

= Arthur Morris with the Australian cricket team in England in 1948 =

Arthur Morris was a key member of Donald Bradman 's famous Australian cricket team , which toured England in 1948 . The Australians went undefeated in their 34 matches ; this unprecedented feat by a Test side touring England earned them the sobriquet The Invincibles .

A left @-@ handed opening batsman , Morris played in all five Tests , partnering the right @-@ handed Sid Barnes in three Tests ? Barnes was injured for the other two Tests . As one of three on @-@ tour selectors , Morris was a member of the leadership group along with Bradman and vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett .

Morris ended the first @-@ class tour with 1 @,@ 922 runs at a batting average of 71 @.@ 18 including seven centuries , recording the second highest aggregate behind Bradman . Morris ' s form peaked in the Test series ; he headed the runscoring aggregates and averages for all players with 696 runs at 87 @.@ 00 , and was the only player to compile three Test centuries . In the Second Test at Lord 's , Morris struck 105 to set up Australia 's first innings of 350 and eventual win . He scored 182 on a deteriorating pitch on the final day of the Fourth Test at Headingley , combining for a triple @-@ century partnership with Bradman . Australia scored 3 / 404 in the second innings to win by seven wickets , setting a world record for the highest successful run @-@ chase in Test history . In the Fifth Test at The Oval , Morris scored 196 , more than half of Australia 's 389 as the tourists went on to win by an innings .

Based on his performance during the tour of England , Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack named Morris as one of their Cricketers of the Year in 1949 . They described him as " one of the world 's best left @-@ hand batsmen " .

= = Background = =

During the Australian season of 1947 ? 48 , which preceded the tour of England , Morris played in the first four Tests against the touring Indians , scoring 45 and an unbeaten 100 in the Third Test victory in Melbourne . He was omitted for the Fifth Test because the selectors wanted to trial other candidates for the 1948 tour of England . Morris ended the series with 209 runs at a batting average of 52 @.@ 25 , making him the third highest scorer as Australia won 4 ? 0 . During the series , he had opened with both Bill Brown , the veteran who had been a mainstay of Australian teams of the 1930s , and New South Wales teammate Sid Barnes . The Australian selectors chose Brown for the first two Tests against the Indians , but he struggled and made only 18 and 11 ? Australia batted once in both Tests ? and was then dropped for Barnes , who made only 12 and 15 in the Third Test . Retained for the Fourth Test , Barnes made 112 in an Australian victory . Morris ? whose place was secure ? was rested for the Fifth Test to give Brown another chance to show that he was worthy of selection . Barnes made 33 while Brown made 99 run out as Australia completed a 4 ? 0 series win . In the end , all three were selected for the England tour . As specialist opening batsmen , the trio were competing for the two opening positions in Bradman 's first @-@ choice team .

Morris ? recently appointed co @-@ captain of New South Wales ? greatly impressed Australian captain Don Bradman , to the extent that Bradman made himself , Morris and vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett the three on @-@ tour selectors for the 1948 visit to England . Morris was a key part of Bradman 's inner circle during the planning of the tour . Bradman had long harboured an ambition to tour England without losing a match ; his team would become the first to achieve this feat , earning themselves the sobriquet , The Invincibles .

= = Early tour = =

Morris marked his first @-@ class debut on English soil in the opening match of the tour , against Worcestershire . After the hosts had batted first and made 233 , Morris stroked with a fluent 138 (including 19 fours) from 275 minutes . He put on an opening stand of 79 with Sid Barnes , before adding 186 for the second wicket with Bradman . Australia declared at 8 / 462 before completing an innings victory . Morris and Bradman 's scoring matched one another during their partnership and

both were close to being the first Australian century @-@ maker on the tour . The former was on 95 and took three runs to move to 98 , before Bradman hit consecutive fours to progress from 91 to 99 . The Australian captain failed to score for the rest of the over , so Morris took the strike in the next over and reached his century before Bradman followed suit . After reaching triple figures , Morris added his last 38 runs in 50 minutes . Morris ' s role indicated his standing alongside Barnes as a first @-@ choice opener , as Australia customarily selected its strongest team for the tour opener . The third opener taken on tour , Bill Brown , played out of position in the middle order .

