

= Jack Fingleton =

John " Jack " Henry Webb Fingleton OBE (28 April 1908 ? 22 November 1981) was an Australian cricketer who was trained as a journalist and became a political and cricket commentator after the end of his playing career . A stubborn opening batsman known for his dour defensive approach , he scored five Test centuries , representing Australia in 18 Tests between 1932 and 1938 . He was also known for his involvement in several cricket diplomacy incidents in his career , accused of leaking the infamous verbal exchange between Australian captain Bill Woodfull and English manager Plum Warner during the acrimonious Bodyline series , and later of causing sectarian tension within the team by leading a group of players of Irish Catholic descent in undermining the leadership of the Protestant Don Bradman . In retirement , Fingleton became a prominent political commentator in Canberra , with links to Australian prime ministers . The author of many cricket books , he is regarded as one of Australia 's finest cricket writers , with a perceptive and occasionally sardonic style , marked by persistent criticisms of Bradman .

Fingleton had a difficult childhood , forced to leave formal education at the age of 12 to support his family after the death of his father . He worked in a series of odd jobs before joining the media at the age of 15 . He gradually progressed in his newspaper and cricket career . After making his first @-@ grade debut in Sydney district cricket at the age of 16 , he made his first @-@ class debut for New South Wales at the age of 20 in 1928 ? 29 . However , Fingleton struggled to establish himself at interstate level , and was unable to maintain a regular position in the team , playing in only seven matches in his first three seasons .

In 1931 ? 32 , Fingleton capitalised on illnesses to teammates to gain a regular position for New South Wales and then make his debut for Australia . He secured a position in the state team after Archie Jackson developed terminal tuberculosis and made 93 and 117 in his first two innings for the season , his highest scores to that point . He was then called into the Test squad and made his debut in the Fifth and final Test of the season against South Africa after Bill Ponsford fell ill . On a pitch rendered hostile by rain , Fingleton made 40 in an innings victory , surpassing the entire aggregate scored by the South Africans in their first innings . The following season , Fingleton enhanced his reputation for defiance in difficult conditions by scoring an unbeaten century against the Bodyline attack in a tour match despite suffering multiple bruises , and compiling 83 in the low @-@ scoring Second Test , Australian 's only Test win of the series . However , he made a pair in the next Test and the controversy over England 's bowling peaked with the leaking of Woodfull 's admonishment of Warner over England 's tactics . At the time , Fingleton was widely believed to be responsible for the leak , although he always denied it and blamed Bradman . Over time , Fingleton 's view has become more widely accepted .

Fingleton was dropped after this Test , and was controversially overlooked for the 1934 tour of England despite strong performances for New South Wales . His omission was thought to be influenced by the belief that he was responsible for leaking Woodfull 's comments as well as Bradman 's criticism of his performance . Other factors speculated to have contributed to his omission included a dispute that Fingleton had with Woodfull during a Sheffield Shield match , and interstate rivalries between New South Wales and Victoria causing Fingleton 's omission at the expense of an additional Victorian .

After the 1934 tour , Woodfull and Ponsford ? Australia 's first @-@ choice opening pair ? retired , leaving vacancies in the Test team . Fingleton scored four centuries and was the leading run @-@ scorer during the 1934 ? 35 domestic season to earn a recall to the Australian team for the 1935 ? 36 tour of South Africa . From that point onwards until the outbreak of World War II , he opened the batting with his New South Wales partner Bill Brown . With Bradman absent due to illness , it was the happiest time of Fingleton 's career , and he scored centuries in three consecutive innings as Australia won each of the last three Tests by an innings . In the Fourth Test , he and Brown put on the first double century opening partnership for Australia in a Test .

In 1936 ? 37 , with Bradman back in the team as captain , Fingleton made a century in the First Test to become the first player to score consecutive centuries in four Test innings . He then made 136 in the Third Test , featuring in a partnership of 346 with Bradman after Australia had lost the first

two Tests ; their stand set up victory and Australia came back to win the series 3 ? 2 . Fingleton made his only tour of England in 1938 , and he was not successful , averaging only 20 @.@ 50 in the Tests . Upon returning to Australia he played sporadically for his state before retiring in 1939 ? 40 .

Fingleton enlisted in the military during World War II and was eventually sent to work on media matters for Prime Minister John Curtin and one of his predecessors , Billy Hughes . After the war , Fingleton worked as a political correspondent in Canberra and commentated on cricket during the summer months in Australia and England . He was a prolific author , regarded as one of the finest and most stylish cricket writers of his time , producing many books . Fingleton was known for his forthright opinions and willingness to criticise , and his cricket reports were published by newspapers in several countries . He was known for his ongoing feud with Bradman ? the pair repeatedly spoke out against one another 's judgement and play on the field long after they retired .

