilliant nought 150 154 minutes upholding one end best
form fielding splendid wyatt brilliant game swing largely englands favor tea 7/163 with first innings

a295001h.jpg [19]
January 2nd, 1933. 3rd day Broadcasting.

FINE COOL ATTENDANCE TREMENDOUS PRESTART ALLEN RICHARDSON OREILLY 30 BOWES FOUR EXTRAS FIVE 169
ADD BOWLING OREILLY 24/3 63 17 5 GRIMMETT 16 21 4
ONE INNINGS SOON OVER ALLEN SPLENDIDLY CAUGHT LONGON OREILLY OVATION FINGLETON WOODFULL OPENED JARDINE SURPRISED BEGINNING ALLEN INSTEAD VOICE FOURTH BALL SNICK SHORTSTOP, FINGLETON CAUGHT JARDINE FREQUENT CHANGES FIELD MEET PECULIARITIES BATSMEN O'BRIEN BOWLED INSIGNIFICANT BALL WOODFULL BRADMAN FULL CONFIDENCE SOUNDER INTENSE ENTHUSIASM EVERY STROKE BOWLERS FIELD KEENEST NO LEG THEORY LUNCH 2/65 POSTLUNCH GREAT DUEL LARWOOD BRADMAN CROWD SILENT PARTNERSHIP 51/55 MINUTES BROKEN ALLEN CATCHING WOODFULL LEG INSWINGER SUDDEN CHANGE FORTUNES MCCABE BOWLED GOOD LENGTH 4/81 BOWLING ACCURATE STEADY 100 117 MINUTES BRADMAN 50/93 MINUTES BATSMEN GRADUALLY MASTERED ATTACK LOSING NO OPPORTUNITIES TAKING NO RISKS 50 PARTNERSHIP 41 MINUTES THEN RICHARDSON LEG HAMMOND INVALUABLE INNINGS 2/4 BRADMAN BRILLIANT NOUGHT 150 154 MINUTES UPHOLDING ONE END BEST FORM FIELDING SPLENDID WYATT BRILLIANT GAME, SWING LARGELY ENGLANDS FAVOR TEA 7/163 WITH FIRST INNINGS
advantage australia 223 runs on fingleton ames allen one 1/1 woodfull allen larwood 26 3/78 obrien larwood eleven 2/27 bradman 77 mccabe allen nil 4/81 richardson leg hammond 32 5/135 oldfield voice nil 7/156 wall two extras eight 7/163 tea + 1/1 woodfull allen larwood 26 3/78 obrien larwood eleven 2/27 bradman 77 mccabe allen nil 4/81 richardson leg hammond 32 5/135 oldfield voice nil 7/156 wall two extras eight 7/163 tea + keenest interest only accurate bowling accountable collapse various partnerships began well but broken just looked dangerous extraordinary contest bradman 103 wall leg hammond three 8/184 oreilly ames hammond nil 9/186 ironmonger outrun nil extras nine 10/191 + larwood 15 two 50 two allen 12 one 44 two bowes 4 nil 20 nil voice 15 two 47 two hammond 10/5 two 21 3 attendance 68188 L 5790 intense enthusiasm bradman century 7/4 185 minutes sutcliffe 20 leyland two 0/22 idea replacing wyatt with leyland opening batsman was
3rd day broadcasting cont. in Gillette Safety Razor Company - Cables and radio scripts concerning the 'bodyline' cricket series, 1932-1933

ADVANTAGE AUSTRALIA 223 RUNS ON FINGLETON AMES
ALLEN ONE 1/1 WOODFULL ALLEN LARWOOD 26 3/78 O'BRIEN
LARWOOD ELEVEN 2/27 BRADMAN 77 MCCABE ALLEN NIL 4/81
RICHARDSON LEG HAMMOND 32 5/135 OLDFIELD VOCE SIX
6/150 SORIMETT, VOCE NIL 7/156 WALL TWO EXTRAS EIGHT
7/163 TEA *
1/1 WOODFULL ALLEN LARWOOD 26 3/78 O'BRIEN LARWOOD
ELEVEN 2/27 BRADMAN 77 MCCABE ALLEN NIL 4/81
RICHARDSON LEG HAMMOND 32 5/135 OLDFIELD VOCE SIX
6/150 SORIMETT, VOCE NIL 7/156 WALL TWO EXTRAS EIGHT
7/163 TEA *

