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RUGBY LEAGUE

# The Australians' Tour

1948



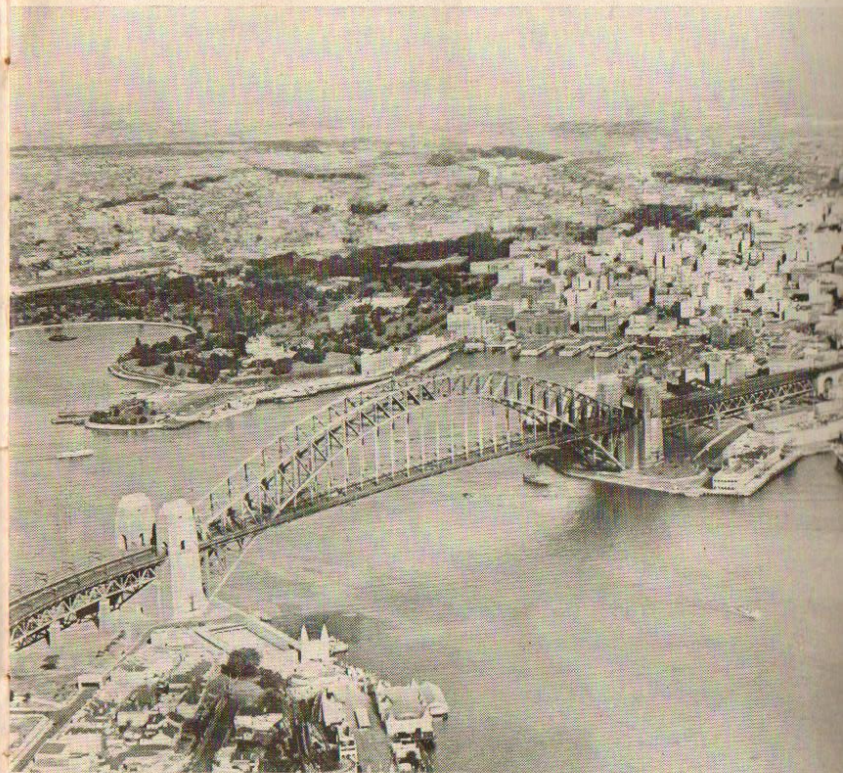
OFFICIAL SOUVENIR



ISSUED BY THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



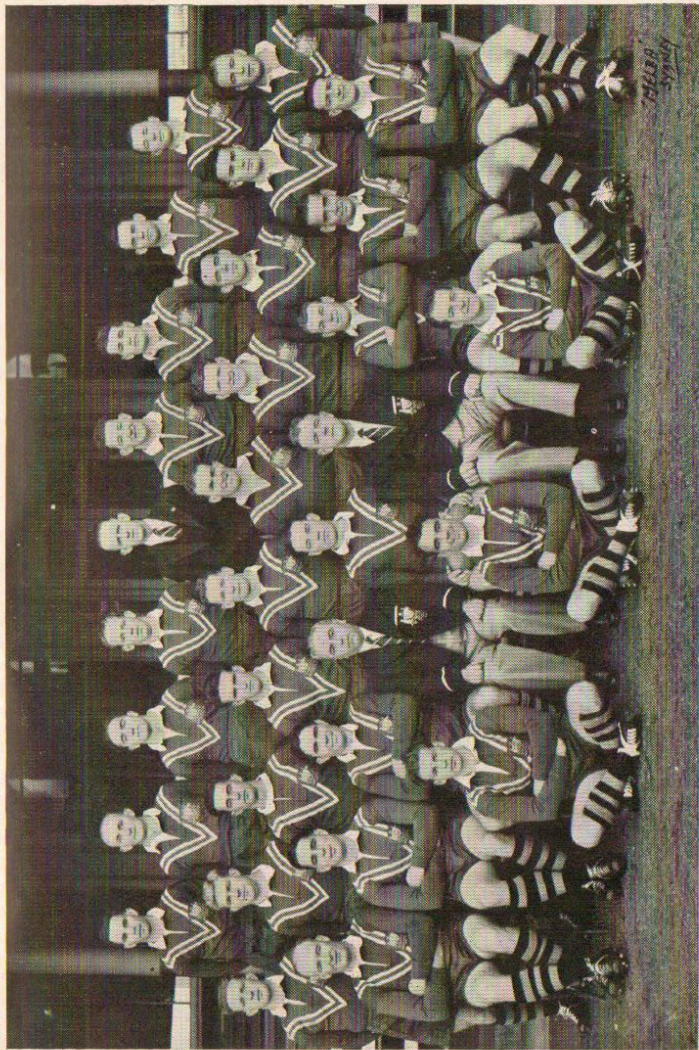
# *An Empire Link*



## *Sydney Harbour Bridge*

Opened for traffic in 1932. The largest arch bridge in the world. Its total length, with rail and road approaches, is 2½ miles. The main bridge consists of a steel arch span of 1,650 feet. The highest point is 440 feet above sea-level, and the clearance for shipping under the deck of the bridge is 170 feet at high water. The deck is 160 feet wide and it carries a roadway, railway and tram tracks, and footways.





*Fourth Row :* C. B. Hopkins, F. E. Johnson, N. G. Mulligan, L. G. Cowie, E. Furness (*Trainer*), D. A. McRitchie, P. McMahon, W. H. Thompson, W. P. O'Connell,  
*Third Row :* N. J. Hawke, F. L. de Belin, L. R. Pegge, R. Dimond, J. Horrigan, R. J. Rayner, J. F. Holland, N. R. Hand, K. B. Schubert, A. Gibbs,  
*Second row :* E. Brounan, D. Hall, I. W. Tyquin, E. J. Simmonds, C. M. Maxwell, W. G. Buckley, V. J. Bulgin, H. A. Benton, J. N. Graves,  
*(Captain)* *(Manager)*  
*Front row :* R. J. Lulham, C. B. Churchill, G. K. Froome.