= = Style = =

A right @-@ hand opening batsman , Fingleton was noted primarily for his obdurate defense rather than for his strokeplay . Like most successful opening batsmen , he had a small back @-@ lift and was rarely surprised by the quicker half @-@ volley or yorker . Fingleton was often described as " courageous " , in particular for his defiant batting against Bodyline . Fingleton often made self @-@ deprecating comments about his batting , telling English cricket writer Alan Gibson that he " missed nothing " by not seeing him bat . He was also an athletic and gifted fieldsman , who built his reputation in the covers . Later he became noted along with Vic Richardson and Bill Brown in South Africa in 1935 ? 36 as part of Bill O 'Reilly 's leg @-@ trap . Neville Cardus , once described the Fingleton @-@ Brown combination as " crouching low and acquisitively , each with as many arms as an Indian God " .

His partnership with Brown was regarded as one of the great opening pairings in the history of Australian Test cricket . In ten Tests together as an opening partnership , the pair averaged 63 @.@ 75 for the first wicket , higher than any other Australian pair with more than 1 @,@ 000 runs .

= = Early years = =

Born at Waverley in the inner eastern suburbs of Sydney , Fingleton was the third of six children . His parents were James , a tram driver and union organiser who became a member of the New South Wales Parliament , and Belinda May Webb . The family was Irish Catholic ? Fingleton 's paternal grandfather had immigrated to Australia in the 1870s .

In 1913 , at the age of five , Fingleton 's father was elected into state parliament as a representative of the centre left , labour @-@ union oriented Australian Labor Party , and the family moved into a larger house . It was here that Fingleton learned to play street cricket . Fingleton was educated at the Roman Catholic St Francis 's School , in the inner city suburb of Paddington before moving to Waverley College . There he began a lifelong association with prose .

In 1917 , the family fell upon hard times when the elder Fingleton lost his seat and resumed his job as a tram driver , but in 1918 contracted tuberculosis . The father succumbed in 1920 when Jack was twelve , and the funeral director was Australian Test wicket @-@ keeper Sammy Carter .

Without their breadwinner , the Fingleton family were in further trouble and Belinda opened a seafood shop and withdrew her eldest son Les to support her . However , the business failed and the family home was at risk , so Jack was forced to quit school at the age of 12 . He did a variety of jobs such as selling food at cinemas , washing bottles and sweeping floors .

At the age of fifteen , Fingleton took the first steps in his journalism career , when his cousin helped him to become a copy boy with the now defunct Sydney Daily Guardian . Encouraged by his former headmaster , who had prompted his interest in writing , Fingleton quickly eased into his new career . Fingleton started as a sports reporter , and had a narrow escape when he was sacked by Robert Clyde Packer for breaking a pot , but then reinstated . Fingleton then risked being fired by removing cricket articles written by the famed Neville Cardus from the newspaper 's archive against policy for

his personal use .

Fingleton was unable to distinguish himself on the field while at school , but after joining Waverley , he made quick progress . Fingleton trained early in the morning , before heading to the office and working in the afternoon so that the articles would be printed in the evening . He was unable to afford the club membership so a patron sponsored him . At the age of 16 , he broke into the First XI of a grade team which included Test players Alan Kippax , Hanson Carter and Arthur Mailey . Australian Test captain Herbie Collins missed a match due to his work as a bookmaker , and Fingleton stood in at late notice . Under the leadership of Carter , Fingleton batted last and made 11 not out . Forced to follow on , he made 52 not out and cemented his position for the remainder of the season . Within a year , Fingleton 's grade performances were being reported in Sydney newspapers . Playing on a Waverley pitch notorious for uneven bounce , Fingleton developed a style of play centred around solid defence .

In the same year , his journalistic mentor Pedlar Palmer moved to The Sydney Morning Herald and Fingleton became disenchanted . He was coaxed by cricketer @-@ journalist to move his publication , the Telegraph Pictorial where he worked for several years before the outbreak of the Second World War . However , Fingleton 's initiation into his new workplace was difficult as the Telegraph Pictorial had just merged with the Daily Telegraph and around half the workforce were to be made redundant . Fingleton was demoted from the main staff to a freelance correspondent covering events in the inner @-@ city suburbs of Redfern and Newtown . In such crime @-@ ridden and turbulent working @-@ class area , Fingleton was productive in break stories and was soon restored to the regular staff .

= = First @-@ class debut = =

Having scored a century for Waverley against Petersham the week before , Fingleton made his first @-@ class debut in 1928 ? 29 , playing in two matches and having two innings . On debut against Victoria , Fingleton was allowed to bat no higher than No. 8 by captain Tommy Andrews , despite being a specialist batsman . More than 600 runs had been scored by the time the sixth wicket had fallen , bringing him to the wicket to join Don Bradman , who had already brought up his double century . The pair put on an unbroken stand of 111 before Andrews declared at 7 / 613 , of which Fingleton made 25 not out . During the partnership , Bradman farmed most of the strike , much to Fingleton 's chagrin . The pair 's first meeting had been prickly and Bradman glared angrily at Fingleton after a mix @-@ up almost ended in a run out . The match was drawn , and Fingleton then made a duck against Tasmania in an innings victory . The following summer , with no Test matches , New South Wales ' international representatives were available for the entire season , and Fingleton missed selection for every match .