Morris was rested from the second tour match , which was against Leicestershire ; Bradman ' s team won by an innings . He returned against Yorkshire , and in a low @-@ scoring match on a damp pitch favouring slower bowling , made 17 and three as Australia won by only four wickets . The match saw 324 runs scored for the loss of 35 wickets and a top @-@ score of only 34 . Morris ' s 17 in the first innings was actually the fourth highest score for the entire match . The match was the closest Australia came to defeat for the whole tour ; the tourists were 6 / 31 in pursuit of the target of 60 , with effectively only three wickets in hand because Sam Loxton was injured and unable to bat . The Australians travelled to London to play Surrey at The Oval . In the first hour of play , Australia ' s openers played solidly and rarely missed a ball . Morris scored 65 as he and Barnes put on an opening stand of 136 , which laid the foundation for Australia ' s 632 . The tourists went on to win the match by an innings . In the next fixture , Morris managed only 26 as Australia piled on 4 / 414 declared against Cambridge University . Morris bowled for the first time on tour , sending down five wicketless overs for 11 runs as Australia completed their second innings victory in succession .

Morris was rested as Australia crushed Essex by an innings and 451 runs , their largest winning margin for the summer . During the match , the Australian batsmen set a world record by scoring 721 runs on the first day , a new world record for the most runs in one day of first @-@ class cricket . Morris returned for the innings victory against Oxford University , putting on an opening stand of 138 with Brown before being run out for 64 . Former Australian Test batsman Jack Fingleton reported that Hubert Webb " brilliantly ran out Morris from the boundary with a throw over the stumps " . Australia amassed 431 and won completed their fourth consecutive innings victory . In the hosts ' second innings , Morris took his first wicket of the tour , bowling Indian Test batsman Abdul Hafeez Kardar to end with 1 / 6 from three overs .

The next match was against the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) at Lord ' s . The MCC fielded seven players who would represent England in the Tests , and were basically a full strength Test team , while Australia fielded their strongest possible team . Morris and Barnes retained their positions at the top of the order , while Brown played out of position in the middle order . It was a chance to players from both sides to gain a psychological advantage ahead of the Tests , but Morris looked uncomfortable , managing only five as Australia amassed 552 and enforced the follow on to win by an innings . In the MCC ' s second innings , Morris caught Jim Laker from the bowling of Colin McCool . The Lord ' s fixture was followed by Australia ' s first non @-@ victory of the tour , which was against Lancashire . Morris continued to struggle , making five and 22 , falling twice to England Test paceman Dick Pollard , In the drawn match against Nottinghamshire , Morris continued his form slump , making 16 in the tourists ' only innings .

Morris found batting difficult for the first few weeks of the tour , as he struggled to adapt to the unfamiliar batting conditions . He reached 50 only twice in the nine innings after the Worcestershire match , totalling only 223 runs at 24 @. @ 77 ; Morris sometimes attempted to drive balls pitched just short of a good length , and if they reared suddenly , he was liable to be caught . Morris was worried about edging the ball to the slips cordon and had become fidgety and shuffled across the crease .

After being rested for the eight @-@ wicket win over Hampshire , Morris rectified his technical problem , and success followed against Sussex . After the hosts had been rolled for 86 in their first innings , Morris dominated an opening partnership of 153 with Brown , who made only 44 before becoming the first man to fall . Morris added a further 189 for the second wicket with Bradman before he fell for 184 at 2 / 342 . He had struck 26 fours , laying the platform for Australia ' s total of 5 / 549 declared and eventual innings victory . He was to hit five more first @-@ class centuries

before the end of the season .

= = First Test = =

Morris thus headed into the First Test at Trent Bridge with a century under his belt . He held his position at the top of the order along with Barnes , while Brown played out of position in the middle order . Morris bowled three overs for four runs in the first innings as England were bowled out for 165 on the first day after winning the toss and electing to bat . During the innings , Morris took a reflex catch when Godfrey Evans hit a ball strongly , directly to him at short leg to leave England at 7 / 74 .