## Welcome & Foreword

by

**The Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF DERBY**

(PRESIDENT OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

AS President of the Rugby Football League I should like to take this opportunity of extending a warm welcome to the members of the Australian Rugby League Touring Team on the occasion of their visit to this country.

I hope they will have a very happy and pleasant time in England and a most successful tour. I am sure our own teams are looking forward with great eagerness to meeting them on the field.

I trust I shall have an opportunity of witnessing one or more of the matches which they will be playing in this country.

*Derby*



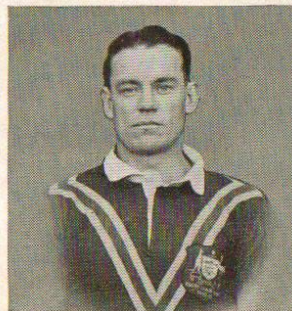
## Details of the Players

Name	State	Position	Tour No.	Age	Weight St. lbs.	Height Ft. ins.
BENTON, H. A.	Q'LD.	Hooker	27	29	12 10	5 10
BROSNAN, E.	Q'LD.	Forward	25	30	15 0	5 11
BULGIN, V. J.	N.S.W.	Full-back	2	20	11 10	5 9½
CHURCHILL, C. B.	N.S.W.	Full-back	1	21	11 10	5 7
COWIE, L. G.	N.S.W.	Forward	17	23	12 10	5 10
DE BELIN, F. L.	N.S.W.	Forward	18	27	14 7	5 11
DIMOND, R.	N.S.W.	Winger	5	18	12 0	5 11
FROOME, G. K.	N.S.W.	Half-back	13	27	10 8	5 5½
GIBBS, A.	N.S.W.	Forward	24	27	14 6	5 11
GRAVES, J. N.	N.S.W.	Winger	4	22	12 4	5 11
HALL, D.	Q'LD.	Forward	19	23	14 7	5 10½
HAND, N. R.	N.S.W.	Forward	23	25	14 4	6 0
HAWKE, N. J.	N.S.W.	Five-eighth	12	22	11 5	5 8
HOLLAND, J. F.	N.S.W.	Forward	22	25	14 10	6 1½
HOPKINS, C. B.	N.S.W.	Half-back	15	21	11 3	5 8
HORRIGAN, J.	Q'LD.	Center three-quarter	10	24	13 1	6 0
JOHNSON, F. E.	N.S.W.	Hooker	28	26	13 10	5 10
LULHAM, R. J.	N.S.W.	Winger	6	21	11 9	5 6½
MAXWELL, C. M.	N.S.W.	Centre three-quarter	9	30	13 9	5 11½
MULLIGAN, N. G.	N.S.W.	Forward	21	22	13 10	5 9½
McMAHON, P.	Q'LD.	Winger	3	21	12 7	5 9
McRITCHIE, D. A.	N.S.W.	Centre three-quarter	7	24	13 6	5 10
O'CONNELL, W. P.	N.S.W.	Five-eighth	11	25	11 2	5 3½
PEGG, L. R.	Q'LD.	Centre three-quarter	8	26	12 7	6 0
RAYNER, R. J.	N.S.W.	Forward	20	27	14 7	6 2
SCHUBERT, K. B.	N.S.W.	Hooker	26	21	14 7	5 10½
THOMPSON, W. H.	Q'LD.	Half-back	14	25	11 0	5 6
TYQUIN, I. W.	Q'LD.	Forward	16	27	13 10	6 0½

Average :      Age      Weight      Height  
24 yrs. 3 mths.    12 st. 13½ lbs.    5 ft. 10 ins.

## Pen Pictures of the "Kangaroos"

### AUSTRALIA'S CAPTAIN



COLIN M. MAXWELL

Centre-threequarter; 30 years; 5 ft. 11½ in.; 13 st. 9 lb.; Commenced career at Bowraville North Coast (N.S.W.) in 1936. Played in country districts, then transferred to St. George (Sydney) Club in 1941. Served with R.A.A.F. from 1942 to 1945, playing in service matches in that period. 1947 played in Newcastle (N.S.W.), participating in all representative fixtures. 1948 transferred to Western Suburbs (Sydney) Club, representing Combined Sydney, New South Wales, and reserve for Australia v. "Kiwis" in the first Test.

### A Message from the Captain

I would like to say how thrilled and honoured I am at the prospect of Captaining the 1948-49 "Kangaroos" abroad. The team compares favourably with combinations on previous tours and the boys are looking forward to testing the skill of English teams and providing spectators with the open type of game for which the Australian footballers are noted.

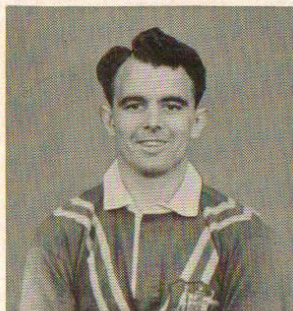
Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the Ashes were in our possession and we have very high hopes of returning a victorious combination.

As this is the first team to visit England for eleven years I can assure you we are all most anxious to meet the English people and will be the bearers of good wishes from all our countrymen.