KEENEST INTEREST ONLY ACCURATE BOWLING ACCOUNTABLE
COLLAPSE VARIOUS PARTNERSHIPS BEGAN WELL BUT BROKEN
JUST LOOKED DANGEROUS EXTRAORDINARY CONTEST BRADMAN
103 WALL LEG HAMMOND THREE 8/184 O'REILLY AMES HAMMOND
NIL 9/186 IRONMONGER OUTRUN NIL EXTRAS NINE 10/191 *
LARWOOD 15 TWO 50 TWO ALLEN 12 ONE 44 TWO
BOWES 4 NIL 20 NIL VOCE 15 TWO 47 TWO HAMMOND 10/5
THO 213 ATTENDANCE 68186 L 5790 INTENSE ENTHUSIASM
BRADMAN CENTURY 7/4 185 MINUTES SUTCLIFFE 20 LEYLAND
THO 0/22 IDEA REPLACING WYATT WITH LEYLAND OPENING

BATSMAH WAS
Transcript:
3rd day Broadcasting (con.)

un settle attack with lefthander sutcliffe much improved saturdays play confident bowling steady fielding keen sutcliffe 33 leyland 10 0/43 wall three nil 15 nil oreilly six two ten nil ironmonger five three seven nil grimmett two nil eleven nil +
3rd day Broadcasting (con.)

UNSETTLE ATTACK WITH LEFTHANDER SUTCLIFFE MUCH IMPROVED

SATURDAYS PLAY CONFIDENT BOWLING STEADY FIELDING KEEN

SUTCLIFFE 33 LEYLAND 10 0/43 WALL THREE NIL 15 NIL

OREILLY SIX TWO TEN NIL IRONMONGER FIVE THREE

SEVEN NIL GRIMMETT TWO NIL ELEVEN NIL
December 30th. 1932 1st day Broadcasting
Melbournecg152/149 30 1610

Fine warm 50000 before toss wicket good larwood voice fastest making ball fly adopted leg theory attack virulent batsmen ultra cautious 42 prelunch record low scoring batsmen frequently hit by ball only one four ingleton stubbornest woodfull just settling when bowled off pads larwood twice burst boots faulty ball replaced after two overs post lunch fingleton caught wyatt noball 27 lunch score 1/42 slowest record obrien outrun hesitating call by fingleton bradman crudest stroke first ball bowes wild pull missed crowd bitterly disappointed england decided advantage 3/67 poor result perfect wicket fingleton 50 141 minutes grand defence riskless wearing down attack fielding admirable nothing given away fingleton mccabe 50/52 minutes scoring rate steadily increasing as attack lost virility partnership firmly established tea fingleton 67 mccabe 24 3/120 tea +

Posted eleven added mccabe easily slip jardine partnership 64/76 minutes voice injured righthand fielding unserious larwood resumed scoring slow hard toiling weather warming hundreds fainted in dense throng contest always interesting bowlers making batsmen
2nd Test ~ Dec. 30, 1932 (1st day broadcasting) in Gillette Safety Razor Company - Cables and radio scripts concerning the 'bodyline' cricket series, 1932-1933
Transcript:
3rd. day Broadcasting (con.)

unsettle attack with lefthander sutcliffe much improved saturdays play confident bowling steady fielding keen
sutcliffe 33 leyland 10 0/43 wall three nil 15 nil oreilly six two ten nil ironmonger five three seven nil grimmett two nil
eleven nil +
1st day broadcasting cont. in Gillette Safety Razor Company - Cables and radio scripts concerning the 'bodyline' cricket series, 1932-1933
Transcript:
January 14th, 1933. 2nd. day Broadcasting.
22 adelaideoval 124 14 1525

scoring steady paynter 50 118 minutes 6/4 verity strong defence straight bat bowling accurate oreilly missed verity 16, second slip ironmonger paynter leghit four oreilly partnership 50/75 minutes verity becoming aggressive squarecut four paynter 2/4 grimmett 300 370 minutes lunch 7/315 paynter 72 verity 35 post lunch runs slowly paynter caught leg pulling rising ball 185 minutes 9/4 partnership 96 133 minutes verity caught square leg innings closed 3/12 cool fine perfect 40000 start paynter fingleton wall 77 8/324 verity richardson wall 45 voce wall eight larwood three extras 15 total 341 wall 34/1 10 72 five oreilly 50 19 82 two ironmonger 20 six 50 one grimmett 28 six 94 two mccabe 14 three 28 nil oreilly four noballs wall three + fingleton woodfull opened bowling larwood allen fingleton bad stroke caught short stop sensation larwood off field struck woodfull over heart second over crowd hooted third over larwood six men onside bradman shortleg allen + mccabe off handle caught shortleg voce three men close in leg bowling leg theory woodfull constant pain rubbing breast
3rd Test ~ Jan. 14, 1933 (2nd day broadcasting)

January 14th, 1933. 2nd day Broadcasting.