Australia survived the last 15 minutes on the first evening to reach stumps on 0 / 17 , with Morris on 10 . Barnes and Morris took the score to 73 before the latter was bowled by Jim Laker 's off spin for 31 . Barnes batted confidently , while the hesitant Morris shuffled around the crease . At one stage , Morris scored only seven runs in 55 minutes , During this period , Morris unnecessarily played at a ball outside off stump from seamer Alec Bedser and edged it to wicket @-@ keeper Evans , who dropped the catch . He recomposed himself and hit left arm orthodox spinner Jack Young 's first ball ? a full toss ? for runs as Australia passed 50 without loss . Morris fell when he tried to force a ball from Laker away , but hit it from the middle of his bat into his back pad ; the ball rebounded onto the stumps . Australia went on to amass 509 , and when England batted again , they lost their third wicket at 150 . Joe Hardstaff junior came in , and on the third ball he aimed a cut that went low to second slip , just as he did in the first innings . However , Morris dropped the catch . Hardstaff exploited his second chance to make 43 before falling at 4 / 243 .

Australia eventually bowled England out for 441 , leaving them a target of 98 on the final day . Bradman ? s openers progressed quickly at the start of the chase . Barnes took 13 runs from the opening over by Bedser , but Morris again lacked fluency . Australia reached 38 from 32 minutes when Bedser bowled Morris for nine , but the tourists steadied to reach their target with eight wickets in hand . After bowling several balls that moved away , Bedser caught out Morris with an inswinger . Morris had developed a habit of trying to defend the ball to the leg side while shuffling towards the off , and was not in a position to deal with a ball that hurried off the pitch . Following the match , Fingleton criticised Morris , feeling that he was shuffling across the crease too much instead of playing from the back foot .

In the match immediately after the First Test , Morris scored 60 against Northamptonshire , putting on 122 runs with Lindsay Hassett as Australian completed an innings win . He was then rested ahead of the Second Test as Australia drew with Yorkshire at Bramall Lane in Sheffield .

= = Second Test = =

In the Second Test at Lord 's , Australia elected to bat first and England made an ideal start . The debutant Alec Coxon opened the bowling and removed Barnes for a duck in his second over to leave the tourists at 1 / 3 . England restricted the Australians in the first hour and created several near misses , particularly against Bradman , who nervous early on . In contrast , Morris was playing fluently and scored many runs from the back cut . At the end of the pace bowlers ' opening spells , the leg spin of Doug Wright was introduced and Australia cut loose . Wright bowled a no ball that Morris dispatched over the leg side fence for six , before hitting another ball for four . Bradman and Morris settled down as Coxon and Wright operated steadily , although the latter was able to extract substantial spin , hitting Morris in the stomach with a ball that turned in sharply from outside off stump . At lunch , Australia were 1 / 82 with Morris on 45 and Bradman on 35 .

Shortly afterwards , with the score at 87 , Bradman was caught for the third consecutive time in Tests in Bedser 's leg trap . Len Hutton ? who took the catch ? had dropped Bradman in the same position when the Australian captain was on 13 . At the other end , Morris began to take control . He drove the ball through the covers and clipped it off his pads through the leg side . Morris reached his century with consecutive boundaries from Coxon . Fingleton called the innings " a pretty Test century in the grandest of all cricket settings " . This ended a run of poor form for Morris , a period

during which he had shuffled uncertainly on the crease without moving forward or back decisively . O'Reilly called it Morris 's best Test century to date , as this was the strongest English attack he had faced during his career , and because of the loss of wickets at the other end . O'Reilly said Morris had been disciplined in not playing loose shots outside off stump and missing or edging them , yet still being able to score quickly at every opportunity . Morris was out soon after for 105 from 166 balls , after hitting Coxon to Hutton in the gully to leave Australia at 3 / 166 . His innings included 14 fours and one six , and was noted for powerful , well @-@ placed cover drives . With Morris gone , Australia fell to 7 / 258 at stumps , before the lower order counterattacked on the second morning and took the total to 350 . Bradman ? s team took a 135 @-@ run lead after dismissing England for 215 .

