



NEVER SURRENDER

THE LIFE OF
DOUGLAS
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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	7
Introduction	9
1. Born to Rule	22
2. An Oxford Idol	45
3. 'The Best Amateur Batsman in England'	60
4. The Multi-Coloured Cap	73
5. The Greatest Prize in Sport	93
6. Taming Bradman	114
7. 'Well Bowled, Harold!'	134
8. The Conquering Hero	175
9. Indian Summer	187
10. The Retreat from Bodyline	212
11. Outcast	229
12. Redemption?	247
Afterword: Douglas Jardine	272
Bibliography	281

CHAPTER 1

BORN TO RULE

DOUGLAS ROBERT Jardine was born in Bombay on 23 October 1900 into a Scottish colonial family. The Jardines originally hailed from France and came over to Britain with William the Conqueror and the Normans in 1066. The chief branch of the family settled in Dumfriesshire in south-west Scotland in the 14th century and engaged in many a bloody skirmish over disputed territory with their English rivals across the Border. According to the Scottish writer Alex Massie, the Border bred hard men, quick to resort to violence and slow to forget. “The Jardine family motto, “Cave Adsum”, means “Beware, I am here.” It is a statement of fact, a warning and a threat. It seems appropriate for the author of *Bodyline’s* greatest hour.”¹

In the 19th century the Jardine clan began to migrate to different parts of the world. Douglas Jardine was distantly related to William Jardine who co-founded Jardine-Matheson, the Hong Kong-based trading company in 1832, and to Frank and Alec Jardine, the Cape York pioneers who established a cattle station on the north-east peninsula of Australia in the 1860s. They were also a family of lawyers. Douglas Jardine’s paternal

grandfather, William Jardine, a Cambridge scholar, graduated from a law professorship at Karachi to a judge of the High Court at Allahabad within six years, and his brother John was a senior member of the Indian Civil Service, a judge on the Bombay High Court and, on his return home, a Liberal MP. In 1873 tragedy struck when William Jardine died of cholera, aged 32, leaving his widow Elinor Georgiana to bring up their three boys, William Ellis, Malcolm – Douglas’s father – and Hugh. A woman of formidable character and intellect, she dedicated her long life to her family, ensuring they received a first-rate education at Fettes College, an Edinburgh boarding school, founded in 1870.

The fact that the college quickly established a reputation as the premier school in Scotland was down to the enlightened leadership of its first headmaster, Dr Alexander Potts. Formerly a classics master at Rugby School under its renowned headmaster Dr Thomas Arnold, Potts brought much of Arnold’s reforming zeal to Fettes. A man of noble bearing, his inspirational teaching, broad educational vision and warmth of character left a lasting impression on his charges, helping to cement the school’s reputation for both scholarship and success on the games field, especially at rugby. In this challenging but essentially benign environment, Malcolm Jardine flourished, excelling at fives, gymnastics and athletics, in addition to rugby and cricket, exploits that won him the Challenge Clock, awarded annually to the school’s best all-round sportsman. In four years in the cricket XI, he overcame a dismally wet season in 1888 to average 77 with the bat and 6.3 with the ball. ‘A brilliant all-round cricketer, excelling alike as batsman, bowler (fast) and field,’ reported *The Fettesian*, the school magazine. ‘Has been this season’s most effective bowler in the XI, having a tendency to curl in the air, and being difficult

to see. Quick and safe in the field, and may with practice have a future as a wicketkeeper. His average with the bat speaks for itself. His strongest point is back play, which is very hard and, as far as we have seen, unerring; cuts beautifully, and places judiciously to leg, forward play, though much improved, is still his weak point, having a tendency to go across his wicket. To these capabilities he combines an absence of nerve and great judgement as captain; he has been the one constant factor of the XI.² Sir Hamilton Grant, head boy of Fettes in 1889/90 and later a distinguished diplomat in the Indian Civil Service, recalled that Jardine was perhaps the most conspicuous personality of his era at school – ‘a great cricketer, a fine all-round athlete, a first-class brain full of character and charm’.³

At Balliol College, Oxford, Jardine missed out on a rugby Blue because of injury – he proved a valuable centre for London Scottish and played in a trial for Scotland – but represented the cricket XI for four years, captaining them in 1891. In his first year, he made a pair in the Varsity Match at Lord’s when Oxford were destroyed by Sammy Woods, already an Australian Test bowler. Woods also proved their nemesis in the subsequent two years, when Cambridge again proved victorious, but Oxford had their revenge in 1892. Cambridge, under Stanley Jackson, a future captain of England, began as clear favourites, a situation seemingly confirmed when they took the first two Oxford wickets without a run on the board. It was at this point that Jardine and the freshman C.B. Fry, later one of England’s greatest cricketers, counter-attacked in style by putting on 75 for the third wicket. After Fry was out for 44, Jardine continued to bat imperiously, not least the way he kept hitting Jackson, who was bowling to an overwhelming off-side

field, to leg to make a faultless 140, the second-highest innings in Varsity Match history.

