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.

a293009h.jpg [1]

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 [4]
England takes the field, 1932 / photographer unknown 1932

Call # SPG / 60 [5]
Digital ID: a128179
View collection item detail [6]

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.
Don Bradman with his "Don Bradman" brand Sykes bat [1932]
Hood, Sam, 1872-1953
Call # Home and Away - 2389 [8]
13. Members Stand packed for Test, 8 December 1932 in Hood Collection part II : [Sports, Cricket] ca. 1925-ca. 1950
Hood, Sam, 1872-1953
Call # PXE 789 (v.42) [11]
Digital ID: a372003
View collection item detail [12]

hood_07649h.jpg [13]
Dense crowd at SCG for test cricket 1930s?

Hood, Sam, 1872-1953

[Call # Home and Away - 7649](#) [14]

[Digital ID: hood_07649](#) [15]

[View collection item detail](#) [15]
70. Wyatt gets out past O'Reilly in slips in Hood Collection part II : [Sports, Cricket] ca. 1925-ca. 1950
Hood, Sam, 1872-1953
Call # PXE 789 (v.42) [11]
Digital ID: a372018
View collection item detail [17]

hood_02355h.jpg [18]
Bradman and Stan McCabe take the field 18/10/1932
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 oreill 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 oreill 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 [21]
January 2nd, 1933. 3rd. day Broadcasting.

MBC6 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 VOICE FOURTH BALL.

SNICK SHORTSTOP, FINGLETON CAUGHT JARDINE FREQUENT.

CHANGES FIELD MEET PECCULARITIES BATS MEN 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 BATS MEN GRADUALLY.

MASTERED ATTACK LOSING NO OPPORTUNITIES TAKING NO.

RISKS 50 PARTNERSHIP 41 MINUTES THEN RICHARDSON LEG.

HAMPSON 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.
Transcript:
3rd. day Broadcasting (con.)

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 voce six 6/150 grimmett voce 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 voce six 6/150 grimmett 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 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 voce 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

a295002h.jpg [24]
3rd day broadcasting (con.)

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 4/91
RICHARDSON LEG HAMMOND 32 5/135 OLDFIELD VOCE SIX
6/150 SRIMMETT VOCE 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 4/91
RICHARDSON LEG HAMMOND 32 5/135 OLDFIELD VOCE SIX
6/150 SRIMMETT 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 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 VOCE 15 TWO 47 TWO HAMMOND 10/5
TWO 21 3 ATTENDANCE 68188 L 5790 INTENSE ENTHUSIAISM

BRADMAN CENTURY 7/4 185 MINUTES SUTCLIFFE 20 LEYLAND
TWO 0/22 IDEA REPLACING WYATT WITH LEYLAND OPENING
BATSMAN WAS
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 +
3rd day Broadcasting (cont.)

UNSETTLE ATTACK WITH LEFT-HANDER 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
Transcript:
December 30th, 1932 1st day Broadcasting
Melbournecg152/149 30 1610

Fine warm 50000 before toss wicket good larwood voce 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 ingleton caught wyatt noball 27 lunch score 1/42 slowest record obrien outrun hesitating call by ingleton bradman crudest stroke first ball bowes wild pull missed crowd bitterly disappointed england decided advantage 3/67 poor result perfect wicket ingleton 50 141 minutes grand defence riskless wearing down attack fielding admirable nothing given away ingleton mccabe 50/52 minutes scoring rate steadily increasing as attack lost virility partnership firmly established tea ingleton 67 mccabe 24 3/120 ingleton 67 woodfull allen ten 1/29 obrien outrun ten 2/67 bradman bowes nil 3/67 mccabe 24 extras nine 3/120 tea +

Ln ps ord 22 Melbournecg 81/79 30 1704

Posted eleven added mccabe easily slip jardine partnership 64/76 minutes voce 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

Gillette Safety Razor Company

Call # MLMSS 6187 / Box 1X [22]
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 1932-1933
Gillette Safety Razor Company
Call # MLMSS 6187 / Box 1X [22]
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
January 14th, 1933, 2nd day broadcasting.