The weather was fine as Australia started their second innings on the third morning . The Australian openers took a cautious approach to begin with , avoiding the hook shot and not playing at balls that were not going to hit the stumps , looking for a solid start . Both openers were given early reprieves . Barnes survived a stumping opportunity when he was 18 . Laker came on and induced Morris into hitting an airborne ball back down the pitch , but he was slow to react to the possibility of a caught and bowled . According to O'Reilly , most other bowlers would have been able to reach the ball and attempt a catch . The openers took advantage to combine for an opening stand of 122 . Wright came on and again bowled a no ball at the start of his spell , which Morris lofted into the crowd for six . After shuffling around with uncertainty at the start of his innings , Morris began to play more fluently . He was eventually bowled for 62 , knocking a ball from Wright onto his stumps . The opening partnership laid the platform for Australia 's 7 / 460 declared , which allowed them to set an imposing target of 596 and win by 409 runs to take a 2 ? 0 series lead .

Morris was rested by Bradman for the second match against Surrey , which started the day after the Test and ended in a ten @-@ wicket victory for the Australians . The following match was against Gloucestershire at Bristol , and in only five hours on the first day , Morris scored his career best of 290 . Having lost the first two Tests , England were contemplating changes to their team : Tom Goddard was earmarked to replace Jim Laker as the off spinner after performing strongly in county cricket , while Laker had struggled in the Second Test . The English hoped Goddard would be the strike bowler to cut through Australia 's strong batting line @-@ up . Morris 's assault ended Goddard 's hopes of Test selection . His innings was highlighted by his quick assessment of the length of the ball , followed by decisive footwork . Morris confidently advanced out of the crease when the ball was of a full length to drive and rocked onto the back foot to and cut if Goddard dropped short . Unable to contain Morris , Goddard packed the leg side field and bowled outside leg stump . Morris responded by stepping down the wicket towards the leg side , charging the bowler and repeatedly lofting the ball inside out over the off side . He reached his century before lunch and his 200 by the tea interval . By the time Morris was dismissed , he had struck 40 fours and a six . He put on stands of 102 with Barnes , 136 with Keith Miller and 162 with Neil Harvey before falling with the score at 4 / 466 . Fingleton said " Morris played it [the home team 's bowling] in all directions " , while former English Test paceman Maurice Tate said " Tom [Goddard] is not used to batsmen using their feet to him ... the county batsmen diddle and diddle [shuffle about indecisively instead of quickly moving into position and attacking] to him and that gets him many wickets . " Australia amassed 5 / 560 on the first day before declaring at 7 / 774 , their largest score of the tour and the second highest by any Australian team on English soil . Morris took a match total of 1 / 35 as Australia won by an innings .

= = Third Test = =

Following his effort in Bristol , Morris proceeded to the Third Test at Old Trafford . England batted first and made 363 . During the innings , Barnes was hit in the kidneys by a Dick Pollard pull shot while fielding at short leg . When Australia started their first innings reply , Barnes was still recuperating after being carried from the field and taken to hospital for a medical examination .

Having dropped Brown for the Test , Barnes 's injury left Australia with only Morris as a specialist opener . Off spinner Ian Johnson was deployed as Australia 's makeshift second opener . He was

unable to make an impact , as Bedser removed him for one , before Pollard trapped Bradman leg before wicket (lbw) to leave Australia at 2 / 13 . The tourists were pinned down as Pollard bowled 17 consecutive overs from his long run , aiming at leg stump . Pollard was reinforced by Bedser , who bowled unchanged for 90 minutes . Morris and Hassett rebuilt the innings , adding 69 for the third wicket in 101 minutes before the latter fell . Miller joined Morris and the pair took the score to 3 / 126 at stumps , with the latter ? who had been the more sedate in the partnership ? on 48 .