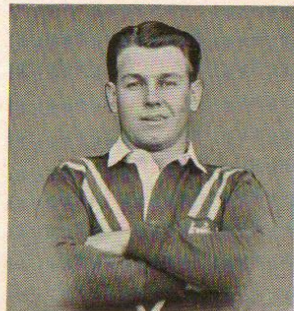
*C. M. Maxwell.*



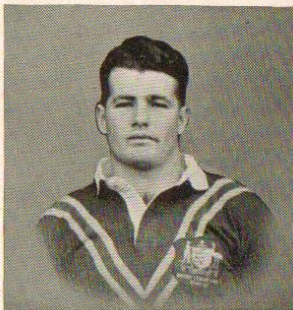
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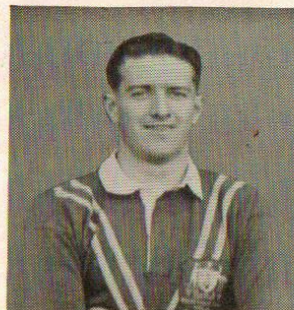
**CHURCHILL, Clive Bernard.** Full-back; Storeman; 21 years; 5 ft. 7 in.; 11 st. 10 lb.; Product of Newcastle (N.S.W.) schoolboy football, starting at the age of 12 years. Graduated through Junior ranks to Central Newcastle (N.S.W.) first grade Club in 1946. In 1947 represented Combined Country, transferring to South Sydney Club towards the latter end of season. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales and Australia v. "Kiwis".



**BULGIN, Victor John.** Full-back; Metal Dresser; 20 years; 5 ft. 9½ in.; 11 st. 10 lb.; Commenced career as Loose Forward and Full-back in schoolboy football. Did not play for three years, then resumed as Full-back with Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) Juniors. Called into grade ranks in 1944 and has been selected to tour without having represented his State or Australia.

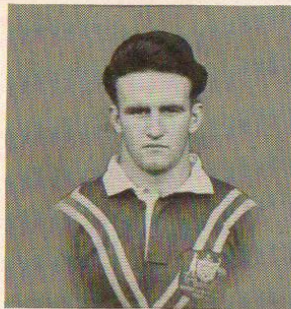


**McMAHON, Patrick.** Right winger; Fitter; 21 years; 5 ft. 9 in.; 12 st. 7 lb.; Transferred from Mount Isa (Qld.) to Toowoomba (Qld.) in 1946, and has represented Toowoomba and Queensland every year since then. Represented Australia in both Tests against the "Kiwis" in 1948.



**GRAVES, John Neal.** Left winger; Boilermaker; 22 years; 5 ft. 11 in.; 12 st. 4 lb.; Commenced career in Maitland (Newcastle N.S.W.) District schoolboy football. Played in Newcastle v. England game in 1946. 1947 represented Combined Country, transferring to South Sydney (N.S.W.) Club at end of that year. 1948 represented Combined Sydney New South Wales and Australia v. "Kiwis".

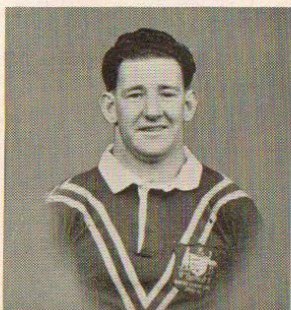
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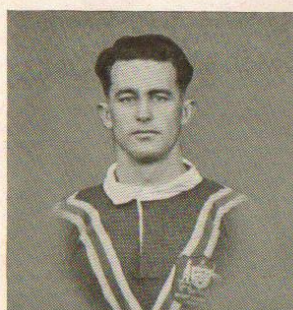
**DIMOND, Robert.** Right winger; Apprentice baker; 18 years; 5 ft. 11 in.; 12 st.; Played for Dapto (N.S.W.) at age of 16 years. 1948 represented Combined Country and New South Wales v. Queensland.



**LULHAM, Robert John.** Left winger; Boilermaker; 21 years; 5 ft. 6½ in.; 11 st. 9 lb.; Came to Newcastle (N.S.W.) from North Coast, transferring in 1947 to Balmain (Sydney) Club. Played in all representative matches for New South Wales in 1947, and in 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. Queensland twice, and was reserve for Australia v. "Kiwis" in the second Test.



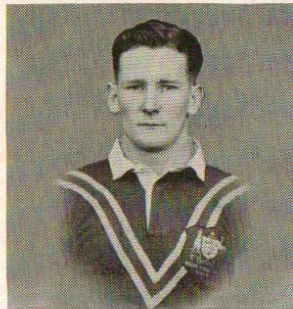
**McRITCHIE, Douglas Allan.** Centre-three-quarter; Panel beater; 25 years; 5 ft. 10 in.; 13 st. 6 lb.; Product of Sydney schoolboy football, and graduated to St. George (Sydney) Club through Junior ranks. After playing in Army teams returned to St. George Club. Represented Combined Sydney and New South Wales in 1948.



**PEGG, Leonard Richard.** Centre-three-quarter; 26 years; 6 ft.; 12 st. 7 lb.; Fitter. Product of Queensland schoolboy football. Graduated through Junior ranks Brisbane (Qld.) to grade football. After a period of service R.A.A.F. returned to South Brisbane (Qld.) Club, and has represented Queensland each year since 1945. 1948 represented Queensland and Australia v. "Kiwis".



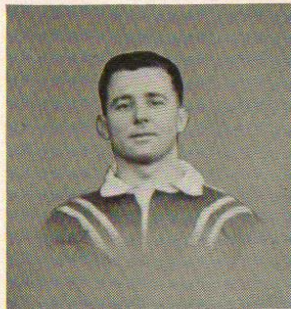
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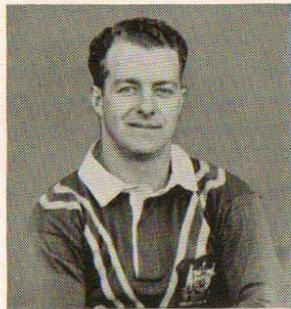
**HORRIGAN, Jack.** Centre-threequarter; Shop Assistant; 24 years; 6 ft.; 13 st. 1 lb.; Product of Queensland schoolboy football, graduating through Junior ranks to Valley Club Brisbane (Qld.). Joined A.I.F. in 1942, playing in services competition as Lock Forward. On discharge returned to Valley Club Brisbane (Qld.), eventually represented Queensland v. New South Wales. 1948 represented Brisbane and Queensland v. "Kiwis" and New South Wales in Brisbane.



