

## Dudley ‘Dud’ Suttor



Dudley Colin Suttor was born on 10 April 1892 to Walter Sydney Suttor and Louisa Ellen Suttor nee Monro in Cowra, NSW. He was educated at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore), Sydney.

Suttor became a fruit grower near Bathurst, NSW, and played rugby for Bathurst. He represented NSW in 1912 playing eight matches on the wing. A journalist recorded that,

Suttor, the left wing three quarter back, was the crackerjack player of the side. He scored three brilliant tries and would have scored three dozen had J. Flynn never been born. Suttor as a winger is the ideal, a man who shoots off the mark like lead out of a Winchester, fast as a Zebra, and generally, a reckless, daring smashing player.

Suttor had that great attribute that all top-class wingers need—speed—and he could use his extreme pace to fashion scoring chances where none seemed to exist. A contemporary of fly half Bill Tasker, Suttor made his New South Wales debut in the same match but missed selection for the 1912 Australian team that toured America. Bathurst was apparently so upset over his omission that the city immediately

swung over to rugby league. Perhaps that was no bad thing, as the tour was little short of a debacle, and by the time 1913 rolled around Suttor was both fresh and hungry for success.

Although he continued to play in the country, Suttor's abilities were well known in town. When South Sydney wing R.D. Fusedale did not have a particularly good match in the first contest against the visiting New Zealand Maori team, Suttor was called up. Suttor's first real chance came from a slick move worked by Fred Wood and Tasker, which gave the speedy Bathurst man a modicum of space. It was all he needed, as he burst clear of the defence and scored after a 50-yard run that had the crowd on its feet. In the second spell, he again made a classy finishing run after good work by the inside backs who had created space. His defence also won acclaim on many occasions. Praised on all sides as the star turn of a hard-fought match, Suttor was always going to be chosen for the 1913 New Zealand tour.

Suttor toured New Zealand as a wing three quarter with the 1913 Waratahs and earned his international cap (Wallaby number 129). He played all the main matches and, with Ernie Carr playing every match, Queensland winger Lou Meibusch did not get a look in. Suttor did little early on, as most of the play tended to run Carr's way, but he made a mark in the second Test. Finally given a chance to show off his great pace, Suttor scored one of Australia's three tries that day after

receiving the ball from his centres and being given half a yard to move in. Once again, that was all he needed as he raced off to score. He scored again after coming on as a replacement at Timaru—the injury finishing any hopes Meibusch may have entertained of winning a Test spot—and Suttor had a stand-out game at Christchurch. He scored two fine tries, once after getting an overlap and the other after receiving a cut-out pass from Larry Wogan, and both times he was too quick for the chasers or the cover.

Australia claimed an historic 16-5 win, its first over the All Blacks in New Zealand, and was value for every point. The tour finished with a match against a moderate Marlborough side at Blenheim, where Suttor and Carr enjoyed both the firm ground and the space created by the centres to register hat-tricks. Naturally the two wingers were the day's star players and Suttor was the leading try scorer on the tour with seven tries.

Whatever his reputation after the New Zealand tour, Suttor had a less impressive home season in 1914. He was a member of the New South Wales side that faced the All Blacks in the tour opener and then played for Central-Western in the second tour match. This was a disaster as far as Suttor was concerned; he spent most of the afternoon trying to combat two or three attackers and the home side, completely outclassed, lost by 10-59. The All Blacks scored 15 tries and Suttor's marker, Henry Taylor, scored five times. Even though his

defence had been a feature in New Zealand, Suttor was condemned on this showing and Queensland fullback Eric Francis was promoted to the Test wing spot. Suttor was also left out of the New South Wales side for the return match, although he did keep his place for the Queensland game.

Enlisting in the AIF on 16 June 1915, Suttor served as a driver with the 15th Australian Army Service Corps train, which was attached to the 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Division. He embarked on 30 September 1915 and his unit was involved in the defence of the Suez Canal before deploying to the Western Front where it took part in the battles of Pozières, Bullecourt, Menin Road and Amiens. Between October 1916 and January 1917 he is recorded as being admitted into hospital with mild 'VDH'—Valvular Disease of the Heart.

In 1919, Suttor was selected for the AIF Trenches Team and played against the French Army on 19 January 1919. Suttor was also selected for the AIF First XV team and played in all five of the King's Cup matches.

Suttor played the first two matches during the AIF Team's Australia Tour. One Australian journalist wrote: 'The final between the Diggers and Our Boys resulted in a ding dong struggle during the first half, but in the second spell the fighting boys, with a brisk breeze behind them, charged the line repeatedly, and had all the best of the game. Suttor electrified the shivering barrackers with his dashing sprints goal-wards.'