In 1930 ? 31 , aged 22 , Fingleton regained his position at the start of the Sheffield Shield season for New South Wales , and first came to prominence when he withstood a ferocious opening spell against the express pace of Eddie Gilbert in Brisbane against Queensland . On one occasion , a particularly fast Gilbert delivery supposedly evaded both the batsman and wicket @-@ keeper , travelled more than 60 metres and crashed through a fence before hitting and killing a dog on the other side . Fingleton scored 56 as a full strength team with Test players fell for 143 . The visitors were set 392 for victory and played for a draw , with Fingleton adding 71 to prevent a collapse as the match was saved . He failed to pass single figures in his next four innings , and was dropped twice , before adding 32 not out and 26 as New South Wales lost to the touring West Indies . Fingleton did not play a full season and ended with 210 runs at 35 @. @ 00 in five matches , including the two half @-@ centuries .

= = Test debut = =

In the opening match of the 1931 ? 32 season , which was against Queensland , New South Wales were in trouble . Gilbert famously knocked the bat out of Donald Bradman 's hand , before removing him for a duck . Gilbert cut down the New South Wales top order with a spell of 3 / 12 and forced

Alan Kippax to retire hurt after hitting him in the upper body . Fingleton was going to be twelfth man before Archie Jackson ? who was to die of tuberculosis just over a year later ? collapsed just before the start of the match . Undeterred , Stan McCabe came in and counterattacked ; Fingleton assisted him with a stubborn 93 and featured in a 195 @-@ run fourth wicket partnership . New South Wales reached 432 and won by an innings .

Fingleton then scored his maiden first @-@ class century of 117 in less than four hours in the following match , against the touring South Africa , helping his team to 3 / 430 in their run chase . The hosts were 18 runs short of victory when time ran out . Although Fingleton made only five in New South Wales ' second match against the South Africans , Fingleton was selected for the Test series against the same team . This came after only ten matches for his state . Starting with the Second Test , he was twelfth man for three consecutive Tests , and as a result , did not play any cricket for six weeks before he added a pair of 40s in a win over arch @-@ rivals Victoria .

Fingleton made his debut in the Fifth and final Test in similar circumstances to his break at the start of the season ; Bill Ponsford fell ill and Bradman twisted an ankle . As Bradman later took a hard @-@ running catch as a substitute fielder on the same day , some suspected that he had feigned injury to avoid playing on a rain @-@ affected wicket hostile to batting ? he had appeared uncomfortable against aggressive bowling in the previous Test . In a low @-@ scoring match , Fingleton 's first action on the field was to let a ball go between his legs as South Africa batted first . Opening with captain Bill Woodfull in the absence of Ponsford , Fingleton saw his skipper removed from the first ball of the innings . He was allowed to ease into his first innings when the first ball he faced , from Neville Quinn , was a deliberate full toss to give him an opportunity to score his initial runs easily . The pair became friends from this point onwards . Fingleton was second top @-@ scorer with 40 as Australia made 153 recorded an innings victory . The match lasted less than one day 's playing time as the hosts fell for only 36 and 45 . The cricketer @-@ journalist Richard Whittington later wrote that " for courage and skill ... [Fingleton 's 51] was worth quadruple that number " . The Sydney Mail predicted that Fingleton 's display on the rain @-@ affected wicket , the likes of which were common , proved that he would " someday be a great success " there . Fingleton ended the season with 386 runs at 42 @.@ 88 with one century and a fifty in six matches .

= = Bodyline turmoil = =

In the following summer came the Bodyline series , when England toured under Douglas Jardine and targeted the upper bodies of the Australian batsmen with short @-@ pitched bowling , using a close leg side cordon to catch balls fended away from the body . In one of the tour matches before the Tests , Fingleton scored a defiant 119 * , carrying his bat for New South Wales against the bumper barrage of Harold Larwood and Gubby Allen , ensuring his selection for the First Test . Despite his unbending resistance , his state fell to an innings defeat . In a warm @-@ up for the Tests , he scored 29 and 53 not out for an Australian XI against the tourists , while most of his teammates struggled . His earlier experience held him in good stead as he scored 26 and 40 as Australia were crushed by ten wickets in the First Test in Sydney . Fingleton stood his ground and was hit several times . He then made a defiant four @-@ hour innings to top @-@ score with 83 in the first innings of Australia 's only win of the series in the Second Test in Melbourne , although he did run out his batting partner Leo O 'Brien in the process . This helped the Australians to reach 228 and they took a 59 @-@ run first innings lead before winning the match despite Fingleton making only one in the second innings . He appeared as well equipped as any Australian to combat England 's strategy .