**HAWKE, Norman Jack.** Five-eighth; Bookbinder; 22 years; 5 ft. 8 in.; 11 st. 5 lb.; Product of schoolboy football in Queanbeyan (N.S.W.), graduating to District side through Junior ranks. Transferred to Canberra (N.S.W.) in 1947. 1948 represented Combined Country against Combined Sydney, and New Zealand. Played for New South Wales v. Queensland.

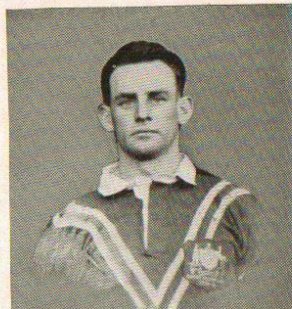


**O'CONNELL, Walter Patrick.** Five-eighth; Sheet Metal Worker; 25 years; 5 ft. 3½ in.; 11 st. 2 lb.; Graduated to Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) Club through Junior ranks. During war years played in all representative games. 1948 represented New South Wales v. New Zealand and Australia v. "Kiwis" in both Tests, and New South Wales v. Queensland.

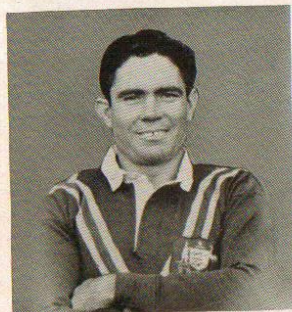


**FROOME, George Keith.** Half-back; Boilermaker; 27 years; 5 ft. 5½ in.; 10 st. 8 lb.; Commenced career in Junior ranks Newcastle (N.S.W.) district. After representing Combined Country transferred to Newtown (Sydney) Club. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales and Australia v. "Kiwis".

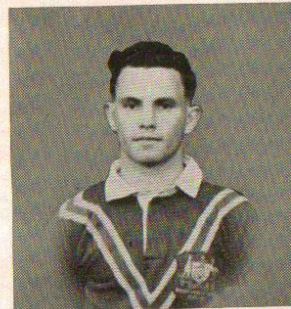
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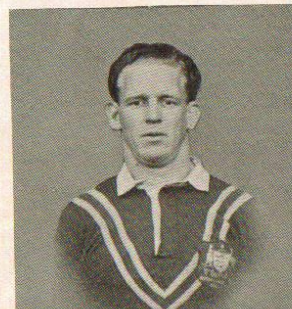
**THOMPSON, William Henry.** Half-back; Boilermaker; 24 years; 5 ft. 6 in.; 11 st.; Product of Sydney schoolboy football, graduating through Junior ranks to South Sydney (N.S.W.) Club. Represented Combined Sydney 1943 and 1944. 1946 played in country districts of New South Wales, representing Northern New South Wales against England at Tamworth (N.S.W.). 1947 transferred to Toowoomba (Qld.) Club, representing Queensland in 1947 and 1948. 1948 played against "Kiwis" at Brisbane (Qld.) and toured New South Wales with Queensland side.



**TYQUIN, Ignatius William.** Loose Forward; Traveller; 27 years; 6 ft. 0½ in.; 13 st. 10 lb.; Product of Queensland schoolboy football, graduating through Junior ranks to Southern Suburbs (Brisbane) Club. Transferred in 1941 to St. George (Sydney) Club and represented Combined Sydney and New South Wales v. Queensland. During period 1941 to 1946 played in service matches whilst a member of A.I.F. 1948 represented Queensland v. New South Wales, Queensland v. New Zealand, and Australia v. "Kiwis". Vice-Captain.



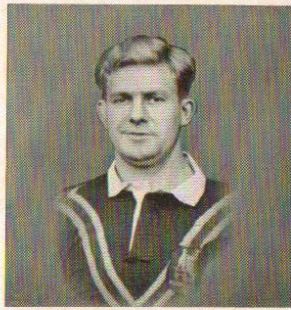
**HOPKINS, Colin Bruce.** Half-back; Clerk; 21 years; 5 ft. 8 in.; 11 st. 3 lb.; Product of Sydney schoolboy football, graduating to Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) Club in 1943. 1944 to 1946 played Army football and Club football in various locations throughout Australia. 1947 transferred to Canterbury-Bankstown (Sydney) Club, representing Combined Sydney in that year, was selected for New South Wales but did not play owing to injury. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, also New South Wales v. Queensland.



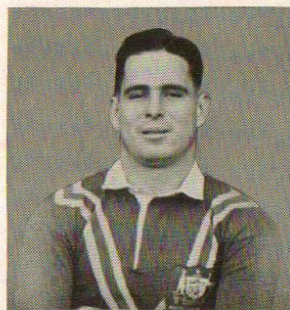
**COWIE, Leslie Gordon.** Loose Forward; Truck driver; 23 years; 5 ft. 10 in.; 12 st. 10 lb.; Product of Rockhampton (Qld.) schoolboy football, graduating through Junior ranks to Rockhampton (Qld.) Club team. From 1943 to 1945 played in Army service teams. On discharge played for South Sydney (N.S.W.) Club. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. New Zealand, New South Wales v. Queensland.