After making 365, Oxford bowled Cambridge out for 160, forcing them to follow on, and although Cambridge fought back valiantly, Jardine's assured 39 in their second innings helped his side to a five-wicket victory. According to Fry, Jardine was a beautiful batsman with a perfect late cut and neat off-drive, in addition to being a brilliant fielder, an assessment reinforced by his illustrious England team-mate, Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, who rated his fielding in that year's Varsity Match the best he'd ever seen. Had Jardine remained in county cricket, Fry reckoned he would have represented his country, but, aside from a few matches for Middlesex in 1892, and for MCC in 1897, his career in India meant that he was lost to English cricket.

After he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1893, Jardine returned to India to practise at the Bombay Bar at a time when advocates of British birth still had a large and lucrative share in the legal practice in the Indian High Courts.

Appointed Perry Professor of Jurisprudence and Roman Law of the Government Law School in 1898 and Principal in 1903, he was Clerk to the Crown in the High Court for 12 years before becoming Advocate-General of Bombay in 1915. In 1910 he acted as prosecutor in the Nasik Conspiracy Case in which the militant Indian nationalist Vinayak Savarkar was convicted and sentenced to transportation for life to the Andaman Islands on two charges: for abetment to the murder of a British district magistrate in India and for conspiracy against the King-Emperor.

Jardine also continued to shine at cricket, playing for both Bombay Gymkhana and the Byculla Club, which he captained, and standing out as the leading European player in the annual

Presidency matches against the Parsees staged in Bombay and Poona.

In addition to his cricket, Jardine was an accomplished golfer. A member of the prestigious Royal & Ancient club at St Andrews, he met Alison Moir during one of his visits there and they were married in some style at St Andrew’s Episcopal Church in St Andrews in April 1898. Alison was the second daughter of Dr Robert Moir, a pillar of the local church and the Conservative Party, and granddaughter of David Macbeth Moir, an eminent physician and poet who frequently contributed, under the signature of Delta, to *Blackwood’s Magazine*. After Indian Army Medical Service, Moir went into practice with his brother, John Wilson Moir, in St Andrews, where their expertise and compassion towards the poor won them the esteem of the whole community. Inheriting her parents’ warmth and commitment to social outreach, Alison quickly integrated into the social life of Bombay’s colonial elite, winning much respect for her charitable work, especially for the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA).

In common with many Europeans, the Jardines settled in Malabar Hill, the most exclusive residential location in Bombay with its lush vegetation, cooling sea breezes and stunning views over Back Bay and the city skyline to the north. It was there on 23 October 1900, in the middle of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, celebrated with fireworks, that their son Douglas was born. The year is significant because three years after the celebrations surrounding the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, a British resurgence in the Boer War in South Africa had been the occasion for further national rejoicing. Brought up amid the finery of the Raj, Douglas was steeped in the values of the British Empire, then

at its zenith, and the role that sport, especially cricket, could play in cementing imperial solidarity.

As an only child he was his parents' pride and joy and the deep bonds he formed with them in childhood never deserted him. Inheriting his father's love of cricket, Douglas spent many an hour with him learning the rudiments of the game and when he wasn't there to bowl at him, he roped in his family's beloved bearer Lalla Sebastian to perform instead. Douglas benefited greatly from his father's knowledge and coaching expertise, and showed promise as a talented all-rounder. His sophisticated batting technique, which proved the bedrock of his later success, was already evident.

Entranced by its majestic public buildings, its bustling streets and its golden sands and never happier than playing sport at the exclusive Bombay Gymkhana Club, then out of bounds to non-whites, Jardine developed a deep attachment to the city of his birth. It was an attachment he shared with another native of Bombay, the poet Rudyard Kipling, whose works he often quoted. In these circumstances it must have been a terrible wrench when, aged nine, he was packed off to boarding school in England, only returning for a brief holiday each summer, given that it took three weeks to reach India by steamer. The long absences must have been as heart-rending for his parents, and so Malcolm's premature retirement from practice in 1916, caused by throat trouble, had its blessings, since it allowed them to return home. 'The retirement owing to ill health of Mr M.R. Jardine, the Advocate General, Bombay, will be regretted by all who knew him,' wrote *The Times of India*. 'Though he took little part in the public life of the city, he had a wide circle of friends and was everywhere respected and liked. By his colleagues at the Bar, he has been regarded as

a sound lawyer well worthy of the high position which he had filled for a little over two years after being Clerk of the Crown for 12 years ... For many years he was one of the chief props of the Presidency side, and there must be many among our readers who can recall a great stand he made for the first wicket with Major Greig. He also helped on many occasions to bring victory to the Byculla Club in their annual match with the Gymkhana, his fielding being particularly brilliant. With Mr Jardine, who sailed for England yesterday, there has gone Mrs Jardine, a lady who will be much missed in Bombay where her many admirable qualities and unostentatious acts of kindness and charity have been much appreciated. The Y.W.C.A in particular loses in her a very good friend.²⁴