= = = Adelaide leak = = =

However , the Third Test at the Adelaide Oval was disastrous for Fingleton , who scored a pair as Australia were hammered by 338 runs . He was blamed for leaking the details of the dressing room exchange between captain Bill Woodfull and English manager Plum Warner , which almost caused the abandonment of the Test series . Warner had visited Woodfull to express sympathies after the

Australian captain was struck in the heart by Larwood 's short pitched bowling , to which Woodfull retorted " I do not want to see you Mr. Warner . There are two sides out there . One is playing cricket and the other is not . " The leak caused a sensation , as Woodfull had publicly remained composed in the face of the body barrage , neither complaining nor retaliating . Fingleton was dropped for the remaining two Tests of the series . New South Wales played England after the Third Test and Fingleton had a chance to show his credentials against Bodyline but made only 19 and 7 in a four @-@ wicket defeat , and was unable to force his way back into the Test team . Fingleton always denied responsibility for the leak , blaming Bradman . This incident was the first in a string of open disagreements between Fingleton and Bradman .

The Bodyline season also marked the beginning of Fingleton 's opening combination with Bill Brown , who made his New South Wales debut in the same season . Fingleton scored four half @-@ centuries for the remainder of the first @-@ class season and ended with 648 runs at 38 @.@ 11 as New South Wales won the Sheffield Shield .

Fingleton had a prolific 1933 ? 34 Australian season in which he scored 655 runs at 59 @.@ 54 with two centuries and four fifties . He scored 105 in the Test trial for Richardson 's XI and then struck 145 against arch @-@ rivals Victoria in the last match of the season ; New South Wales were unable to force a victory and thus ceded the Sheffield Shield to their southern neighbours . He had scored 76 in the return match earlier in the season and added 33 and 78 against the Rest of Australia .

Despite this , Fingleton was overlooked for the Australian side selected to tour England in 1934 . With captain Woodfull and Bill Ponsford the established openers , there was only one place for a spare opener , and Brown won the position over his partner , who had performed to a similar standard during the season . The selectors asked Don Bradman , Australia 's leading batsman and state team @-@ mate to Brown and Fingleton , for advice . Bradman nominated Brown , believing that his style was better suited to English pitches . On the day that the team was selected , Bradman wrote in his newspaper column , criticising Fingleton 's running between the wickets . When the pair next met , Fingleton 's only words were to blame Bradman for his omission ; Bradman claimed that as a result of the selection controversy , Fingleton relentless pursued a vendetta against him from there on . Fingleton also suspected that Woodfull wanted him out of the team because he held the journalist responsible for the leaked exchange with Warner .

Some incidents in Fingleton 's century in the last match of the season were also believed to have reflected badly at the selection table . Having retired hurt on 78 , he returned the next day and was then dropped on 86 in the slips . Fingleton had moved out of his crease to pat out the pitch before the ball had gone dead and Victorian wicket @-@ keeper Ben Barnett broke the stumps . A displeased Fingleton was given out by umpire George Borwick and walked off the ground , only to be called back by captain Woodfull . Fingleton refused Woodfull 's offer and did not return until Woodfull successfully asked Borwick to reverse his decision . The media reported that Fingleton had quarrelled with Woodfull and several teammates told him that his apparent rebuff of the national captain would prejudice his chances of selection , and the NSWCA made an inquiry into the matter ; Fingleton failed to respond . During the same innings , Bradman also wrote in his newspaper report that Fingleton had been responsible for the run out of teammate Ray Rowe , which angered Fingleton for an extended period .

A disappointed Fingleton wrote to Woodfull , saying " You have chosen chaps who do not like fast bowling " . He also questioned what he perceived to be Woodfull 's coldness towards him since the Bodyline series and decried unnamed " fellow pressmen , naturally jealous " . Wisden speculated that Fingleton 's omission may have been due to cricket diplomacy reasons following the incident in Adelaide , while others thought that regionalism was to blame ; this view posited that Ernest Bromley was selected so that seven Victorians and New South Welshmen would be on the tour . Bromley scored only 312 runs in 20 innings in England .

Fingleton was selected for a second string Australian team to tour New Zealand for two months at the end of the season while the Test team departed for England . However , captain Victor Richardson and his deputy Keith Rigg withdrew , dissatisfied with the pay , leaving Fingleton as the most senior member of the team . The tour was then cancelled by New Zealand , who feared that

the large number of absentees would result in a large financial loss .

= = Test recall = =

With retirements of both Woodfull and Ponsford following the 1934 tour to England , positions at the top of the Australia 's batting order became available . Fingleton also found state cricket more attractive now that Bradman had decided to move to South Australia to take up stockbroking . Fingleton responded to his omission from the Ashes tour by leading the run @-@ scoring aggregates in the 1934 ? 35 season . He scored 880 runs at 58 @.@ 66 with four centuries and four fifties , almost 200 runs more than the second most prolific batsman , Brown . After Fingleton started the summer with a fifty in Woodfull 's testimonial match , the pair started the Shield campaign with a 249 @-@ run stand in New South Wales ' first match of the season against South Australia , both scoring centuries in an innings victory . Fingleton made 134 in just over three hours . Fingleton reached 49 at least once in the remaining five matches , including a 108 against Queensland . Despite the form of the openers , New South Wales failed to win the Sheffield Shield after losing both of their matches against Victoria . Fingleton ended the season with consecutive centuries , 124 and 100 , against Western Australia , and took the first of two first @-@ class wickets in his career in the first of the two matches .