Australia struggled against the new ball in the first hour of the day three . Miller played and missed three times in one over before being trapped lbw for 31 ; the tourists added only nine runs in the first hour . Four runs later , Morris reached 51 and fell to Bedser , leaving Australia at 5 / 139 . It had been a slow morning for Morris ? he took 21 minutes to add a single to his overnight total and reached 50 after taking another 24 minutes to register his second run of the day . Australia fell for 221 , narrowly avoiding the follow on , and England declared at 3 / 174 on the last morning after many rain delays . This left Bradman ? s team with a victory target of 317 , but the rain kept falling and the entire morning was lost .

Play finally began after the tea , and the pitch played very slowly because of the excess moisture . As Australia had no intention of chasing the runs , England captain Norman Yardley often installed seven men in close catching positions . In the first half @-@ hour , the tourists showed little attacking intent and scored only six runs . Johnson then fell for six to leave Australia at 1 / 10 . Bradman came to the crease and played 11 balls without scoring while Morris scored two streaky fours from Bedser . Yardley used his spinners for an hour , while Morris and Bradman made little effort to score . For 105 minutes , Morris stayed at one end and Bradman at the other ; neither looked to rotate the strike by taking singles . The Australian skipper faced only eight balls from Morris 's main end , and at one point was so startled when his partner wanted a single that he sent him back . Thereafter , the tourists batted steadily and defensively to ensure a draw . They ended at 1 / 92 from 61 overs , a run rate of 1 @. @ 50 , with 35 maidens ; this was the slowest innings run rate for the series to date . Morris finished unbeaten on 54 , his fourth consecutive half @-@ century during the Test series . The match finally ended after a series of periodic rain interruptions .

Morris struck 109 against Middlesex in the following tour match at Lord ? s. The hosts batted first and made 203 , and Australia stumbled to 3 / 53 before Morris combined with Sam Loxton (123) for a 172 @-@ run fourth @-@ wicket stand . Australia recovered to reach 317 and went on to a ten @-@ wicket win . Morris 's century meant he had amassed 504 runs in just over a week of cricket .

= = Fourth Test = =

The Fourth Test at Headingley in Leeds saw Morris at his finest ; England elected to bat and started strongly with 496 in the first innings , their highest score of the series . On a placid pitch , Morris was one of seven bowlers used as Bradman sought a breakthrough ; each of the first three wickets put on century partnerships . Bill Edrich hit a long hop from Morris 's left arm unorthodox spin to the boundary to reach his century , before Bedser lifted him high over square leg for six . This prompted Bradman to replace Morris after he conceded 20 runs in five overs as England reached 2 / 423 . Edrich was out when he attempted to pull Johnson to the on side in the large gap between mid @-@ on and square leg , but only hit it in the air to Morris , who completed the catch diving forwards at wide mid @-@ on to leave the score at 4 / 426 , before England collapsed to 496 .

England took a 38 @-@ run lead after Australia replied with 458 . Morris contributed only six while batting with vice @-@ captain Lindsay Hassett , who had been promoted from the middle order to open while Barnes was still injured ; Bradman had overlooked reserve opener Brown . Morris chipped Bedser in the air to Ken Cranston at mid @-@ wicket to leave Australia at 1 / 13 . Australia slumped to 3 / 68 before a middle @-@ order fightback took Australia to 458 early on the fourth morning . England declared at 8 / 365 early on the fifth morning , leaving Australia to chase 404 runs for victory . Batting into the final day allowed Yardley the right to ask the groundsman to use a heavy roller , which would help to break up the wicket and make the surface more likely to spin and bounce unevenly .

At the time , 404 would have been the highest ever fourth innings score to result in a Test victory for

the batting side . Australia had only 345 minutes to reach their target , and the local press wrote them off , predicting that they would be dismissed by lunchtime on a deteriorating wicket expected to favour spin bowlers . Morris and Hassett started slowly , scoring only six runs in the first six overs on a pitch offering spin and bounce . It appeared they were playing carefully at first before deciding whether to try to achieve the target at a later point . In Bedser 's second over , the third of the innings , Morris chipped the ball in the air towards mid @-@ wicket , in a similar manner to his first innings dismissal , but this time the ball evaded Cranston . After 15 minutes , Australia had only made 0 / 10 .