Suttor withdrew from the AIF Team's Australia tour after the second match in May 1919 and returned to his orchards in Bathurst.

Little is known about Suttor after the war other than he married Elizabeth Palmer in 1921 at the All Saints' Cathedral in Bathurst, NSW, and they later divorced.

Ever the sportsman, and excellent swimmer and body surfer, Suttor passed away on 15 April 1962 just after his 70th birthday whilst competing in a 55 yard RSL swimming race at the Dee Why pool.



Watson made appearances for New South Wales in 1913 against the visiting New Zealand Maori side. He toured New Zealand with the 1913 Wallabies captained by Larry Dwyer, appearing in a total of eight of the nine matches played. This included all three Tests where he packed the scrum in a consistent front-row combination with Harold George and David Williams.

When the All Blacks toured to Sydney in 1914, Watson was picked to play against them for New South Wales, as a Wallaby in the first Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, and in a Metropolitan Sydney side in a mid-week game. The outbreak of the First World War on 4 August 1914 forced the All Black tour to be cut short.

Three days after war was declared, Watson enlisted in the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF). The AN&MEF's objectives being the capture of the radio stations in German New Guinea. Watson saw action seizing the German wireless stations in New Britain and New Ireland.

With the AN&MEF's objectives quickly achieved the organisation was disbanded and Watson was discharged in January 1915. Watson then enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) as a gunner and reinforcement for the 1st Divisional Artillery. He embarked from Sydney on 26 June 1915, landed at Gallipoli on 14 August 1915, and two days later joined the 1st Field Artillery Brigade. He was involved in the defence of ANZAC Cove and the battle of Sari Bair.

After service at Gallipoli in March 1916 he proceeded with his unit to France where his temporary promotion to sergeant was confirmed on 22 April 1916. During operations at the Somme from 26 October 1916 to 15 January 1917, Watson was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions. The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great gallantry and coolness in going to the assistance of wounded men, under heavy fire. He has set a splendid example throughout.'

He was then posted to England for officer training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 7 September 1917. He then joined the 2nd Field Artillery Brigade in Belgium where he was wounded in action on 17 November 1917, receiving a severe gunshot wound to his abdomen.



Promoted to Lieutenant on 7 December 1917, he returned to duty in April 1918 and was at Foucaucourt on 27 August 1918, acting as forward observation officer with the infantry. When the advance was impeded by enemy machine-gun fire, Watson worked his way forward and directed three batteries barraging the German machine-gun posts. For his conduct Watson was awarded the Military Cross. The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Foucaucourt on 27 August 1918, when he accompanied the attacking infantry as Forward Observation Officer. The enemy offered strong resistance, frequently holding up the advance with machine-gun fire. In one case he worked his way forward several hundred yards in front of our outposts, directing the fire of three batteries, which gave great assistance to the infantry by barraging machine guns nests and strong posts. He showed fine courage and initiative throughout.

In one of the final actions of the war, Watson would be awarded a Bar to his Military Cross for his actions at Nauroy in France near the St. Quentin Canal and the Hindenburg Line. The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry at Nauroy near Bellicourt, on the night of 2-3 October 1918. His battery was the centre of an enemy bombardment which continued for over four hours. Though badly gassed himself, he tried to save the life of a wounded officer. He showed great energy and devotion to duty and stayed with his battery until the next day, when it was withdrawn from the line.

At war's end and during the long process of returning 250 000 Australian troops from Europe, Watson was selected as captain of the AIF First XV. The team represented the Australian Forces in the King's Cup Rugby Competition among the nations represented in the allied armies with teams representing the British, Canadian, New Zealand and South African forces as well as the Royal Air Force. When playing with the AIF team as a front-row forward, Watson must have suffered excruciating pain as he was covered in festering sores, the after-effects of mustard gas. Major Walter 'Wally' Matthews, the team manager, frequently had to open these festering sores with a sterilised penknife before Watson took to the field. On the AIF Team's Australia Tour Watson played in five of the eight games, all as captain.

After returning to civilian life Watson took up first grade rugby again and at age 32 joined the new venture Glebe-Balmain club—the two prior clubs had merged as a result of the player losses each had suffered in the War. Watson was the captain of Glebe-Balmain from 1919 to 1924. In 1920 he was selected as captain of the New South Wales state team and led them in three matches against a touring All Blacks side. With no Queensland Rugby Union administration or competition in place from 1919 to 1929, the New South Wales Waratahs were the top Australian representative rugby union side of the period. A number of their fixtures of the 1920s played against full international opposition were decreed by the