22 adelaideoval 124 14 1525 -
scoring steady paynter 50 113 minutes 6/1 verity
strong defence straight bat bowling accurate oreilly
missed verity 16 second slip ironmonger paynter
leghit four oreilly partnership 50/75 minutes verity
becoming aggressive squarecut four paynter 2/4
grimmett 300 370 minutes lunch 7/315 paynter 72
verity 35 post lunch runs
slowly paynter caught leg pulling rising ball 135
minutes 9/4 partnership 96 133 minutes verity
caught square leg innings closed 7/12 cool fine
perfect 40000 start paynter singleton wall 77 6/324
verity richardson wall 45 voce wall eight larwood
three extras 15 total 341 wall 34/1 10 72
five oreilly 50 9 82 two ironmonger 20 six 50 one
grimmett 23 six 94 two mccabe 14 three 20 nil
oreilly four noballs wall three *
singleton woodfull opened bowling larwood allen
singleton bad stroke caught short stop sensation
larwood off field struck woodfull over heart second
over crowd hooted third over larwood six men
onside bradman shortleg allen *
mccabe off handle caught shortleg voce
three men close in leg bowling leg
theory woodfull constant pain rubbing breast

Page 28 of 88
Transcript:
2nd. day Broadcasting (con.)

ord 25 adelaideoval 14 14 1554

ingleton ames allen nil 1/1 woodfull 10 bradman allen larwood eight 2/18 +
woodfull 16 mccabe jardine larwood eight 3/34 ponsford one sundries three 3/36 + woodfull bowled off stump 89
minutes plucky display after painful injury game definitely englands favour ponsford richardson steady opposition +
woodfull allen 22 4/51 ponsford 20 richardson 7 extras three 4/70 + ponsford 38 richardson 19 extras five 4/100 voce
left field 4/45 recurrence leg injury brown fielding 100 up in 142 minutes + ponsford 45 richardson 21 4/109 allen
2/37 hammond 0/15 +

a295007h.jpg [32]
2nd day broadcasting cont. in Gillette Safety Razor Company - Cables and radio scripts concerning the 'bodyline' cricket series, 1932-1933

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<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<td>Ames</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1/1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
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<td>Woodfull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larwood</td>
<td>8/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodfull</td>
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<td>McCabe</td>
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<td>Eight</td>
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<td>2/37 Hammond</td>
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Transcript:
Jan. 16, 1933. 3rd day Broadcasting

ord5 adelaidoval 87 16 1335
fine warmer perfect 25000 start runs slowly larwood allen bowling feeling bitter woodfull declining warners sympathy saturday replying not discuss one side unplaying cricket ruining game time decent men get out game richardson onplayed allen shattered australian hopes ponsford 50 122 minutes bowling frequently changed batsmen cautious scoring slow field well placed but runs steadily partnership ponsford oldfield added 50/56 minutes lunch still together great enthusiasm crowd applauded loudly as players came in ponsford 80 richardson allen 28 5/131 oldfield 26 extras 13 5/185 lunch + post lunch voce hammond bowled nip added ponsford glancing bowled 216 mintues 8/4 invaluable warners officially states woodfull expressed regret today saturdays incident now closed all best friends paynter injured ankle left site badly sprained ponsford voce 85 6/194 oldfield 37 grimmett voce allen 14 7/212 sundries 14 7/212 three oclock + oldfield retired hurt 41 wall hammond six 9/222 oreilly larwood nil 8/222 ironmonger nil total 222 when 41 oldfield struck head ball larwood staggered fell crowd hooting field crowded round after five minutes oldfield supported by woodfull walked off holding towel to head play resumed crowd still hooting paynters injury
Jan. 16, 1933 (3rd day broadcasting) in Gillette Safety Razor Company - Cables and radio scripts concerning the 'bodyline' cricket series, 1932-1933
Transcript:
unserious returned field cheered oreilly swishing clean bowled wall clean bowled innings closed half past three + bowling larwood 25 six 55 three allen 23 four 71 four hammond 12/4 30 one voce 14 five 21 one verity 16 seven 31 nil + correct grimmett ten oldfield not resuming richardson keeping england second at 3/50 warns statement alleged unendorsed woodfull officials uncomment sutcliffe four jardine no 0/4 four ooclock +
Jardine 12 sutcliffe obrien wall seven 1/7 wyatt 29 1/50 obrien sent home ambulance 50/56 minutes obrien substitute magnificent running catch deep leg sutcliffe order changed wyatt next obrien cheered uproariously noble evening press writes heading preventable brutality declares jardine responsible vicious methods introduced incidents 14 wyatt 36 extras five 1/62 scoring slowest riskless 11/25 minutes crowd silent quarter past five + jardine 18 in 106 minutes wyatt 42 in 90 minutes extras seven 1/74 at 5/40 scoring monotonous 22/50 minutes batsmen blocking consistently crowd watching silent bowling frequently changed unavailingly +
unserious returned field cheered oreilly shissing

