

= Don Tallon with the Australian cricket team in England in 1948 =

Don Tallon was a key member of Donald Bradman 's famous Australian cricket team tour of England in 1948 , in which Australia was undefeated in their 34 matches . This unprecedented feat by a Test side touring England earned them the sobriquet The Invincibles .

The team 's first @-@ choice wicket @-@ keeper ahead of Ron Saggers , Tallon played in four of the five Tests , missing the Fourth Test due to injury . Despite being the preferred gloveman , Tallon conceded byes at a higher rate than Saggers during the tour .

Bradman rotated the two glovemen during the tour , and Tallon played in 14 of the 31 first @-@ class matches , taking 29 catches and 14 stumpings . Tallon 's catch of Len Hutton in the Fifth Test at The Oval was described as Wisden as the best of the year . He also took a difficult catch to remove George Emmett in the Third Test at Old Trafford , catching a ball that flew to his feet at yorker length . However , Tallon also had some mishaps , with finger injuries inflicted by failing to catch the ball correctly . Tallon had few opportunities with the bat , scoring 283 runs at a batting average of 25 @.@ 72 in 13 first @-@ class innings , including two fifties . During the Test , Tallon scored 112 runs at 28 @.@ 00 , including a 53 in the Second Test that saw Australia recover to a first innings of 350 after a middle @-@ order slump had seen England take the upper hand . He took 12 catches in the Tests .

In recognition of his performances , Tallon was named as one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 1949 .

= = Background = =

Tallon 's form as Australia 's wicket @-@ keeper since World War II saw him selected for the 1948 Ashes tour as part of the side that would become known to cricket history as the Invincibles . Tallon was the first @-@ choice wicket @-@ keeper , with Saggers as his deputy . Having spent the majority of his life in sunny Queensland and growing up in tropical Bundaberg , the cold English climate initially caught Tallon off guard . He did not wet his inner gloves as was his custom due to the temperature . As England agreed to make a new ball available every 55 overs , this meant that the ball would more frequently be in a favourable state for fast bowling , since it would swing more . As a result , Australia adopted a pace @-@ oriented strategy and Ian Johnson was the only spinner regularly used in the Test matches . Colin McCool was not to play a Test on the tour , depriving Tallon of an opportunity to show his stumping abilities standing up at the stumps to his Queensland team @-@ mate in the Tests .

= = Early tour = =

Australia traditionally fielded its first @-@ choice team in the tour opener , which was customarily against Worcestershire . Accordingly , Tallon was selected as the wicket @-@ keeper for the match . The home side batted first and Tallon made his first dismissal on English soil by catching Worcestershire captain Allan White from the bowling of Keith Miller . He then stumped former England captain Bob Wyatt from McCool . In reply to the hosts ' 233 , Tallon was promoted to No. 6 , but managed only six in a collapse of 4 / 38 before Australia recovered to declare at 8 / 462 . He took a further three dismissals in the second innings , two of them stumpings from McCool 's bowling , as Australia crushed the hosts by an innings and 17 runs . Tallon conceded 11 byes in the match .

Tallon was rested for the second tour match against Leicestershire , which Australia won by an innings with Saggers behind the stumps .

Tallon played a key role in Australia 's victory in the next match against Yorkshire , on a damp pitch that suited slower bowling . He came in at 7 / 86 and made ten in the first innings to push Australia to 101 in reply to Yorkshire 's 71 , in which Tallon did not concede a bye . However , Tallon was not so tidy in the second innings , conceding 11 byes as the hosts were bowled out for 89 in their second innings . He did not make a dismissal in the match . Australia then collapsed to 6 / 31 in

pursuit of 60 for victory when Tallon strode in . To make matters worse , Sam Loxton was injured and could not bat , so Australia only had three wickets in hand . Australia faced its first loss to an English county since 1912 . He survived an immediate leg before wicket appeal and then hit a shot that fell just short of a fielder . He then compiled 17 unbeaten runs as Australia scraped home by four wickets .

The Australians travelled to London to play Surrey at The Oval . Tallon came in with the score at 6 / 553 , and held up his end , scoring an unbeaten 50 as his partners steadily fell and Australia were bowled out at 632 . Tallon had some difficulty in English conditions as he sustained a bruised right finger when he lost sight of a Ray Lindwall bouncer on a misty morning during the match and was hit as he put hand over his face for protection , with the ball running away for four byes . Tallon took two catches in the second innings as Australia won the match by an innings , but he also conceded 24 byes in Surrey 's match total of 336 .