As a result of his performances , Fingleton was recalled to the Test team for the tour of South Africa in 1935 ? 36 , where he partnered Brown at the top of the innings . Under normal circumstances , the Australians would have been captained by Fingleton 's rival Bradman , who had been vice @-@ captain to Woodfull . However , Bradman was unable to tour for medical reasons and Vic Richardson led the team instead . With Bradman out of the way , the tour was to be the most prolific and peaceful phase of Fingleton 's international career and included several large opening stands with Brown . During the tour , Fingleton played with an attacking flair that contrasted with his established reputation for doggedness . For Fingleton , it was the happiest tour he had been on , in large part due to Bradman 's absence .

Fingleton nearly failed to make the trip . His newspaper editor Eric Baume ordered to write a column attacking the Australian Board of Control for vetoing players from going on a private tour of India , threatening to sack him if he refused ? criticism of the board typically resulted in exclusion from selection . Fingleton was reluctant to comply , and was reprieved when the editor @-@ in @-@ chief overruled Baume .

Fingleton scored 66 for the Australians in an innings victory over Western Australia before sailing for South Africa . It was to be the start of a very productive campaign . In the three matches leading up to the Tests , against Natal , Western Province and Transvaal respectively , Fingleton scored 121 , 53 , 99 and seven not out . Australia won the latter match by ten wickets and the others by an innings . In the match by Natal , Fingleton and Brown both made centuries and combined in a double century stand .

After almost three years in the wilderness , Fingleton returned to the Test arena in the First Test at Durban . After making two in the first innings , he was unbeaten on 36 when Australia reached their second innings target with nine wickets in hand . During the first innings , a 140 km / h gale hit the ground , uprooting trees and forcing balls that were heading into the wind to do U @-@ turns . He followed this with 62 ? the innings top @-@ score ? and 40 in the Second Test at Johannesburg . After taking a 93 @-@ run first innings lead , Australia needed a Test record of 399 in the second innings to win on a turning wicket , and after the early demise of Brown , Fingleton joined McCabe in a 177 @-@ run partnership that pushed the score to 1 / 194 . Such was the dominance of McCabe that he scored more than 80 % of the runs during this partnership . Australia needed only 125 with half the day remaining and eight wickets in hand when poor visibility ended play . McCabe had flayed the attack and reached 189 not out when the South Africans had the match called off , claiming that the fieldsmen were endangered by the batsman 's vigorous hitting .

Fingleton finished the series with centuries in each of the last three Tests , all in consecutive innings ; 112 at Cape Town , 108 at Johannesburg and 118 in Durban . In the Third Test , Fingleton and Brown set a new Australian Test record opening stand of 233 , which laid the foundation for a total

of 8 / 362 declared and an innings victory . It was Australia 's first double @-@ century opening stand in Test cricket , and remains a national record for the first wicket against South Africa . On a rain @-@ affected wicket , Fingleton reached his maiden Test century in only 180 minutes before wickets began falling steadily .

Before the Fourth Test , Fingleton added 52 against Border and 110 in an innings win over Transvaal . His 108 in the Fourth Test was more than South Africa 's entire second innings of 98 , and scored at almost a run a minute . In the Fifth Test , the pair combined for another century stand . Each of the three matches resulted in an innings victory for Australia as the series was taken 4 ? 0 . Fingleton ended the Test series with 478 runs at 79 @.@ 66 . Against Natal at Durban , he made his highest first class score of 167 , his second century against the provincial side for the season . He ended the tour with a total of 1192 runs at 74 @.@ 50 , including six centuries . Despite his rapid scoring in South Africa , Fingleton 's achievements went largely unheralded at home ; at the time , England and Australia were by far the strongest Test teams and media coverage of the tour was scant . There was little detail in the reports apart from the scores and Fingleton was still described as a slow scorer , something that angered him .

= = Under the captaincy of Bradman = =

The following 1936 ? 37 season in Australia , saw more success for Fingleton , although with the return of Bradman as captain , team harmony became strained . Gubby Allen 's Englishmen toured Australia , and after failing to pass 10 in his first three innings for the season , Fingleton scored 39 , 42 and 56 in matches for New South Wales and an Australian XI against the tourists .