clean bowled wall clean bowled innings closed half

gast three *

bowling larwood 25 six 55 three allen 23 four 71

four hammond 12/4 four 30 one voce 14 five 21

one verity 16 seven 31 nil *
correct grimmett ten oldfield not resuming richardson
keeping england second at 3/50 warners statement
alleged unendorsed woodfull officials uncomment

sutcliffe four jardine nil 0/4 four oclock *

jardine 12 sutcliffe obrien wall seven 1/7 wyatt 29

1/50 oldfield sent home ambulance 50/56 minutes obrien

substitute magnificent running catch deep leg sutcliffe

order changed wyatt next obrien cheered updoariously noble

evning press writes heading preventable brutality

declares jardine responsible vicious methods introduced

incidents highly sensational *

jardine 14 wyatt 36 extras five 1/62

scoring slowest riskless 11/25 minutes

crowd silent quarter past five *

jardine 19 in 106 minutes wyatt 42 in 90 minutes

extras seven 1/74 at 5/40 scoring monotonous 22/50

minutes batsmen blocking consistently crowd watching

silent bowling frequently changed unavailingy *
Bodyline cricket series, 1932-33
Published on State Library of NSW (https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au)

Bill O'Reilly (1905-1992)

a372013h.jpg [38]
65. William Joseph "Tiger" O'Reilly in Hood Collection part II : [Sports, Cricket], ca. 1925-ca. 1950

View collection item detail [40]a372013

Bill O'Reilly was rated by Don Bradman as the best bowler he had ever faced. His only rival as the greatest leg spinner in the history of the game is Shane Warne. At 6 ft 2 inches with an intimidating manner his style of spin was never ‘gentle’.

Between 1927 and 1946, O'Reilly captured 774 first class wickets at only 16.6 runs per wicket. In 27 test matches against England, South Africa and New Zealand his haul was 144 wickets at 22.59. Even in the controversial 1932-33 Bodyline series he took 27 wickets.

In 1946, at the age of 40, O'Reilly played in his last test against New Zealand. He later worked as a sports journalist until his retirement in 1988.

'Gubby' Allen (1902-1989)

"type": "image","clickUrl": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\collection-items\allen-test-cricketers-1932-1933-picture-issued-bdv-cigarettes","thumbnail": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\thumbnail\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploa ds\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","thumbnailLarge": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\large\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","large": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\large\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","responsive__quarter_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__quarter_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=qAI9G0i","responsive__half_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__half_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=nK9LouD82","responsive__full_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__full_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=Q7dRjXw7H"],"mediaUrl": "https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg","mediaMime": "image/jpeg","transcriptUrl":null,"width":717,"height":1200 }] View collection item detail [42]a293009

"type": "image","clickUrl": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\collection-items\allen-test-cricketers-1932-1933-picture-issued-bdv-cigarettes","thumbnail": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\thumbnail\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploa ds\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","thumbnailLarge": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\large\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","large": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\large\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=zyOlzUSq","responsive__quarter_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__quarter_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=qAI9G0i","responsive__half_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__half_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=nK9LouD82","responsive__full_hd": "https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au [2]\sites\default\files\styles\responsive__full_hd\https:s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg?itok=Q7dRjXw7H"],"mediaUrl": "https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com\prod--slnsw-corporate-site\uploads\2018-06\collection-items\29316\a293009h.jpg","mediaMime": "image/jpeg","transcriptUrl":null,"width":717,"height":1200] View collection item detail [42]a293009
Although a member of the English team, Gubby Allen was born in Sydney. His full name was George Oswald Browning Allen and his nickname was derived from his initials (he was also known as 'Obbie'). At the age of seven Allen was taken to England to be educated.

Allen played his first test for England in 1930 and was one of four fast bowlers on the 1932-33 tour of Australia. Although he consistently refused to bowl bodyline he ended the test series with 21 wickets, second only to Harold Larwood.