After sustaining the bruised finger , Tallon was rested for the following three matches , which were against Cambridge University , Essex and Oxford . Australia won each of the matches by an innings . Siggers filled in and scored 110 runs including a 104 not out against Essex and took five dismissals . Siggers conceded only 34 byes in his four tour matches , while Tallon had conceded 46 in three.N-

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 , N- and were basically a full strength Test team , as were Australia , who fielded their first @-@ choice team . It was a chance to gain a psychological advantage , and Tallon was selected despite conceding byes at a higher rate in the preceding tour matches . He made 11 batting at No. 9 , including a six from Jim Laker as Australia made 552 . He took three catches in the first innings , having a hand in the first three wickets to fall , Jack Robertson , Bill Edrich and Denis Compton . He then took two stumpings in the second innings as the follow on was enforced , but also conceded 26 byes as Australia won by an innings . Tallon had conceded 72 byes to Siggers ' 34 with both having played four matches.N-

Following the match against the MCC , there were four more county fixtures before the First Test , against Lancashire , Nottinghamshire , Hampshire and Sussex . Australia drew the first two before winning the latter two by eight wickets and an innings and 325 runs respectively . Tallon played in only the Nottinghamshire match , taking two catches in the first innings and two stumpings in each of the innings . The catches were all from Lindwall and the stumpings from Doug Ring . Tallon conceded 18 byes for the match and scored 27 , being last man out at 400 after coming to the crease at 6 / 355 . In Siggers 's three matches , 36 byes were conceded and six dismissals were made .

= = First Test = =

Despite averaging more byes per innings than Siggers during the warm @-@ up matches , N-Tallon was retained in the Test team . During the First Test at Trent Bridge , Tallon took four catches . In the first innings , Tallon caught Jim Laker from the bowling of Keith Miller to end England 's innings of 165 after he and Alec Bedser had joined forces at 8 / 74 .

When Australia batted , Tallon came in at 6 / 338 to accompany Lindsay Hassett and took 39 minutes to compile 10 before hitting a return catch to the left arm orthodox spin of Jack Young . The scoring was slow during this passage of play ? Young delivered 11 consecutive maiden overs and his 26 @-@ over spell conceded only 14 runs with Australia using leg theory .

After Australia ended with 509 and took a 334 @-@ run lead , Tallon took two difficult catches to dismiss key batsmen at the start of England 's second innings . Miller removed Cyril Washbrook for one from a top @-@ edged hook shot to Tallon . Bill Edrich was then caught behind attempting a cut from the off spin of Johnson . He did not read the arm ball that went straight on and the ball took the outside edge , leaving England at 2 / 39 . He thus helped Australia to seize the initiative by denying England a good start , but they recovered . Later , he caught Godfrey Evans for 50 from Johnson as England ended at 441 . Australia reached their target of 98 with two wickets down , completing an eight @-@ wicket victory . Tallon conceded five and 12 byes in the two innings respectively .

Between Tests , Australia played Northamptonshire and Yorkshire , and Tallon was rested for both matches . The first was won by an innings and second was drawn . Saggers made four and 22 and conceded 24 byes in four innings .

= = Second Test = =

The teams moved on to Lord 's for the Second Test and Australia compiled 350 in its first innings . Tallon came to the crease with Australia at 6 / 225 after Hassett and Bill Brown had gone in quick succession , joining Johnson in the middle . Johnson struggled to score , while Tallon did so freely in the last hour . After Johnson fell for four at 7 / 246 , Lindwall then joined Tallon and the pair survived to the close of play . England were well placed when Australia ended at stumps on 7 / 258 with Tallon on 25 . Tallon had dominated the scoring late in day , making 25 of the 33 runs added . The crowd was optimistic about England 's position and some immediately camped outside the turnstiles upon leaving the ground .

Australia 's lower order batted the tourists into control on the second morning . Despite the loss of Lindwall for 15 at 8 / 275 , Tallon kept on batting in a conventional manner , supported by Johnston and Ernie Toshack , who scored their highest Test scores . Both tail @-@ enders threw the bat at the ball , which often went in vastly different directions to where they had aimed their shots . Tallon put on 45 with Johnston ? who scored 29 ? before holing out for 53 . Ending at 350 , the Australians had regained the momentum , taking 92 runs from 66 minutes of hitting in the morning .