After Bedser had bowled three overs , Laker replaced him in the seventh over as Yardley attempted to exploit the turning surface , but 13 runs were taken from his first over . Hassett hit a four and took a single to rotate the strike . Later in the over , Morris hit a four , was beaten by a bouncing ball that hurried off the pitch , before striking another boundary . Despite the expensive Laker over , only 44 runs came in the first hour , meaning that the tourists still needed 360 runs from 285 minutes . The crowd heckled the Australian openers for their slow scoring and they applauded ironically after Morris took a single . After his poor first over , Laker had settled down and conceded only two runs from his next six overs , and " was getting at least one ball every over to turn considerably " .

In an attempt to exploit the worn surface , Yardley brought on the part @-@ time left @-@ arm unorthodox spin of Compton to partner Laker . The occasional bowler was inaccurate and Morris struck two fours in his first over to bring up Australia 's 50 in 64 minutes . However , Compton 's deceived Morris ? who danced down the pitch and missed the ball ? in the next over , but Evans fumbled the stumping opportunity with the batsman on 32 and Australia at 0 / 55 . Laker beat Morris in the following over with an off break that spun a foot , before Compton removed Hassett for 17 with the score at 57 .

Bradman joined Morris with 347 runs needed in 271 minutes . The Australian captain signalled his intentions by reaching 12 in only six minutes . Yardley then called upon the occasional leg spin of Hutton in an attempt to exploit the turning wicket . However , Hutton did not bowl regularly so he had trouble in maintaining his consistency . Morris promptly joined Bradman in the counter @-@ attack , hitting three consecutive fours to reach 51 during Hutton 's first over , which Fingleton described as " rather terrible " due to the errant length . Bradman took two fours off Hutton 's next over before almost hitting a catch . However , the 20 runs from Hutton 's two inaccurate overs had allowed Australia to reach 1 / 96 from 90 minutes .

In the next over , Compton greatly troubled Bradman , who edged two balls and was dropped once . At the other end , Morris continued to take advantage of Hutton 's inaccurate leg breaks , and Australia reached lunch at 1 / 121 , with the opener on 63 and his captain on 35 . Hutton had conceded 30 runs in four overs , and in the half @-@ hour preceding the interval , Australia had added 64 runs . Although Australia had scored at a reasonable rate , they had also been troubled by many of the deliveries and were expected to face further difficulty if they were to avoid defeat .

Upon resumption , Compton continued as Yardley persisted with his policy of trying to exploit the deteriorating pitch with as much spin as possible . Compton was not a regular bowler and sent down a series of full tosses and long hops that were easily dispatched for runs . Morris struck seven fours in two overs of what Fingleton called " indescribably bad bowling " . This sequence included six fours in eight balls . As Morris continued to attack , Compton began to crack under the pressure and his accuracy worsened . Compton had generated trouble for the batsmen by tossing the ball up and beating the bat or inducing edges , but Morris counterattacked with drives . Compton tried to hold back his length to avoid being driven , but the Australian opener pounced on the shorter balls . Morris reached the 90s just 14 minutes after the interval and hit another boundary to reach his century in just over two hours . Morris had added 37 runs since lunch , while Bradman had furthered his total by only three .

The Australian onslaught against the spinners prompted Yardley to take the new ball and replace Compton with his fast men . Bradman reached 50 in 60 minutes and Yardley dropped him soon after . Australia reached 202 ? halfway to the required total ? with 165 minutes remaining , after Morris dispatched consecutive full tosses from Laker to the fence . Bradman then hooked two boundaries , but suffered a fibrositis attack , which put him in significant pain . Drinks were taken during a delay

for treatment , and Morris had to shield Bradman from the strike until the skipper 's pain had subsided . Australia reached 250 shortly before tea , with Morris on 133 and Bradman on 92 . Bradman then reached his century as the second @-@ wicket stand passed 200 .