Throughout the tour he wrote weekly letters to his parents in which he gave an inside account of the bodyline tour. The letters reveal the deep divisions created in the English team by his stand and by the whole controversy.

Letter from Gubby Allen to his father

Transcript:
ML MSS 5571 (Gubby Allen)

Pier Hotel
Glenelg
South Australia
Jan 12 1932[3]

Plum sends his love.

Darling Dad,
I had the most depressed letters from you and Mum this mail which really rather amused me. It was very sweet of you both to be so upset about what because Warwick Armstrong said wrote some utter rot about my running on the wicket. Actually there was no trouble about it at all. Woodfull just said, "be sure to keep wise of the wicket" upon to which I I so replied "we have got to bat last so I am not likely to make a spot for Grimmett if I can help it". The subject never came up again or in the 2nd Test and none everbowed pitched a ball in the crack during either match. I saw W. Armstrong today and asked what trivel [drivel] what he was going to work up this time: he had a good deal
Dear Dad,

I had the most dearest letters I've ever received this mail which really made me so happy. It was very sweet of you to write so much about your feeling for the cricket. Actually there was no trouble about it at all. Love, just said: "be sure to help with the cricket" so I replied: "we have got to put our best so I am not likely to make a spot for first time if I can help it". The subject never came up again in the 2nd Test and never came up in the Ball in the match during either match. I saw W. Armstrong today and asked what order he was going to make up this time. He had a good deal...
Transcript:

to say but I left him to tell the groundsman. The newspapers & general public in this country, though they have all been exceedingly nice to me, are simply dreadful & far worse than in England. They never leave Douglas Jardine alone for a minute and they publish the most unfounded statements which are certainly libelous but, of course, one can do nothing about it. D.R.J. asks for it with his (offensive) manner and is then hurt when they say nasty things about him. I certainly was depressed for a short time after the 1st Test as I bowled very badly & thought there was no chance of my playing again in a test out here. Now it looks as though I shall play in several as I have been picked to play again tomorrow in the 3rd Test. They have left out Pataudi For Paynter, which I am all against; though Pataudi has not once impressed me the same may be said of Paynter and he has not made nearly as many runs. I have also noted that the English papers talk

a294002h.jpg [46]
to say but I left him to tell the prominence.

The newspapers - general public in this country think
they have all been exceedingly nice done, are simply
beautiful for more time in England. They never
leave England alone for a minute and they
publish the most unfounded statements which are
entirely libelous to sense, one can do
writing about it. 

If asked if it with his
(official) manner and is then hurt when they say
nasty things about him. I certainly was decreased
for a short time after the 1st Test as I looked very
badly thought there was no chance of my playing
again in a test out here, how it looks as
though I shall play in several so I have picked
bats again tomorrow in the 3rd Test.

May have left at Petrukh in Pyntch, while I
am against though Petrukh has not quite impressed
me the same may be said of Pyntch and he
has not made nearly as many runs.

I have not noticed that the (English) papers talk
Transcript:

of me bowling leg theory & bumpers. That is all nonsense. I will now tell you the a story of what occurred on the morning of the 2nd Test to prove that to you I didn't tell you last week as I thought you might worry but, as now the leg theory is dying & the trouble is therefore very unlikely to reoccur [recur]you need have no fears.

D.R.J. came to me and said the following. "I had a talk with the boys, Larwood & Voce, last night and they say it is all quite absurd you not bowling "bouncers" it is only they say it is only because you are keen on your popularity". Well! I burst and said (a good deal about swollen headed gutless uneducated miners and that if it had been a question only of brushed up by day & popularity I could have bowled "bouncers" years ago. I concluded by saying if he didn't like the way I
If we look ing leg th ing a hammers. That's all I know. I will now tell you the story of that break that I saw on the morning of the 2nd Test. I didn't tell you last week as I thought you might worry, as now this leg theory is being - the truth is therefore very unlikely to occur, you need have no fears.

D.H. came home and said the following. "I had a talk with the boys yesterday. Last night and they say it is quite absurd, you not losing "bombers". Indeed they say it is only because you are kept one popular."

I now think that another reason was the weather, but if it had been a question of the

I can't have misled "bombers" years ago.

I remembered by saying if he didn't take the way
brought he still and time I leave one not
but only of this watch but until he came to
his senses; it would give me time
to complete a full statement of our conversation
in the benefit of the local committee.