Tallon did not concede a bye in England 's first innings of 215 and his diving was estimated to have saved around 40 runs . He caught Washbrook from Lindwall to leave England at 1 / 17 , and later caught Laker from Johnson . Tallon was not needed in the second innings ; Lindwall was promoted above Tallon because Australia needed quick runs and Lindwall was a big @-@ hitter . Australia declared at 7 / 460 , leaving England a target of 509 .

With the score at 2 / 65 , Washbrook inside edged a Toshack full toss directly downwards at Tallon 's ankle . Bradman described the catch as " miraculous " because Tallon had to reach so low , so quickly , in order to take the catch . Another dive to stop a leg glance resulted in a severely bruised left little finger . Tallon conceded 16 byes in the second innings , more than 8 % of England 's score . Australia won the Test by 409 runs , and nursing his finger , Tallon was rested for both tour matches between the Tests , which were against Surrey and Gloucestershire , which were won by ten wickets and an innings respectively . In his place , Saggers scored 12 , took nine dismissals and conceded 31 byes in four innings .

= = Third Test = =

The teams then played out a rain @-@ affected draw in the Third Test match at Manchester , where England elected to bat first . On the first day , Edrich gloved a rising Lindwall delivery and was caught by Tallon for 32 , leaving England at 5 / 119 . Compton returned at the fall of Edrich 's wicket after previously leaving the ground after being bloodied in the head by a Lindwall bouncer . He batted to stumps , after being dropped one @-@ handed on 50 by Tallon , before again being dropped on 64 late in the day by the gloveman from the bowling of Johnston . England closed at 7 / 231 with Compton on 64 .

On the second morning , Tallon again dropped Compton from Johnston when the batsman was on 73 . England eventually finished on 363 , with Compton not out on 145 . Thus Tallon 's drops cost 95 runs as well as allowing Compton to hold up one end so his partners could score . Tallon also conceded seven byes .

Australia reached 3 / 135 when Miller and Arthur Morris departed in quick succession . With Sid Barnes retiring hurt because of a blow to the ribs , Tallon came in at 5 / 139 , effectively six wickets down and made 18 in half an hour before falling at 6 / 172 . Australia managed to reach 221 and avoid the follow on .

England batted again and Tallon dismissed George Emmett from Lindwall with a diving one @-@ handed catch . Lindwall pitched an outswinger on the off stump and Emmett edged it to wicket @-@

keeper Tallon , who took it in his right hand with a dive , leaving England at 1 / 1 . England then declared at 3 / 174 ; Tallon conceded nine byes and with more than a day was lost to rain , Tallon was not required as Australia batted out the last session for a draw .

Tallon 's little left finger swelled up after the Third Test and he exacerbated the injury during a tour match against Middlesex . In this match , he scored 17 , took two catches and a stumping in the first innings and conceded only seven byes for the entire match as Australia won by ten wickets .

= = Fourth Test = =

The left finger injury ruled him out of the Fourth Test at Headingley , and he was replaced by Siggers . Australia set a world record in successfully chasing a target of 404 to win the match by seven wickets and secure the series . Siggers leaked only six byes in 299 @. @ 1 overs of glovework during the match as Australia conceded a total of 861 runs for the match . It was the lowest percentage of byes conceded in a match total by an Australian wicket @- @ keeper for the tour (0 @. @ 697 %) .N-

Tallon missed the innings victory over Derbyshire , before returning against Glamorgan . In his first match back from injury , Tallon took a catch and two stumpings as the hosts were dismissed for 197 , but he also conceded 19 byes . Byes made 9 @. @ 64 % of the match total conceded by Australia , the highest proportion by the tourists during the summer.N- He did not bat as rain ended the match with Australia at 3 / 215 . He was rested for the nine @- @ wicket win over Warwickshire , before returning for Australia 's second match and second draw against Lancashire . Tallon came in at 7 / 232 and scored 33 , adding 63 with Ian Johnson to help Australia reach 321 . He took two catches and two stumpings but also conceded 23 byes . In the non @- @ first @- @ class match against Durham , Tallon played purely as a batsman , while Siggers kept wicket . He opened the batting , but was dismissed for one as Australia made 273 and the hosts reached 5 / 73 before rain ended the match .

