



## THE MASONIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PAPER No. 80

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DATE: 27 May 2002

Bro. ALBERT COTTER  
(1883 - 1917)

Albert Cotter, whose nickname was Tibby, was born in Sydney on 3 December 1883.

He was educated at Sydney Grammar School and was one of Grammar's six former pupils to play test cricket for Australia before the First World War.

Cotter played grade cricket for the Glebe club and joined a 6 am practice group at Jubilee Oval with Warren Bardsley, Bert Oldfield and Charles Kelleway each of whom subsequently played for Australia and each of whom joined a Masonic lodge. During the winter the group ran and exercised with the footballers to keep fit.

Cotter had a strong and powerful physique and he became a great fast bowler. Old time cricket writer, J C Davis said of him:

No more beautifully proportioned man have I ever seen. Those who have never gazed upon Albert Cotter stripped often marvelled how he got the tremendous pace into his bowling when he was at his top. But if they could have seen his deep chest, powerful shoulders, thick, clean-muscled arms, the strength and symmetry of his body and limbs, they would no longer wonder. He was a model for the sculptor.

The New South Wales coach in the 1930's, George Garnsey, wrote:

Cotter's arm seemed to be simply a medium for producing the speed imparted by the great body-swing of a wonderfully muscled torso.

Cotter played in what was known as the 'Golden Age of Cricket'.

He was a right arm fast bowler and right hand batsman and old films show that he had a low, almost round-arm slinging action very like that of Jeff Thomson and, as Thommo did, he crossed one leg behind the other immediately before the delivery stride.

He first played for New South Wales in the 1901-2 season and, during the following season, he was chosen to play in the 4th test against England at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

It was the era of timeless tests and the match, which began on 26 February 1904 was won by England by 157 runs. Cotter took 0 for 44 and 3 for 41 and scored 0 and 34 with the bat.

No wickets and no runs in the first innings of his first test was hardly a conspicuous beginning but in the next test in Melbourne, England were caught on a wet, uncovered wicket and Tibby was in his element.