He said “well! I am afraid I will have to go back
and try”. I told him I had no intention of doing it
but she had walked away by then.

I invited my ordinary way only had I been
wound in the hope of purpose a knock into innings the
least except for the daunt.

We didn’t
put one ball in the knock against the walls at they were
kept to keep the others and	covered with the
result that that chapter wasn’t daunt, had a

nasty scene with D.K. at Randlie and they
were it on speaking terms (quite childish).

I threw my wicket away with innings in the flat trying
to the right thing in my side but I shall not
do that again as one gets no thanks to
Transcript:

doing it. Everyone is fed up with Douglas and there looks like being a fine row in the very near future especially if we lose this test. No one knows of my row with Douglas except Plum who I went & told officially directly afterwards. He besought me to do nothing & I said I would drop it but in the event of the matter coming up again nothing would prevent a nasty scene & the world would know what it was all about it. The paper reporters love me out here specialy because I don't bowl leg theory & would love a story of that sort. It could easily be got to them without any interviews but don't worry I couldn't make a fool of myself. I am sorry Mum has not been too well but that will be all over, I sincerely hope, before
bodyline cricket series, 1932-33

pg.5 in sir walter allen - letters from george 'gubby' allen, 1932-33, 1936-37

"i'm fed up with england and this looks like being a fine war in the very near future especially if we lose this test. home knows it's war with england except when i went to the official dinner afternoons. we besought me to be writing i said i would help it but in the event of the war i can't begin writing much present a nasty scene a war world without towns or cities. the papers reporters love here especially because i can't book anything much love a story of that sort. it could easily be put to the without any interviews but half way i couldn't make a fool of myself. i'm sorry has not been too well but that will be all over, i sincerely hope, before..."
you receive this. Tell her this story about Clara Cuilen it may make her laugh. She indecipherable met a very nice & amusing man, who was on the boat with us coming out, and was flattered when she was told that he wanted to talk to her. When she he said "I have always wanted to have a talk with you to try & find out just why you were so the most unpopular people person on the boat", she was not so pleased. I went down to Sorrento again last week-end, as I got out of going to Bendigo on the ground that my leg was not too sound, and had a 3 lovely days in the sun. The Baillieus are very nice and have been very kind to me.

We had a good journey over here, except when we passed through a dust storm. I am still enjoying every minute of the trip. I am off to stay week end with the Davidson at Victor Harbour a lovely seaside resort 70 miles from here. They are friends of Joyce Verney. I hope I do well in the Test. Best love to Mum. Love Obbie
...
Transcript:

Pier Hotel
Glenelg
South Australia
Jan 18th 1932

Darling Dad,

I shall start this now and finish it when I get a chance. I am at present sitting in the press box with Arthur Mailey watching Ames & Verity bat in our 2nd innings. They have put on 89 so far and this is the second time in the match that Verity has astonished everyone by batting like an opening batsman. It has been a most unpleasant match as you have gathered from the papers. There has been nothing but rows & barracking until I am fed up with everything to do with cricket. As you will see from the enclosed paper, which is only a typical example, that the press & [indecipherable] more especially the public are taking their set-backs very badly. (Douglas Jardine is loathed & between you & me, rightly more than any german who ever fought in any war.) Plum is worried to death and says the side may have to return at once to England, but that is rot. Premiers, Bishops and
Darly Dad,

I shall start this now and finish it when I get a chance. I am at present sitting in the press box with Bertie holding watching Vincy but in our 2nd innings. They have put on 89 so far and this is the second time in the match that Vincy has astonished everyone by batting like an opening batsman. It has been a most unpleasant match so you will have featured in the papers. There have been sitting but rows of barrackry until I just up with nothing to do with cricket. As you will see from the enclosed paper, which is only a typical example, that with the news of the war especially the public are taking their lot. Yours truly for the public will be more than any person who can forgive in any war.

Please write to death and say the nice men here to return. Of course, it is an unofficial letter. Yours faithfully.
Transcript:

the Board of Control are all up in the air. (That famous band of muddlers, i.e. B of Control, have stated that they are preparing a protest against the leg theory which they propose to take to the MCC. If they do, I forecast the following. I think M.C.C. is sure to ask Jardine to abandon it. If they do he says he will resign: at least 6 members of the team will cease to try, rows will follow, and several will be sent home.) I have not changed my mind in any way about the leg theory & all the side is aware of the fact. I just hate it & will not do it. All the papers, like the one enclosed, have been very nice to me as have the crowds. You will be amused by the cartoon myself out LBW indecipherable The broadcasting men asked me on Monday morning if I had seen in the paper that you had been listening in to my innings & I said "oh, dear and I was out LBW. He says I am always out that way". When I was out again in the 2nd innings this cartoon appeared so I presume he overheard my remark or was told about it. I can't imagine who gave away all the state secrets for the Article enclosed headed "English Team Not happy" as all the facts are accurate. There is no getting away from it Jardine is
the band that ruled me all of in the air. (That seems
broad.) I understand, i.e. of cricket, I think I am
preparing a protest against the big theory which they propose
to make to the hole. If they do, I present the following:
I think it is sure to make him to abandon it. If they
do so, I say he will resign: at least 6 members of the team
will come to stay, and will follow, and several of us will
return home.)
I have not changed my mind in any way
about the big theory. I just hate it and will not do it.*
All the papers like the one enclosed, have been very nice
since we have the crowds. You will be amused
by the canton of myself at the same. The bachelors
were asked me one hour or morning if I had seen in
the paper that you had been listening in the innings
I said, "he, yes and I was not there," he says "I am always
out that way." When I was not again in the 23 innings
this canton appeared as I presume he overheard my
remark or was told about it. I don't imagine who
saw away all the state secrets in the article indeed
head "English Made Not happy" as all the facts are
accurate. There is no getting away from it, George is
Transcript:

A perfect swine and I can think of no word fit for him to see which describes him well enough. Plum simply hates the sight of him and so does everyone else. I have never had a scene with him in public but I have had one or two on the quiet of which not a soul knows: in fact we are thought to be good friends. Larwood & I bowled better on the Saturday night, when everyone said the wicket was dead easy and forecasted a huge score, than at any time on the tour. I had Ponsford missed at slip by Hammond & nearly bowled him twice and Richardson was never at home to me. For the third innings running, though I have bowled about the best of the side, I was not given a shot at the tail-enders: that Douglas gives them to the pros to keep their support. So much for the cricket, let’s talk about something nice for a change. I went to a party last night and in order to keep the subject conversation off that subject we had a 1/- fine for anyone who brought it up. I now hear the B of Control’s protest has gone so
a perfect scene and I am think of no word but to bring to see which describes him well enough. Plue simply eastern the right. I him and so does everyone else. Have some had a scene with him in public but do have had no on two on the quiet of which not a word knows: in fact we are taught to feel friends. Learned a I bought with on the Saturday night when everyone said the cricket was dead easy and presented a huge scene, then at any time on the tour. I had Poonah missed at slip by found a nearly bowled him twice and Richardson was here at home to me. For the third innings running, thought I have looked at the rest of the side, I was not given a chance at the tail-enders. Still, things give them to the yours to keep their support. So much for the cricket, let's talk about something nice for a change. I went to a party last night and in nice to keep the subject conversation for that subject we had all five for one who brought it up. Show have the best Cotula's protest has since so
Transcript:
I will tell you a bit about that when I hear the details. I am going to stay at Langi Willi with Mrs Blackwood & Jean Russell for the Ballarat match. Freddie Brown is coming too so we may go tomorrow night instead of with all the team on Friday. I feel I want to get away for a bit and also it would be a great opportunity to go over a big station. I went down to a place called Victor Harbour on Saturday night after the cricket & stayed with a friend of Joyce indecipherableVerney's (nee V-Smith) for the week-end and had great fun. It was very cold and I enjoyed it but Sorrento & Moombara are much nicer. I don't think there is any more news. Plum & I have some people to dinner tonight. Later I need not give you the wording of the B of Control's protest as you will have seen it in every paper. I think they have been very stupid to send it especially without trying having tried to come to some arrangement with Plum, Jardine, Palairet & Woodfull here first. The side, I understand, are considering sending a cable to the M.C.C. committee but if there is anything very definite or out of order Wyatt & I are going to refuse to sign it. (They are such of collection of half-wits that I

a294010h.jpg [62]
I shall tell you a bit about that when I hear the details. I am going to stay at Langi Kelli with Lord Blackwood and Sir J. Russell in the ball match, and Freddie Brown is coming to see me. I may go tomorrow night instead with all the team on Friday. I feel I want to get away a bit and also it would be a great opportunity to see one big station.

I went down to a place called Victor Harbour on Saturday night after the cricket started with a friend of Joyce's (the Whitie) in the week-end and had great fun. It was very cold and I enjoyed it very much. The moon and moonbeams are much nicer. I don't think there is any more news. Please I have some people to dinner tonight.