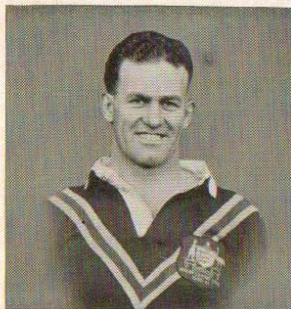
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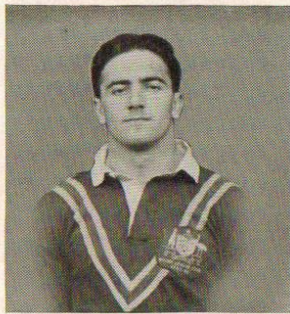
**DE BELIN, Frederick Leslie.** Second row Forward; Clerk; 27 years; 5 ft. 11 in.; 14 st. 7 lb.; Has played all first-grade football with Balmain (Sydney) Club, excepting period 1943 to 1945, when he was a member of the R.A.A.F. During this period he was obliged to play Rugby Union football but returned to Rugby League immediately on discharge in 1946. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. Queensland (three times), New South Wales v. New Zealand and Australia v. "Kiwis" (twice).



**HALL, Douglas.** Second row Forward; Fitter; 23 years; 5 ft. 10 1/2 in.; 14 st. 7 lb.; Product of Rockhampton (Qld.) schoolboy football. Graduated through Junior ranks to first grade, transferring to Brisbane this year, playing with Valley Club. 1948 represented Queensland v. New South Wales and New Zealand, also Australia v. "Kiwis".

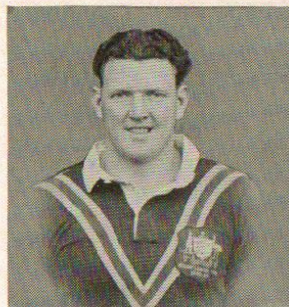


**RAYNER, Rupert John.** Second row Forward; Policeman; 27 years; 6 ft. 2 in.; 14 st. 7 lb.; Commenced career with Lismore (N.S.W.) High School and then did not play until in the Army. Joined South Sydney (N.S.W.) Club in 1946. 1947 represented Combined Sydney and New South Wales. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. Queensland and New Zealand and Australia v. "Kiwis".

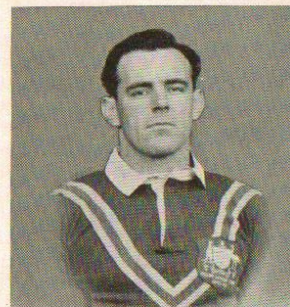


**MULLIGAN, Noel Gregory.** Second row Forward; Public Servant; 22 years; 5 ft. 9 1/2 in.; 13 st. 10 lb.; Product of Port Kembla (N.S.W.) schoolboy football, graduating through Junior ranks to Port Kembla (N.S.W.) Club. Transferred to Newtown (Sydney) Club in 1945 and represented Combined Sydney. 1946 represented New South Wales and Australia v. England. 1947 represented Combined Country and New South Wales v. Queensland. 1948 represented Combined Sydney and New South Wales v. Queensland.

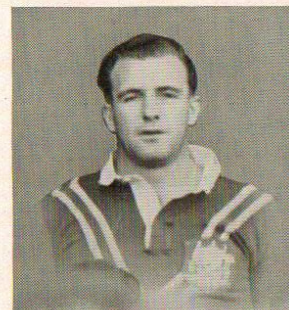
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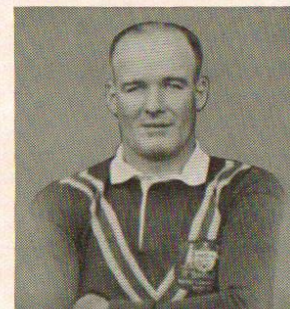
**HOLLAND, John Frederick.** Front row Forward; Railway worker; 25 years; 6 ft. 1 1/2 in.; 14 st. 10 lb.; Product of Army football. Following discharge in 1945 played Junior football St. George (Sydney) district. In 1946 and 1947 played for St. George (Sydney) Club. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. New Zealand, Australia v. "Kiwis".



**HAND, Nevyl Reginald.** Front row Forward; Ice vendor; 25 years; 6 ft.; 14 st. 4 lb.; Product of Sydney schoolboy football. During war period played with Army teams. Following discharge joined North Sydney (N.S.W.) Club. 1947 represented Combined Sydney and New South Wales v. Queensland. 1948 represented Combined Sydney, New South Wales v. Queensland, Australia v. "Kiwis".



**GIBBS, Alfred.** Front row Forward; Forge Furnaceman; 27 years; 5 ft. 11 in.; 14 st. 6 lb.; Graduated to South Newcastle (N.S.W.) Club through Junior ranks. Has had a distinguished career throughout, representing Combined Country since 1942. Represented New South Wales v. Queensland in 1946, 1947 and 1948. Younger brother of former "Kangaroo" Jimmy Gibbs.



**BROSNAN, Edward.** Front row Forward; Policeman; 30 years; 5 ft. 11 in.; 15 st.; Commenced career playing Rugby Union in Queensland country centres. Transferred to Rugby League in 1940 playing for Toowoomba (Qld.) Club. 1942 transferred to Brisbane (Qld.) and played with Past Christian Brothers Club. Has represented Queensland v. New South Wales also, Australia v. "Kiwis", withdrawing from second Test owing to injury. Has unique record of only playing first-grade football since start of career.



A Gibbs.

Doug. Martine

Eric Lin m n ds.

## Autographs

W G Buckley

CH Haswell.

Jul. Tyquin.

J Holland

Fred deBorini

Frosty Bentorl

E Brosnan

Keith Froome

Kevin Schebert



L.P. Pegg

Doc. Mulligan

R.G. Rayner.

Chic Curiz

Bruce Hopkins

F. Johnson

Victor Bulgin

Clive Churchill

Pat McMahon.

Ludlow

W Thompson

Hand Johnny Graves.

Poley

Wally OConnell.

Bob Diamond

LT Furness

D Hall


Jack Horigan

Johnny Hawhn.



## A black and white portrait of a young man with dark hair, wearing a military uniform with a pilot's wing badge on his left chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

A black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform. He is wearing a dark jacket with light-colored stripes on the sleeves and a white shirt underneath. He has short, dark hair and is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light color.

