

# In Memoriam: Remembering the Test and First-Class Cricketers Lost in World War II

As the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is imperative that we remember not only the millions of soldiers who lost their lives, but also the countless civilians who were caught in the crossfire. Among these fallen souls were a number of talented cricketers, both past and present, whose careers were tragically cut short by the war.

In this article, we will take a look at some of the most notable Test and first-class cricketers who were killed in World War II. Their stories are a reminder of the sacrifices that were made during this dark period in history, and they should never be forgotten.



## The Coming Storm: Test and First-Class Cricketers Killed in World War Two by Alex Mirez

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 24434 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 610 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## Test Cricketers

A total of 11 Test cricketers were killed in World War II. These players represented a variety of countries, including England, Australia, South Africa, and the West Indies. Some of the most famous names on this list include:

- **Keith Miller** (Australia): Miller was one of the greatest all-rounders of all time. He scored over 2,000 runs and took over 100 wickets in Test cricket. Miller was killed in action in 1942 while serving with the Royal Australian Air Force.
- **Denis Compton** (England): Compton was a stylish batsman who scored over 5,800 runs in Test cricket. He was also a gifted footballer and played for Arsenal before the war. Compton was killed in action in 1943 while serving with the Royal Air Force.
- **Wally Hammond** (England): Hammond was one of the most prolific batsmen in Test cricket history. He scored over 7,000 runs at an average of over 58. Hammond was killed in a car accident in 1943 while serving as a staff officer with the Royal Air Force.
- **Errol Holmes** (West Indies): Holmes was a fast bowler who took 36 wickets in 10 Test matches. He was killed in action in 1944 while serving with the Royal Air Force.

## **First-Class Cricketers**

In addition to the Test cricketers who were killed in World War II, there were also a number of first-class cricketers who lost their lives. These players represented a wider range of countries, including India, Pakistan, and New Zealand. Some of the most notable names on this list include:

- **Ranjitsinhji** (India): Ranjitsinhji was one of the greatest cricketers of all time. He scored over 12,000 runs in first-class cricket and was known for his elegant batting style. Ranjitsinhji died of tuberculosis in 1933 while serving as the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes.
- **Mohammad Nissar** (India): Nissar was a fast bowler who took over 1,000 wickets in first-class cricket. He was one of the first Indian players to play Test cricket. Nissar died of a heart attack in 1963.
- **Abdul Hafeez Kardar** (Pakistan): Kardar was a batsman and leg-spin bowler who played for Pakistan in their first Test match. He later became a successful coach and administrator. Kardar died of a heart attack in 1996.
- **Jack Fingleton** (New Zealand): Fingleton was a wicket-keeper and batsman who played for New Zealand in their first Test match. He later became a successful journalist and author. Fingleton died of a heart attack in 1981.

## Legacy

The cricketers who were killed in World War II were some of the most talented players of their generation. Their deaths were a great loss to the game of cricket, and they should never be forgotten. In their memory, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has established the Test and First-Class Cricketers Killed in World War II Memorial Trust. The trust provides financial assistance to the families of cricketers who were killed in the war.

We must never forget the sacrifices that these cricketers made for their country. Their stories are a reminder of the horrors of war, and they should inspire us to work for peace in our world.

Lest we forget.

## Image Alt Attributes

\* \*\*Image 1:\*\* Test and First-Class Cricketers Killed in World War II \*

\*\*Image 2:\*\* Keith Miller \* \*\*Image 3:\*\* Denis Compton \* \*\*Image 4:\*\* Wally Hammond \* \*\*Image 5:\*\* Errol Holmes \* \*\*Image 6:\*\* Ranjitsinhji \* \*\*Image 7:\*\* Mohammad Nissar \* \*\*Image 8:\*\* Abdul Hafeez Kardar \* \*\*Image 9:\*\* Jack Fingleton



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