22 Adelaide Oval 124 14 1525 -
scoring steadily, Payne 50, 113 minutes, 6/4, Verity
strong defence, straight bat, bowling accurate,
missed, Verity 16, second slip, Ironmonger Payne.
Lecith, four, O'Reilly, partnership 50, 75 minutes, Verity
becomes aggressive, square cut, four, Payne 2/4.
Grimmett 300, 370 minutes, lunch 7/515, Payne 72.
Verity 35, post lunch runs
slowly, Payne caught leg, pulling rising ball, 135
minutes, 9/4, partnership, 96, 133 minutes, Verity
caught, square leg, innings closed, 5/12, cool, fine,
perfect, 40,000 start, Payne, Singleton, Wall 77, 9/324.
Verity, Richardson, Wall 45, Voss, Wall, eight, Larwood.
three extras, 15, total, 341, Wall 34, 1, 11, 72.
five, O'Reilly, 59, 7, two, Ironmonger, 20, six, 50, one.
Grimmett 23, six, 94, two, McCabe, 14, three, 20, nil.
O'Reilly, 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, hoisted, third, over, Larwood, six men.
onside, Bradman, short leg, Allen *
McCabe, off, handle, caught short leg, Voss.
three men close in, leg, bowling, leg.
theory, Woodfull, constant, pain, rubbing, breast.
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 five 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 +
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Singleton</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>1/1 Woodfull 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Woodfull 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>2/18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larwood</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodfull</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCabe</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jardine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larwood</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ponsford</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>three 3/36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson</td>
<td>Steady</td>
<td>opposition</td>
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<td>Woodfull</td>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>22 4/51</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Extras 5 4/70</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Voce</td>
<td>Left</td>
<td>Field 4/45</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ponsford</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Richardon 21 4/109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen</td>
<td>2/37</td>
<td>Hammond 0/15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transcript:
Jan. 16, 1933. 3rd day Broadcasting

ord5 adelaideoval 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 inutes 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
minutures 8/4 invaluable warner officially states woodfull expressed regret today saturdays incident now closed all
best friends paynter injured ankle left field 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  1932-1933
Gillette Safety Razor Company
Call # MLMSS 6187 / Box 1X [22]
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 warners statement
alleged unendorsed woodfull officials uncomment sutcliffe four jardine nil 0/4 four o'clock +
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 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 oreily 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 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 O'BRIEN WALL SEVEN 1/7 WYATT 29
1/50 OLDFIELD SENT HOME AMBULANCE 50/56 MINUTES O'BRIEN
SUBSTITUTE MAGNIFICENT RUNNING CATCH DEEP LEG SUTCLIFFE
ORDER CHANGED WYATT NEXT, O'BRIEN CHEERED UNDOARISLEY NOBLE
EVENING PRESS WRITES HEADING PREVENTABLE BRUTALITY
DECLARES JARDINE RESPONSIBLE VIOUS 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 unavailingly *
Bill O'Reilly (1905-1992)

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)

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 wide of the wicket" upon to which 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 noone everbowedled 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

a294001h.jpg [42]
Darling Dad,

I had the most delicious letter from you and in this mail which really made me smile. It was very sweet of you to take so much interest in the game and write such a long and interesting letter about my running on the wicket. Actually there was no trouble about it at all. The fielders just said, “be sure to keep wide of the wicket” and I replied “we have to bat best so I am not likely to make a shot for four unless I can hit it”. The subject never came up again in the 2nd Test and became even pitched a ball in the match during either innings.

I saw L. Armstrong today and asked what he thought I was going to do this time; he had a good laugh.

Pier Hotel
St. Vincent
Glenelg
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Jan 12 1932
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 [45]
to say but I should like to tell the person.

The newspapers sent public in this country but
they never all were exceedingly nice time, are simply

I never have played cricket alone for a minute and they
publish the most unfounded statements which are

I certainly was New Zealand
for a short time after the 4th test as I looked very

I was not unhappy there was no chance of my playing
again in a test out here how it looks as

I shall play in several as I have picked

tomorrow in the 3rd test.

May have left at Petpitch for Paynter, while I am

all against Petpitch has not once impressed me the same way it said of Paynter and he

I have also 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 backing leg theory a bampers. That is all nonsense. I will now tell you the story of that.

I received on the morning of the 2nd not I didn't tell you last week so I thought you might worry but, as you the leg theory is trying to the trouble is therefore very unlikely to occur, you need have no fears.

D. K. came home and said the following. "I had a talk with the boys. Second night and they say it is quite absurd you not backing "bumpers" aren't they say it is only because you are keen on your popularity." He! I burst and said "(

[Handwritten text]
He said "Well! I see you will have to be barmy
and try". I told him I had no intention of doing it
but he had walked away by then. The matter was
left. I invited my ordinary way only that I have
worn on the arm on purpose to break into innings
best except for the
Arm. He didn't
put one ball in
against the wicket, they were
kept to keep the others
and confused with the
result that that chrono
since that D.R. at Sandigo and they
were at a small time. (Quite childish)
I threw my wicket away with
innings in the flat trying
to the right thing in my mind, but I shall not
do that again as one gets no thanks for
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
driv. it. Everyone is fed up with Dymphas and 

think looks like being a fine one in the very 

near future especially if we lose this test. 

Home finds a fine one with Dymphs except Plm where I went with officially before, afterwards. 

He suggested we try settling it, I said I would help 

it, but in the event of the matter going up for a 

meeting would present

that at the meeting a very scene a the world wide at 

least what it. The paper reporters have 

been out, especially because I didn’t back up the 

much love a story. If that sort. It could 

certainly be put to them. Without any interviews but last 

night I couldn’t make a jot from myself. 

I’m sorry, but never been too well but 

that will be all over. I sincerely hope, before
Transcript:
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 Baillies 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
Dear sir,

Tell her this story about Clara Miller. It may make her laugh.