Fingleton became the first player to score centuries in four consecutive Test innings when he scored 100 in the first innings of the First Test at Brisbane , reaching the mileston on 7 December . He top @-@ scored as Australia replied to England 's 358 with 234 . Fingleton 's feats was later equalled by Alan Melville , (whose four centuries were scored on either side of World War II) and surpassed by the West Indian , Everton Weekes in 1948 ? 49 . Fingleton 's run ended in the second innings , falling for a golden duck as Australia were skittled for 58 on a sticky wicket and crushed by 322 runs .

After scoring 12 in a total of 80 as Australia were caught on a sticky wicket , Fingleton then made 73 in the second innings of the Second Test in Sydney , one of few Australians to resist as the home side fell to an innings defeat after being forced to follow on . Australia were facing a dilemma in the Third Test in Melbourne . The home team scored 200 , Fingleton contributing 38 , before rain caused a sticky wicket and England declared at 9 / 76 . However , Australia still had to bat on the treacherous surface , captain Bradman reshuffled the batting lineup , putting the bowlers in first and Fingleton and himself in at Nos. 6 and 7 to save them for more favourable batting conditions . The bowlers managed to survive to the end of the day 's play and the wicket improved overnight . The pair came together with the score at 5 / 97 and made a Test record sixth @-@ wicket partnership of 346 , with Fingleton making 136 . It turned the Test and saw Australia ended at 564 . The hosts bowled England out for 323 to win the match by 365 runs and prevent England from taking an unassailable 3 ? 0 lead . Fingleton did not pass 20 in his last three innings of the series , as Australia won the remaining two matches to win the series . Fingleton ended with 398 runs at 44 @.@ 22 in the Tests , and 631 runs at 33 @.@ 21 overall .

Fingleton followed up with 862 runs at 50 @.@ 70 in the 1937 ? 38 domestic season , with two centuries and six fifties . This effort placed him third in the run @-@ scoring aggregates for the season . He saved his best for arch @-@ rivals Victoria , scoring 59 and 160 to salvage a draw after New South Wales had conceded a first innings lead of 231 . New south Wales went on to win the title . Fingleton finished his season with 66 , 1 , 47 and 109 in two warm @-@ up matches for the Australian team against Western Australia before they headed to England for the 1938 Ashes series .

In 1938 , Fingleton made what turned out to be his international farewell as Australia toured England , a series in which he found runs difficult to come by . He later attributed this to his inability to play the pull shot . However , Fingleton started the tour well . He passed 30 in each of his first

seven innings on English soil , and converted three of these starts into centuries , scoring 124 against Oxford University , 111 against Cambridge University and 123 not out against Hampshire in the first month of cricket . Fingleton 's form tapered just at the wrong time , falling three times for single figures in the last two matches before the Tests . He carried this into the First Test at Trent Bridge , where he made only 9 and 40 in a high @-@ scoring draw in which every innings passed 400 .

An infamous incident occurred in Australia 's second innings . As Australia were 247 runs behind on the first innings and forced to follow on , they played for a draw and Brown and Fingleton batted slowly in the second innings . Sections of the crowd heckled his slow batting by using a slow hand clap . Bradman then sent Mervyn Waite out to deliver orders to the openers that they should back away from their positions and hold up proceedings until the barracking stopped . Fingleton said that he was not perturbed by the crowd but obeyed ; umpire Frank Chester and England captain Wally Hammond had no issues with this . At one point , Fingleton theatrically decided to take off his gloves , put down his bat and sit down on the pitch and refusing to resume before the gallery quietened , but this only caused a huge uproar . Wisden later criticised him , saying that he lost " all true sense of the situation ... an extraordinary action on the part of a cricket in a Test match . " They regarded the gesture as disrespectful as a majority of the spectators had not heckled him .

Fingleton rediscovered his form between the Tests , scoring 121 against the Gentlemen of England and 96 against Lancashire . Again however , Fingleton was unable to maintain the momentum in the Tests , making 31 and 4 against England in the Second Test at Lord 's , which ended in another draw .

Fingleton then aggregated only 36 in four innings in next three county fixtures , and after the Third Test at Old Trafford never started due to persistent rain , he was concussed in the match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston . A long hop from Waite was pulled into his head at point @-@ blank range , and Fingleton managed to duck enough that it glanced his forehead and went into the air , to the cries of " catch it " from Bradman . The ball did not go to hand and Fingleton was hospitalised .

Fingleton made 30 and 9 in a low @-@ scoring Fourth Test at Headingley , which Australia won by five wickets to retain the Ashes . He remained unproductive in the lead @-@ up to the final Test , scoring 51 in three first @-@ class innings . His Test career ended disappointingly at The Oval in " Hutton 's Match " . In the course of England 's marathon innings of 7 / 903 he sustained a leg injury , which prevented him from batting in either Australian innings . With Bradman also unable to bat , Australia collapsed to the heaviest defeat in Test history , by an innings and 579 runs . It capped off a tour that ended poorly after a promising start . Fingleton made 123 runs in six innings at an average of 20 @.@ 50 . With the outbreak of World War II , Australia was not to play another Test until the 1945 ? 46 season , ending Fingleton 's international career .