A black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform. He is wearing a dark jacket with a prominent V-neck featuring two light-colored stripes. He has several medals pinned to his left chest. The background is a textured, mottled grey.A black and white portrait of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light color.

## Australian Rugby League Teams IN ENGLAND

1937-38	Managers : H. Sunderland and R. E. Savage.								
Captain : Wally Frigg.			T.	G.	Pts.	T.	G.	Pts.	
First Test :	Leeds	.. .. .	0	2	4	1	2	5	
Second Test :	Swinton	.. .. .	1	0	3	3	1	13	
Third Test :	Huddersfield	.. .. .	3	2	13	1	0	3	
Summary : Played 25 ; Won 13 ; Lost 11 ; Drawn 1.									
Points For : 67 tries, 46 goals = 293 pts.									
Points Against : 40 tries, 56 goals = 232 pts.									



# A Message from Australia

by

**The Rt. Hon. J. A. BEASLEY**  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR AUSTRALIA

I AM told that the Australian Rugby League side, the "Kangaroos", hope to win back the "Ashes" from England this year. This will require a great effort because since 1920 all other Australian Rugby League sides have failed to succeed. But, following on the successful tour of the Rugby Union team, the "Wallabies", I cannot believe that a double success for Australia—League and Union—would be beyond the realms of possibility.

There is no doubt that the "Kangaroos" have the job in front of them. They can and do expect formidable opposition from the English teams on their home grounds. They respect and know the type of courage which will be pitted against them, as many of the "Kangaroos" fought side by side with servicemen from Great Britain in the recent World War. And courageous action on the sports field is as vital to the result of a game as it is to the result of a battle.

But there will be little of the element of battle in this forthcoming tour. The spirit that has always been shown in sporting duels between Britain and Australia will be carried forward in the same style by the "Kangaroos". Our sportsmen have always been among our best ambassadors of goodwill and I can write, with all sincerity, that the "Kangaroos" will continue to carry that spirit of good fellowship into each game in the manner that has become the hallmark of Australian sportsmen both at home and in countries beyond Australian shores.

## Tour Officials

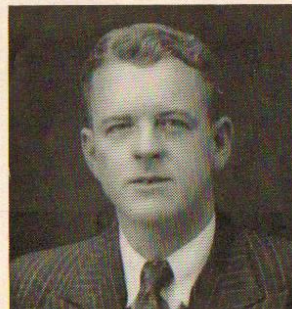


**J. KEITH SHARP** (Sec. Australian Board of Control)



**ERIC J. SIMMONDS**  
(Business Manager)

Eric J. Simmonds, age 44, hails from Brisbane, and is the secretary of the Queensland Rugby Football League. In his playing days was a half back and played First Grade football in Brisbane. A leg injury brought his playing days to an early end. Entered the administrative side of the game in 1934 and became a Club delegate to the Brisbane Rugby League. At the first meeting of the Brisbane Rugby League that he attended was elected a member of the Management Committee. The following year he became Chairman of the Brisbane Rugby League. In 1937 became a Vice President of the Queensland Rugby League and in September 1938 became Secretary of the League which position he still holds. He is a member of the Australian Rugby League Board of Control and is the Hon. Treasurer. In private life is a Solicitor.



**WILLIAM GEORGE BUCKLEY**  
(Team Manager)

William George Buckley, age 41, began his football career in 1918 as a schoolboy footballer, and continued in this sphere until 1922. In 1923 he became a country player also Secretary of the Queanbeyan (N.S.W.) Club. In 1925 he played with Newtown Club President Cup Team. From 1926 to 1931 played with the Newtown D.R.L.F. Club in 60 matches in the First and Reserve Grade, but was forced to retire from active football after breaking his leg. The following year, 1932, Mr. Buckley was elected a Vice-President of the Newtown D.R.L.F. Club and Selector, and carried out these duties until 1939. In 1939 he was appointed Delegate from the Newtown D.R.L.F. Club to the N.S.W. Rugby Football League. It was also in this year that he joined the A.I.F., serving in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Syria and Darwin until discharged in 1944. Mr. Buckley, on his discharge, once again took his place as Delegate to the N.S.W. Rugby Football League from the Newtown D.R.L.F. Club. The following year, 1945, he was elected a Vice-President of the N.S.W. Rugby Football League, which position he continues to hold at the present time. Occupation—Shipping Clerk.



## Famous Players of the Past



**"DALLY" MESSENGER**  
"The Master"

### "DALLY" MESSENGER

Honoured in England as well as in Australia as "The Master". From the first day he played R.U. football Messenger was hailed as a coming champion and his paralysing performances against clubs, States and Nations would fill a book.

Height 5 ft. 7 in., weight 12 st., and grandson of a one-time champion sculler of England, "Dally" was one of the pioneers of the Rugby League code in Australia. At centre three-quarter he was supreme and he did things that shocked the conventional and violated the orthodox with a cool confidence and grace that beggared description.

Was Australia's Captain, centre three-quarter and goal-kicker. In 1911 scored eight tries and 24 goals against Queensland; two tries and 16 goals against New Zealand and altogether landed 108 goals during the season in 21 matches.

In a kicking exhibition in England with the 1907-08 "All Blacks" he kicked 11 goals in 12 shots AGAINST the wind and another 11 out of 12 WITH the wind.

Toured England in 1907-08 with the New Zealand "All Blacks" R.U. team and again in 1908-09 with the original "Kangaroos" R.L. side. He was selected for the 1911 "Kangaroos" trip to England but declined the invitation.

### HAROLD HORDER

Rated the greatest wing three-quarter the Rugby League code has ever known. Jumped direct from a Third grade Junior side to the famous South Sydney senior team, at 18 years of age, and scored a sensational "goal-line to goal-line" try in his first game.