I shall let you know the result of the B.S. comment's position as you will have seen it in the paper. I think they have been very stupid to make it especially important to come to some arrangement with Ross. I have been full as usual.

The side, I understand, are considering sending a cable to the L.A. committee but if there is anything very definite or not I have heard a I am going to refuse to sign it. They are quite a collection of folk. I hope it is not true.
Transcript:
I doubt if they can word a sensible cable and, if they do, I am sure the M.C.C. will tear it up as Plum is not going to sign it.)

Later

We polished them off fairly quickly today and "things" meaning troubles, seem a little quieter. The cable from the team to M.C.C. was a very reasonable one so that has passed off all right. What will happen remains to be seen. I came out with 8 for 121 in the match which will give some of the gentlemen (?) of the English press something to think over. I expect they get their laugh later. I shall be in Sydney next Wednesday morning which I am looking forward to. I think I have arranged with Douglas Jardine to play in Ballarat & miss the Sydney match so as not to have too hard a time before the next test. I forgot to say Woodfull was not at all badly hurt by his blow on the chest but

a294011h.jpg [64]
I doubt if they can undo a sensible case and, if they do, I saw sure the horse will rise it up as plane is not

(got to sign it.)

Late

be finished them off fairly quickly today and "things",

meaning troubles, seem a little quiet. The call for

the time was a very reasonable one so that has passed

off all right. What will happen remains to be seen,

I came out with 8 for 121 in the match which will give

some in the quizzing(?) of the English press something to

think over. I expect they will put their balance late

I shall be in Sydney next Wednesday evening which I am

looking forward to. I think I have arranged with

Duffy's Turf to play in allheat and wish the Sydney

match so as not to have two heavy a two weeks

for next test. I fought today hardfowl was not at all badly hurt by his blow in the chest but
Cigarette cards

Cigarette cards were highly collectable. These cards were issued with packets of B.V.D. cigarettes. They include many of the principal players in both the Australian and English teams during the 1932-33 series when England, under the captaincy of Douglas Jardine, developed the intimidating tactics known as 'bodyline' to contain the Australian batsmen, particularly Don Bradman.

Bodyline Cricket Cards

Call # SAFE 1/132

Digital ID: a293001

View collection item detail [68]

a293002h.jpg [69]
TEST CRICKETERS
1932-1933

No 17

D. G. BRADMAN
New South Wales

Aged 24. World’s wonder batsman, holder of world’s test record score, 334, made at Leeds, 1930; and world’s highest individual score, 452 not out. Right-hand batsman, googly bowler, and brilliant fieldsman.

Issued with
B. D. V.
CIGARETTES

Godfrey Phillips (Aust.) Pty Ltd.
Melbourne

Digital ID: a293002

View collection item detail [70]

a293003h.jpg [71]


Digital ID: a293003

View collection item detail [72]

a293004h.jpg [73]
D. R. JARDINE

Surrey

Aged 32. Captain of 1932 English team. Jardine is one of the straightest bats in England. He is one of the soundest backbones that England’s batting has ever had.

Issued with

B. D. V.

CIGARETTES

GODFREY PHILLIPS (AUST.) PTY LTD.
MELBOURNE


Digital ID: a293004

View collection item detail [74]

a293005h.jpg [75]

Call # SAFE 1/132

Digital ID: a293006

View collection item detail [76]

a293006h.jpg [77]
H. LARWOOD  
Nottinghamshire

Aged 27. England’s fast bowler. Larwood had a most successful Australian tour in 1928-29. He bowls on the wicket, and is very accurate, but does not possess sufficient stamina to bowl for long periods.

Issued with BDV CIGARETTES

Godfrey Phillips (Aust.) Pty Ltd.  
Melbourne

Digital ID: a293006

View collection item detail [78]
W. VOCE

Digital ID: a293007

View collection item detail [80]

a293008h.jpg [81]
TEST CRICKETERS 1932-1933

No 23

W. VOCE

Nottinghamshire

Aged 23. He is a fast left-hand in-swing, and bowls round the wicket. Voce is probably the most spectacular bowler in the English team.

Issued with B.D.V. Cigarettes

Godfrey Phillips (Aust.) Pty Ltd.
Melbourne
TEST CRICKETERS
1932-1933

No. 6

G. O. ALLEN
Middlesex

Aged 30. Fast-medium right-hand bowler. Allen is capable of sending down a very fast yorker. He is also a very capable batsman, and is a fine field.

Issued with
B.D.V.
CIGARETTES

GODFREY PHILLIPS (AUS.) PTY LTD.
MELBOURNE

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