She was a very nice married man who was on the boat with us coming out, and flattered when she was told that he wanted to talk to her.

When he said, "I have always wanted to have a talk with you to try and find out just why you were so unfriendly to a person on the boat," she was not so pleased.

I went home to Edmonton again last week and was just out of the hospital that my leg was not too sound, and had a lonely day in the town. The bulbous are very nice, and I have been very kind to me.

I think the journey was not except when it passed through a dust storm.

I am still enjoying every minute of the trip. I am able to stay out and with the sunshine and writers, a lovely summer week in the sun. I am sure of it, and I hope it is not the last time I see here.

Yours sincerely,

George 'Gubby' Allen
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

a294007h.jpg [55]
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 to 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 crowd that until now have been the air. (That seems

hand. The letter, in fact, has been directed at the chairman of the

preparing a protest against the big theory which they believe
to be the one. If they do, I fear it will be in vain. If they

S. He is sure to carry it to its conclusion. If they

so he says he will resign. At least by members of the team

will come to try, and the will follow, and several will be

sent home.

I have not changed my mind in any way

about the big theory. I just hate it and I will not do it.

All the papers, like the one under consideration, have been very nice

and do have the crowd. You will be amused

by the cartoon of myself that has been

The broadsheet

have asked me on his birthday morning if I had seen in

the paper that you had been listening in to my session

I said "Oh, yes, and I was out there. He says I am always

out that way. When I was out again in the 25 innings

the cartoon appeared. So I presume he overheard my

remark on it is told about it. I can't imagine who

flew away all the state secrets. In the article indeed

handed “English Times Not happy” as all the facts are

accurate. There is no getting away from it. It is never
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 wine and I am think if no wind hit he barm to see which describes him well enough. I really hate the sight of him and so does everyone else. I have never had a scene here in public but I have had a or two or two quiet of which not a soul knows. in fact we are taught to give friends. Learned a I visited Hotel one the Saturday night there everyone said the cricket was dead easy and presented a huge scene, than at any time on the tour. I had Powell missed at slip by and a really looked him twice and Richardson was more it was to me. For the third inning running, though I have looked at the best of the side, I was not given a shot at the tail-enders. Stokes 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 pretty last night and in order to keep the subject conversation I that subject we had all fire for anyone who bought it up. Now have the 1/3 Contingent present has done so.
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 Verney'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...
I will tell you a bit about what I am
I was just to stay at Langi Hill with
my blackbird and see Russell in the cricket match.
Freddie Brown is coming in our way so tomorrow
night instead of with all the team on Friday. I had
intended to go away for a bit and also it would be
a great opportunity to go on a big station.
I went down to a place called Vicar Henry's on
Saturday night after the cricket. Stayed with a friend
of yours. I had a (all right) in the wet-end and had
enjoyed it. It was very cold and I enjoyed it but
enough to moor your are much worse.
I don't think there is any more news. There is
some people to dinner tonight.

I heard it is true the end of the Bill's century's point
so you will have seen it in the papers. I think they
have been very stupid to end it especially without
come to some arrangement with fish. Fish is probably
the fish. I understand, and considering sending
a cable to the house committee but if there is anything
definite or out of those may not be very just to refuse to
sign it. (They are such a collection in itself, and that I

pg.4 in Sir Walter Allen - letters from George 'Gubby' Allen, 1932-33, 1936-37 1932-33, 1936-37
Allen, Walter, Sir
Call # MLMSS 5571 [43]
Digital ID: a294010
View collection item detail [62]
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
I doubt if they can use a sensible code and, if they do, I am sure the base will turn it up as plain as not (may to sign it.)

Late

be finished there off fairly quickly today and "things, meaning troubles, seem a little quiet. The code from the team was a very remarkable one so that has passed off all right but what will happen remains to be seen. I came out with 8 for 121 in the match which will give some in the gentlemen (?) of the English press something to talk me. I expect they will fit their language later.

I shall be in Sydney next Wednesday morning which I am looking forward to. I think I have arranged with Douglas Fairlie to play in Adelaide to miss the Sydney match so as not to have too hard a time before the next test. I forgot today hurricane was not at all badly hurt by his blow on 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

a293001h.jpg [65]
Call # SAFE 1/132 [66]
Digital ID: a293001
View collection item detail [67]
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
TEST CRICKETERS
1932-1933

No 18

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
Call # SAFE 1/132 [66]
Digital ID: a293005
View collection item detail [75]

a293006h.jpg [76]
TEST CRICKETERS
1932-1933
No. 8
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 [77]
Call # SAFE 1/132 [66]
Digital ID: a293007
View collection item detail [79]

a293008h.jpg [80]
Aged 23, he is a fast left-hand in-swing, and Voce is probably the most spectacular bowler in the English team.
Call # SAFE 1/132... [66]
Digital ID: a293008
View collection item detail [81]

a293009h.jpg [1]
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 (AUST.) PTY LTD.
MELBOURNE

Call # SAFE 1/132...[83]

Digital ID: a293010

View collection item detail [84]

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