Toured New Zealand when 19 years of age, and played in his first "Test" against "The Old Country" in 1914, at the age of 20. In all played in nine "Tests" against England from 1914 to 1924. Toured England with the 1921 "Kangaroos" when his displays captivated the English crowds.

Playing for New South Wales against Queensland in 1915 he scored 10 tries and kicked 15 goals in two games within two days, a total of 60 points.

In all first-class matches he totalled 307 tries and 268 goals, an aggregate of 1457 points.

Horder's amazing swerve and sidestep at bewildering speed, his lightning intelligence in play and his ability to kick goals with the best stamped him as a football wonder and his scoring feats would today have earned him the title of "The Bradman of Rugby League."



**HAROLD HORDER**  
"The Wonder Winger"

## Famous Players of the Past

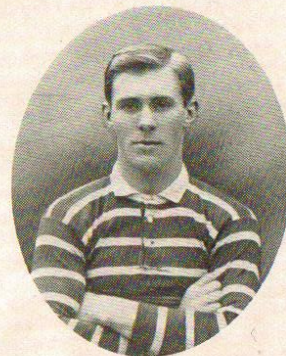
### HAROLD WAGSTAFF

The late Harold Wagstaff, affectionately known to all as "Waggy", will always be regarded as "A Great Player and a Great Englishman".

As a centre-three-quarter he had few peers and as England's Captain he possessed all the attributes essential for success as evidenced in the great "Rorke's Drift" Test referred to on another page.

A member of the Huddersfield "Team of all the Talents", he played in Nine "Tests" against Australia from 1911 to 1921, touring Australia in 1914 and 1920 as Captain.

Although not in the list of record holders Harold in some respects could be likened to "Dally" Messenger for doing unorthodox things in a pinch. It is on record that in a match in Australia in 1914, when faced by three Australians, he threw the ball a few feet in the air. The Aussies not knowing what was coming next from the brain of "Waggy" opened out a few yards and in a flash Harold had caught the ball again and was through and over the line . . . Such was the way the great player's brain worked during a match.



**HAROLD WAGSTAFF**

### JIM SULLIVAN

Recognised by all as the World's greatest full-back and considered by many Australians as Great Britain's other "Rock of Gibraltar". A product of Welsh Rugby Union, Jim joined Wigan in 1921, at the age of 17 and had an illustrious career in club, International and "Test" football until season 1946 when he retired with "honours thick upon him". Played in fifteen "Tests" against Australia, visited the Antipodes three times (once as Captain—in 1932) and selected for the fourth time in 1936 but declined the invitation.

Kicked over 100 goals in every season (except 1946), including the record number of 200 goals in 1934.

Altogether scored over 100 tries and kicked over 3,000 goals—an amazing record indeed.



**JIM SULLIVAN**



# "Rorke's Drift"

## HAROLD WAGSTAFF ON 1914 CLASSIC

No greater example of the tenacity of the footballers of the bulldog breed could be found than that historic Third Test, in Sydney, on July 4, 1914—the "Rorke's Drift" Test.

England's leader that day was Harold Wagstaff, and the way he kept rallying the players left under him was one of the marvels of Test football.

*England, at one stage, was reduced to nine men, but several struggled back on to the field and, eventually, the side won the match—and the "Ashes".*

The 1914 tour had a disastrous start. We lost the first two matches and our football was poor, because we were not fit.

I was called into conference by the managers, and my suggestion was that we should straightaway get down to it—that we should go to the ground every morning, have lunch sent to us there, and continue training in the afternoon until we felt we had had enough.

Everyone in the side tackled the business keenly, and we made a quick and entirely satisfactory revival. It was a revival so satisfactory, at all events, that when the First Test was played, on the Agricultural Ground, we were able to win comfortably.

*Yet, we took the field for that match without a regular full-back. Alf Wood had broken his nose and Gwyn Thomas had a fractured rib, and we had to play Bill Jarman, the Leeds forward, at full-back.*

We got 23 points, and Australia did not score until the last five minutes, 23—5 was good enough.

The Second Test was played the following Monday—King's Birthday—and because Jarman, Longstaff, Moorhouse and Bert Jenkins were injured, we were hard put to get a team.

We were beaten 12—7, and so the position in the battle for the "Ashes" stood one each.

The arrangement was that the final Test would be played in Melbourne when we returned from New Zealand.

An England v. N.S.W. game was fixed for Sydney the following Saturday and, on the Wednesday morning, Mr. J. Clifford, one of our managers, took a team to Bathurst.

Then the Australians began an agitation for the Third Test to be played in place of the N.S.W. v. England game.

*Mr. Clifford could not be consulted and, eventually, the Australian authorities cabled to England to ask the Northern Union Council to agree to the Third Test being played, as Australia desired.*

A special meeting of the Northern Union Council was called in England, they agreed to the Australian demand and sent the following message to the English party in Australia:

"Play match as Australians desire. England expects that every man will do his duty."

So it came about that the Third Test was played on the Saturday following the First—just think of it, three Tests in eight days for a touring team crippled by injury.

Anyway, Alf Wood decided to take the full-back position, though his nose was far from right, and we turned out this side:

*Wood; Frank Williams, Hall, Wagstaff, W. A. Davies; Smith, Prosser; Holland, Coldrick, Ramsdale, Johnson, Clark, Chilcott.*

*The Australian side was: Hallett; Frawley, Deane, Tidyman, W. Messenger; Fraser, Holloway; Burge, Courtney, Craig, Sullivan, Pearce, Cam.*

My first memory of the day on which that match, which came to be known as the "Rorke's Drift" match, was played has to do with the fighting speech that was made to us by Mr. J. Clifford.

# "Rorke's Drift" (continued)

He called the men who were playing that afternoon—the 13 of us—into a room at the hotel and he outlined the whole story of the revision of the fixture. Then he said that he expected every one of us to play as we had never played before.