Morris was given another life on 136 , when Laker dropped him at square leg from the bowling of Compton . Bradman was given another life at 108 ; he advanced two metres down the pitch towards Laker and missed , but Evans fumbled the stumping opportunity . Australia reached tea at 1 / 292 with Morris on 150 . The pair had added 171 during the session . Morris was eventually dismissed by Yardley for 182 , after hitting a tired @-@ looking shot to mid @-@ off , having partnered Bradman for a stand of 301 in 217 minutes . He struck 33 fours in 290 minutes of batting . Australia still needed 46 for victory , and went on to win by seven wickets with 15 minutes to spare , setting a new world record for the highest successful Test run @-@ chase .

Morris was rested for the match against Derbyshire immediately after the Headingley Test , which Australia won by an innings , as well as the next match against Glamorgan , which was a rain @-@ affected draw . He returned to score 32 and 20 not out as Australia defeated Warwickshire by nine wickets . Australia faced Lancashire for the second time on the tour ; Morris made 49 and 16 as the match ended in a draw . Morris and Barnes put on 123 in the first innings , but their teammates were unable to build on the platform and Australia ended on 321 . Morris was rested from the non @-@ first @-@ class match against Durham , which was a rain @-@ affected draw .

= = Fifth Test = =

Australia proceeded to The Oval for the Fifth Test . England won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch affected by heavy rain prior to the match . With the score at 2 / 17 , Lindwall bowled a bouncer , which Compton hooked . Morris ran from his position at short square leg to take a difficult catch , described by Fingleton as " one of the catches of the season " . England collapsed to be all out for 52 as Australia 's pacemen extracted bounce and movement from the pitch .

In contrast , Australia batted with ease , as the overcast skies cleared and sun came out . The debutant Allan Watkins opened the bowling , delivering four overs for 19 runs before the after @-@ effects of a Lindwall blow to the shoulder became too much . The openers passed England 's first innings total with ease in less than an hour , and Australia reached 100 at 17 : 30 , with Barnes on 52 and Morris on 47 . The tourists reached 117 before Barnes fell to Eric Hollies for 61 , ending an opening stand that had been compiled in only 126 minutes . This brought Bradman to the crease late on the first day . As the Australian captain had already announced his retirement after the end of the series , the innings would be his last in Test cricket if Australia batted only once . The crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked out to the wicket . Yardley led the Englishmen in giving Bradman three cheers , before shaking his hand . The Australian captain needed only four runs for a Test average of 100 , but was bowled by Hollies for a second ball duck with a googly that went between bat and pad . Bradman received another large round of applause as he left the arena .

Hassett came in at 2 / 117 and together with Morris saw Australia to the close at 2 / 153 . Morris was unbeaten on 77 , having hooked Hollies for two fours just before stumps . On the second morning , Morris registered his third century of the Test series and his sixth in Ashes matches . The innings had taken 208 minutes and included four fours . Hassett and Morris took the score to 226 before their 109 @-@ run stand was broken when Young trapped the former for 37 . As the Australians had dismissed their hosts cheaply on the first day and were already well in the lead , they had plenty of time to complete a victory , so Hassett and Morris had no need to take undue risks and scored at a sedate pace . The following batsmen were unable to establish themselves at the crease . Miller made five , before Harvey came to the crease and hit two quick boundaries before being dismissed . Hollies took both wickets .

Loxton came in and accompanied Morris for 39 further runs before falling to Edrich . Lindwall fell for nine before Morris was finally removed for 196 , ending an innings noted for his hooking and off @-@ driving . It took a run out to remove Morris ; he attempted a quick run after the ball was hit to third man . Morris was called through for a run by Don Tallon , but he was too slow for the substitute fielder Reg Simpson 's arm . Australia went on to finish with 389 . Morris had scored more than half

the runs as the rest of the team struggled against the leg spin of Hollies , who took 5 / 131 . Hollies tossed the ball up repeatedly , coaxing the Australians into attacking balls that spun after pitching on off stump . Morris took four catches for the match as Australia took victory by an innings and 149 runs , sealing a 4 ? 0 Test series triumph .