= = Fifth Test = =

Tallon returned for the Fifth Test at The Oval , where England elected to bat first on a rain @- @ affected pitch . Tallon caught Jack Crapp from an outside edge for a duck from the bowling of Miller , leaving England at 4 / 23 as play was adjourned for lunch . England continued to struggle against the moving ball and were all out for 52 in the middle session . The innings ended when Tallon took an acrobatic catch to dismiss Len Hutton down the leg side , catching it with his left hand . It was considered the catch of the season by Wisden . Tallon conceded six byes in the innings .

Australia batted and passed England 's total on the first afternoon . Tallon came in to bat on the second day with the score at 7 / 332 , joining opener Morris , who had already passed 150 . It took a run out to remove Morris ; he attempted a quick run to third man after being called through by Tallon but was not quick enough for the substitute fielder 's arm , leaving Australia at 8 / 359 . Tallon , who scored 31 , put on another 30 runs with Doug Ring , before both were out on 389 , ending Australia 's innings . In the second innings , Tallon caught Hutton from Miller and conceded nine byes as England were dismissed for 188 and lost by an innings , sealing a 4 ? 0 series victory for Australia .

= = Later tour matches = =

Seven matches remained on Bradman 's quest to go through a tour of England without defeat . Tallon was rested for three consecutive matches against Kent , the Gentlemen of England , and Somerset , all of which Australia won by an innings . Siggers stood in and made seven dismissals and conceded 29 byes in the six innings of the three matches .

He returned for the following match against the South of England . He did not bat as Australia declared at 7 / 522 . He then took three catches and conceded 13 byes as the match was washed out when the hosts were dismissed for 298 .

Australia 's biggest challenge in the post @- @ Test tour matches was against the Leveson @- @

Gower 's XI . During the last tour in 1938 , this team was effectively a full @-@ strength England outfit , but this time Bradman insisted that only six current England Test players be allowed to play for the hosts . Bradman then fielded a full @-@ strength team , with the only difference from the Fifth Test team being Johnson coming for Doug Ring . Tallon made two as Australia declared at 8 / 489 . He conceded seven byes and did not make a dismissal as the match ended in a draw after multiple rain delays .

The tour ended with two non @-@ first @-@ class matches against Scotland . In the first match , Tallon played as a batsman while Saggars kept wicket . Tallon scored only six in Australia 's 236 and then took 0 / 10 in Scotland 's second innings and did not take a catch in the innings victory . In the second match in Aberdeen , Tallon kept wicket , conceding 26 byes and not taking a dismissal and he was not required to bat . When the match became safe , with Australia in an unassailable position in Scotland 's second innings , Bradman allowed Tallon to dispense with his wicket @-@ keeping pads and try his luck at bowling leg spin . Tallon never bowled in his Test career and only rarely in first @-@ class cricket , where he delivered 301 balls , the approximate workload of a specialist bowler in one match . Tallon took 2 / 15 as Australia finished the tour with another innings win .

= = Role = =

Tallon had had moderate success with his batting during the Test series , aggregating 114 runs at 28 @.@ 50 . He usually batted at No. 8 , and only had four innings as Australia 's batting strength was such that he did not need to bat in the second innings in any of the Tests . The Australian team strategy of primarily depending on fast bowling saw Tallon make 12 catches and no stumpings during the Tests . However , Bradman gave his lead pace bowlers Miller and Lindwall more rest during the tour games to save energy for the Tests , and relied more heavily on the off spin of Ian Johnson and the leg spin of McCool and Doug Ring in the county matches . Thus overall Tallon took 29 catches and 14 stumpings for the first @-@ class matches during the tour . Tallon scored 283 runs at 25 @.@ 72 for the season at an average higher than Saggars 's 23 @.@ 22 . In all his matches on tour , Tallon conceded 249 byes as Australia conceded 5331 runs , a bye percentage of 4 @.@ 67 % , compared to Saggars 's 221 byes from 6190 runs , a percentage of 3 @.@ 57 % .N-

During the tour , Tallon had few opportunities with the bat , generally batting between No. 8 and No. 9 , N- because Australia 's frontline bowlers included the likes of Ray Lindwall , Colin McCool , Ian Johnson and Doug Ring , who were all capable with the bat . Lindwall scored two Test centuries in his career , while McCool scored 18 first @-@ class centuries , including one in Tests . Johnson and Ring both scored more than 20 fifties at first @-@ class level . As Australia often won by an innings , and often declared in the first innings , Tallon only had 13 innings in his 14 first @-@ class fixtures and was not out two times as he ran out of partners .

Tallon 's performances during the English summer saw him named by Wisden as one of its five Cricketers of the Year .

= = = Statistical notes = = =