*You are playing in a game of football this afternoon, he told us, but more than that, you are playing for England. Don't forget that message from home: England expects every one of you to do his duty.*

The men in my team were moved. I was impressed and thrilled as never before or since by a speech. You could see our fellows clenching their fists as Mr. Clifford spoke, and I know that when we left the room none of us spoke.

We were prepared to go all out when we went on to that field in Sydney, but, before there had been a scrum, Frank Williams, on the wing, had twisted his leg.

We took "Chick" Johnson out of the pack to help Williams on that wing.

We managed to lead 9—3 at half-time. Percy Coldrick had scored a try and Alf Wood had kicked three goals.

Immediately we started the second half, Douglas Clark smashed his collarbone. He had broken a thumb in the first half and it had been bandaged tightly so that he could continue.

*In the early stages of the second half, Clark got a pass and went racing clear of all, it seemed, for the line, but "Pony" Holloway challenged him.*

Douglas put out his hand to push Holloway off and then remembered his broken thumb. He withdrew the hand and went in to Holloway to give him his shoulder, but Holloway "stalled", and Clark, unable to recover his balance, fell on his shoulder and the collarbone went. He had it strapped and, twice, he made an effort to return to the game, but in the end, he had to realise that it was impossible for him to carry on. There were tears in his eyes when he left the field the last time.

Frank Williams hurt his leg again and he had to go off, and we were left with 11 men.

Then Billy Hall, of Oldham, was carried off with concussion—he received the injury when he went down on the ball—and we had 10 men to face 13.

*Ten men and 30 minutes to go!*

*But never had I nine such men with me on a football field as I had that day. We were in our own half all the time and, for most of the time, we seemed to be on our line but we stuck it. Our forwards gave their all.*

In the scrummages the remnants of the pack that was left did its job and, in the loose, the men who had been brought out tackled as fiercely and as finely as the backs did. "Chick" Johnson, on one wing, and Percy Coldrick on the other, and Willie Davies in the centre with me.

As often happens in such circumstances, we continued to win the ball from the scrums. Holland, Ramsdale and Chilcott were heroes. There were 20 minutes left when I managed to cut through, after taking the ball from Fred Smith and Prosser. I went to Johnson's wing and, when I gave "Chick" the ball, there was only the full-back in front of him.

*"Chick" went away with it, but then none of us dreamt that we were to witness the scoring of as wonderful a try as Test football ever will produce.*

A few yards from the Australian full-back, Hallett, Johnson put the ball on the ground and began to dribble. He had half the length of the field to go, but he did it. And the ball never left his toes. It might have been tied with a piece of string to his feet, so perfectly did he control it.

No soccer international could have dribbled a ball better than did Johnson that afternoon on the Sydney Cricket Ground. Man after man he beat until, finally, he tapped the ball over the line and dropped on it.

Alf Wood kicked the goal and there we were, 14—3. Billy Hall recovered and came back for the last 10 minutes to help us in a defence that was successful until in the last few minutes, Sid Deane scored Australia's second try.

*But the victory was ours and the Australian crowd gave us the full credit for it. They swung round to our side in the second half, and they were with us to the end, cheering us on in inspiring fashion. When the final whistle sounded we were done. We had gone to the last gasp, and were just about finished.*



## Action Photographs



An incident in the First "Test" at Sydney on 29th June 1936. England forwards, Beverley, Miller, Silcock and Hodgson enjoying themselves at the expense of an Australian forward. S. (Joe) Pearce looks on. Australia won 24-8.

## Action Photographs



An incident in the Third "Test" at Sydney on 18th July 1936. Wally Prigg, Australia's loose forward, breaks away with Hodgson (England) ready for business. Other Australian players seen are Mick Madsen, Vic Hey, Alan Ridley and Dave Brown (behind Prigg). England won 12-7.



# Itinerary of the Tour

Date	Opponents	Venue	RESULTS		
			AUSTRALIA		OPPONENTS
			G.	T.	Pts.
Sep. 18	Huddersfield .. .. .	Huddersfield ..			
" 20	Belle Vue Rangers .. .	Manchester ..			
" 23	Hull .. .. .	Hull .. ..			
" 25	Wakefield Trinity .. .	Wakefield ..			
" 29	Leigh .. .. .	Leigh .. ..			
Oct. 2	Salford .. .. .	Salford .. ..			
" 6	Castleford .. .. .	Castleford ..			
" 9	FIRST TEST MATCH	LEEDS .. ..			
" 13	Cumberland .. .. .				
" 14	St. Helens .. .. .	St. Helens ..			
" 16	Dewsbury .. .. .	Dewsbury ..			
" 18	Hull Kingston Rovers ..	Hull .. ..			
" 20	Wigan .. .. .	Wigan .. ..			
" 23	Barrow .. .. .	Barrow .. ..			
" 27	Leeds .. .. .	Leeds .. ..			
" 30	Warrington .. .. .	Warrington ..			
Nov. 6	SECOND TEST MATCH	SWINTON ..			
" 10	Bradford Northern ..	Bradford ..			
" 13	Workington Town ..	Workington ..			
" 17	Swinton .. .. .	Swinton ..			
" 20	WALES .. .. .	SWANSEA ..			
" 24	Lancashire .. .. .				
" 27	Halifax .. .. .	Halifax .. ..			
Dec. 1	Hunslet .. .. .	Hunslet ..			
" 4	Oldham .. .. .	Oldham ..			
" 8	Yorkshire .. .. .				
" 11	Widnes .. .. .	Widnes .. ..			
" 18	THIRD TEST MATCH	BRADFORD			

## Acknowledgement

Our sincere thanks are extended to the undermentioned for their valued assistance and co-operation in the compilation of this Souvenir Brochure:—

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF DERBY.

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THE RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

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