Fingleton returned to Australia and played in only three matches in the 1938 ? 39 domestic season , scoring 81 runs at 16 @.@ 20 , before being sidelined at the end of December . His top @-@ score for the season was 45 as New South Wales lost by four wickets to Victoria . In 1939 ? 40 , Fingleton had another quiet season with only 39 runs at 6 @.@ 50 in three matches . He passed single figures only once in six innings and ended with a duck and three as New South Wales lost to arch @-@ rivals Victoria by 82 runs . Fingleton retired at the end of the season .

= = World War II = =

After the start of World War II , he enlisted in the Second Australian Imperial Force in November 1941 in the artillery . He was sent to Warwick Farm , then on the western outskirts of Sydney , for training . A non @-@ conformist known for being forthright , Fingleton did not enjoy military discipline . In May 1942 , he went AWOL from his post at Double Bay on the shores of Sydney Harbour to visit his wife . As a result , he was missing when a Japanese midget submarine launched an attack in the harbour . Soon after , he was deployed to Townsville in northern Queensland in anticipation of a Japanese land invasion , which never materialised . He was then transferred to the Press Relations unit . There he did work in intelligence analysis and censorship .

The military then made him the press secretary for former Prime Minister of Australia Billy Hughes .

From his appointment onwards , he lived and worked in Canberra . Hughes had changed political parties several times and was infamous for his erratic style and the government wanted Fingleton to moderate him . The leader of the United Australia Party , Hughes had particularly worried Prime Minister John Curtin by frequently and publicly excoriating US General Douglas Macarthur , who was commanding the Allied forces in the Pacific . Curtin needed someone to quieten Hughes , as Macarthur had threatened to leave if the denouncements continued . Fingleton spent three months working for the temperamental Hughes and was not successful in curbing his aggressive oratory . He then worked in censorship , deciding which portions of Curtin 's press briefings were reportable ; Fingleton tried to take a liberal line on press freedom . Fingleton also worked for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation 's Radio Australia while serving in the censorship department .

= = Post @-@ war writing and journalism career = =

After the end of the war , Fingleton divided his time between Canberra , where until his retirement in 1978 he was political correspondent for Radio Australia , and cricket journalism . He forged close relationships with several Prime Ministers . In particular , Sir Robert Menzies , Australia 's longest serving Prime Minister , provided him with a laudatory foreword in his book , Masters of Cricket . Fingleton 's Test coverage resulted in a number of books that placed him at the forefront of Australian cricket writers . The books included Cricket Crisis (mainly an account of the 1932 ? 33 Bodyline series) , Brightly Fades the Don (the 1948 Invincibles tour) , Brown & Company : The Tour in Australia (the English tour of Australia in 1950 ? 51) , The Ashes Crown the Year (the Australian tour of England in 1953) , Masters of Cricket , Four Chukkas to Australia (the English tour of Australia in 1958 ? 59) , The Greatest Test of All (the Tied Test of 1960) , Fingleton on Cricket and The Immortal Victor Trumper . His final book , the autobiographical Batting From Memory , was to have its Australian launch during the week in which he died of a heart attack . His cricket writing , regarded as one of the most stylish by an Australian , often left a sour taste with observers because of the persistent anti @-@ Bradman jibes .

During his war years , Fingleton decided to take up book writing , in addition to newspaper journalism , and began compiling a book about the Bodyline series during his spare time in the army , a topic that was still deep in the Australian consciousness , using his inside knowledge as a participant in that Ashes campaign . As Fingleton had worked for the government 's censors , he was one of only a few who knew of the effect of the Bodyline controversy in politics , as he had been aware of the cables that had been sent by government officials . Fingleton received advice and encouragement from the eminent British cricket writer Neville Cardus , and suffered a setback when , after finishing half the book , he sent his manuscript to be reviewed . It was lost in the post , and he had forgotten to make a copy . Fingleton finished his book Cricket Crisis in 1946 but it was rejected by the publishers Collins , who had already published a book by Ray Robinson named Between Wickets on the same topic . They were also concerned about the marketability of a book that criticised Bradman ? still the dominant player of the time and an idolised figure ? strongly . Fingleton then published with Cassell , and the book was widely acclaimed and is still regarded as the best first @-@ hand account of the Bodyline controversy and of the classic cricket books at large . It was well known for its stylish writing and analytical value . Fingleton expressed his views forthrightly and interspersed the account with analyses and profiles of those involved in the Bodyline series , including Bradman , Jardine , Larwood , Warner and McCabe . He criticised Bradman 's unorthodox approach in backing away from the bowling and questioned his aloof attitude towards his teammates . This angered Bradman , who wrote in his 1949 book Farewell to Cricket in reply to Fingleton , claiming that as Fingleton was an inferior batsman , his record gave him " scarcely ... any authority to criticise my methods . " The debate continued on , with replies in subsequent publications citing statistics .