= = Later tour matches = =

Seven matches remained on Bradman 's quest to go through a tour of England without defeat . Australia batted first against Kent and Morris made 43 in a total of 361 before Australia enforced the follow on and completed an innings victory . Morris was rested for the following three matches against the Gentlemen of England , Somerset and the South of England . The first two matches were won by innings while the third was washed out after Australia took a large first @-@ innings lead . In the meantime , Morris underwent minor surgery for a split in his hand .

Australia 's biggest challenge in the post @-@ Test tour matches was against the Leveson @-@ Gower 's XI , named after H. D. G. Leveson @-@ Gower . During the last tour in 1938 , this team was effectively a full @-@ strength England outfit , but this time Bradman insisted only six current Test players be allowed to play for the hosts . After his demands were met , Bradman named a full @-@ strength team . After the tourists dismissed the home team for 177 , Morris made 62 in a 102 @-@ run opening stand with Barnes before Yardley bowled him . Australia declared at 8 / 489 and time ran out with Leveson @-@ Gower 's XI at 2 / 75 after multiple rain delays .

The tour ended with two non @-@ first @-@ class matches against Scotland . In the first match , Morris was the mainstay of the innings , scoring 112 as Australia batted first and made 236 . The Scots replied with 85 and were forced to follow on . Morris led the wicket @-@ taking in the second innings , taking 5 / 10 from five overs as the hosts fell for 111 to hand the Australians an innings victory . He continued his success in the second match , taking three of Scotland 's first four batsmen to end with 3 / 17 as the hosts fell for 178 . Batting at No. 7 , Morris made 10 as Australia declared at 6 / 407 and bowled four overs for eight runs without taking a wicket as Bradman 's men ended the tour with another innings victory .

= = Role = =

A left @-@ handed opening batsman , Morris played in all five Tests , partnering the right @-@ handed Sid Barnes in three Tests ; Barnes was injured in the Third and Fourth Tests . Barnes was unable to open in the former and did not play in the latter . Three opening batsmen were taken on the tour , with Bill Brown being the reserve . During the tour matches , which were usually played consecutively with only one or no days between fixtures , Bradman rotated the trio , so one would generally be rested while the other two opened. N- Notable exceptions occurred in the Test series and the opening match against Worcestershire and the clash against the MCC . In those matches , Australia fielded its first @-@ choice team ; Brown played out of position in the middle order , while Morris and Barnes opened . A very occasional left @-@ arm unorthodox spin bowler , Morris delivered only 35 overs during the first @-@ class matches , including eight in the Tests . He took two wickets , both outside the Test arena .

Morris ended the first @-@ class matches with 1 @, @ 922 runs at 71 @. @ 18 including seven centuries , ranking him second in runs only to Bradman (2 @, @ 428 at 89 @. @ 92) and substantially ahead of third @-@ placed Hassett (1 @, @ 563 at 74 @. @ 42) . He did so despite being troubled by a split between the first and second fingers of his left hand , caused by constant jarring from the bat as he played the ball . The wound often opened while he was batting , forcing him to undergo a minor operation which sidelined him from some matches in the latter part of the tour .

In recognition of his performances , Morris was named as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 1949 . Wisden described him as " one of the world 's best left @-@ hand batsmen " . Neville Cardus ' his former critic ' praised Morris 's performance during The Invincibles tour as " masterful , stylish , imperturbable , sure in defence , quick and handsome in stroke play . His batting is true to

himself , charming and good mannered but reliant and thoughtful . "

Morris 's form peaked in The Ashes , heading the Test averages and aggregates with 696 runs at 87 @.@ 00 . Bradman (502 at 72 @.@ 57) and Denis Compton (562 at 62 @.@ 44) were the next closest ; nobody else scored more than 360 runs . He was the only player to compile three Test centuries , and added three further fifties .

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