As parliament is usually in recess during the summer months , Fingleton 's political journalism did not often interfere with his cricket radio commentary for the ABC or his cricket writing , except during tours of England in the Australian winter . Fingleton mainly freelanced for overseas newspapers as he regarded Australian editors as being difficult to work with , and because the pay was lower . In

1946 ? 47 , England toured Australia for the first full Test series since the war . Fingleton criticised Bradman for not walking after hitting a disputed catch to Jack Ikin . Fingleton and most in the press box thought that the catch was clean but the umpire ruled in favour of Bradman . At the time Bradman had been making a comeback from ill health and had been struggling , and it was thought that he would retire if he could not discover his old form . After the dispute catch however , Bradman began timing the ball and went on to score 187 . Fingleton openly criticised the decision to give Bradman not out in his writing . Later in the series , he decried Bradman 's tactics of having his pacemen bowl frequent bouncers at the English batsmen , pointing out that it was hypocritical for the Australian captain to vociferously condemn Jardine 's tactics years earlier . As Fingleton was one of the few who were forthright enough to question the actions of national hero Bradman , many sources within the Australian cricket community chose to confide in him , most notably all @-@ rounder Keith Miller , whose cavalier attitude brought him into conflict with Bradman 's ruthless approach to victory . The following season , during the Indian team 's tour of Australia , Fingleton began his association with The Hindu .

After his death , a disused historic scoreboard from the MCG , dated to 1901 , was taken out of storage and transported to Canberra , where it was installed on the top of hill at Manuka Oval , and renamed the Jack Fingleton Scoreboard . At the dedication ceremony , Governor @-@ General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen said that Fingleton not merely a Test cricketer who became a parliamentary journalist in the national capital , but " an institution " in Canberra .

In addition to his writing , Fingleton was a witty , perceptive and occasionally sardonic commentator for the BBC and at various times a contributor to The Times , The Sunday Times , The Observer , and various newspapers in Australia , South Africa and elsewhere . In 1976 , he was awarded an OBE for services " to journalism and to cricket " . He was the subject of three appearances in 1979 and 1980 on Parkinson 's TV interview show . Fingleton 's judgements were characterised by careful first @-@ hand evidence and was known for sensing the emergence of a possible story . E W Swanton stated that " Fingleton remains surely , as cricket writer and broadcaster , the best his country has " .

= = Family = =

Fingleton met his wife Philippa " Pip " Street in 1938 during the sea voyage from Australia to England for the Test series . Philippa was the daughter of Kenneth and Jessie Street . Her father later became the Chief Justice of New South Wales , while her mother was a prominent left @-@ wing women 's rights activist and the Streets were a wealthy family of the Protestant establishment . Jessie had taken her daughter with her to a meeting of the League of Nations and then for a long tour of Europe . At the time , Philippa was only 18 , and Fingleton 30 , and Jessie was concerned when the pair fell in love , anticipating that problems would arise over religion . She hoped that the young couple would drift apart , but Fingleton gave the family tickets to the Fifth Test in London , only to injure himself during the match and not be able to bat . Upon returning to Australia , the couple wanted to marry , but the Streets forbade their daughter from marrying until 21 . Fingleton wanted Philippa to adopt Catholicism , something that concerned her mother , as she had clashed with Catholic leaders in her advocacy of birth control . The wedding went ahead in January 1942 after Philippa agreed to convert and Fingleton fitted in easily with his in @-@ laws ' left @-@ wing orientation .

= = Conflict with Bradman = =

Throughout his career as player and journalist , Fingleton persistently came into personal conflict with Don Bradman , one of the captains under whom Fingleton played , damaging the reputations of both . Bradman characteristically held his silence during Fingleton 's lifetime . Bradman was known for his reserved personality , did not drink and often eschewed social activities with teammates , preferring to privately listen to music or read . Combined with his success , he gained a reputation for cockiness . In the 1930s , Australia had been divided along sectarian lines , with those of Irish

descent such as Fingleton being Catholic and Anglo @-@ Australians such as Bradman being predominantly Protestant , leading to speculation that the tension was fuelled by religion . During the 1936 ? 37 Ashes series in Australia , four Catholics , leading bowler Bill O 'Reilly , leading batsman and vice @-@ captain Stan McCabe along with Leo O 'Brien and Chuck Fleetwood @-@ Smith were summoned by the Board of Control to respond to allegations that they were undermining Bradman . Fingleton was not invited , speculated to be due to his journalistic background , but Bradman later alleged that he was the ringleader . After that , Bradman 's relationship with O 'Reilly and Fingleton never recovered . When Bradman was dismissed in his final Test innings in 1948 for a duck , Fingleton and O 'Reilly were reported to be laughing hysterically in the pressbox . E W Swanton said that " I thought they were going to have stroke " . Bradman later wrote after both had died : " With these fellows out of the way , the loyalty of my 1948 side was a big joy and made a big contribution to the outstanding success of that tour " .

= = Test statistics = =