During his first few years at boarding school, Douglas spent his Christmas and Easter holidays with his maiden aunt Kitty at her rather forbidding mansion outside St Andrews. Devoted though she was to him, the long separations from his parents and his lack of siblings very probably contributed to his singular character. ‘As a boy we could never understand Douglas,’ his father later told the Australian leg-spinner turned journalist Arthur Mailey. ‘He seemed so distant and lonely. He seldom played with other boys.’²⁵

While based in St Andrews he did find a mentor in Andrew Lang, the Scottish novelist and essayist who was a friend of the family. Lang, a cricket romantic from Selkirk, not only heaped kindness on him, but also talked to him like an adult as he discoursed on cricket, Scottish history and literature, instilling in him a great love of A.A. Milne, the author who created Winnie-the-Pooh. He also introduced him to golf on St Andrews’ famous courses and gave him a lifelong passion for fishing.

In May 1910, Douglas entered Horris Hill Preparatory School, near Newbury, a feeder school for Winchester, renowned for its cricket. Given his parents' Scottish heritage and his father's outstanding career at Fettes, it might seem slightly surprising that he wasn't educated there. Aside from the indifferent weather in Scotland, a real impediment for an aspiring cricketer, the main reason probably lies in their social circle. Malcolm's friend Frederic Thesiger, captain of the Oxford XI of 1890 and later 1st Viscount Chelmsford and Viceroy of India, was a Wykehamist and related to Julia Thesiger, mother of Victoria Ashton, a friend of the Jardines in India. The Ashtons had earmarked Winchester for their brilliant sons – Percy, Gilbert, Hubert and Claude – and another good friend, Ernest Raikes, a Bombay legal advocate who played cricket with Malcolm Jardine, had also opted to send his son Tom to Horris Hill and Winchester.

Founded by Alfred Henry Evans, a double Oxford Blue at rugby and cricket and Winchester schoolmaster, in 1888, Horris Hill was fortunate to have as its first headmaster a man of exceptional ability and charm. A natural leader and born teacher who got the best out of his charges, not least the less able, Evans quickly established the school as a beacon of academic and sporting excellence.

Thrust into this strange new universe, the shy, austere Jardine struggled at first to relate to the other boys, but his aptitude at cricket soon won him their respect. He forced his way into the first XI as a ten-year-old on account of his bowling and made his debut against Twyford on 11 July 1911, bowling two overs for seven runs. Batting for the first time in the next match against Winton House, he failed to score, but the next year he became the talk of the circuit by averaging 42 with the bat

and taking 24 wickets at 6.67, including 6-19 against arch rivals Summer Fields.

That year he saved up five shillings out of his pocket money to purchase the former England captain C.B. Fry’s classic book *Batsmanship*, which had a profound influence on him. Refuting the accepted convention of keeping the right foot anchored inside the crease and outside the line of leg stump, Fry encouraged his readers to use their feet more freely, advice which Jardine eagerly followed. Admonished by his cricket master for altering his technique, he refused to give ground, justifying his unorthodoxy by quoting from Fry’s text.

In July 1913, Jardine hit his first fifty at Twyford – the boys in those days used to travel to away games by horse and cart and train – and in 1914 he carried all before him as captain, averaging 39.5 with the bat and taking 32 wickets at 4.5. Against West Downs, he took 8-39, including four wickets in four balls, all bowled, but his most memorable performance came in the clash against Summer Fields in late June. With both sides unbeaten, there was more hinging on the game than normal, so much so that ‘Bear’ Allington, Summer Fields’ cricket master, vowed to do whatever it took to deny Horris Hill victory. Consequently, after Jardine elected to field first, Summer Fields batted almost the whole afternoon, leaving their opponents a mere 20 minutes to bat. According to Summer Fields’ prosaic account of the match: ‘Horris Hill won the toss, put us in, but on account of the bowling, and the difficulty of moving the ball on a slow surface, nine wickets fell for only 112 before the innings could be closed; in the time which remained two wickets fell for 19 runs ... Jardine took seven wickets for 30 runs; he bowled with great command over the ball and variety of pace; his swerve also

induced three batsmen to stop the ball with their pads.⁶ One of these victims was Allen II, better known as Gubby Allen, the beginning of a lifelong love-hate relationship which, prep schools aside, incorporated Winchester and Eton, Oxford and Cambridge and Surrey and Middlesex.

For some time afterwards relations between the two schools remained distinctly frosty and Jardine bore a grudge against Allington for the rest of his days. 'If the school can be criticised, it can be criticised for a great concentration on results,' recalled the writer and politician Christopher Hollis, who made a stodgy 17 for Summer Fields. 'Mr Allington had little hope that we would beat Horris Hill. Therefore ... he made us bat all day, so we were able to make a draw of it.'⁷

A striking example of Jardine's maturity came in one of his final matches at Horris Hill when the headmaster's son, Alfred John Evans, an old Blue who played for Hampshire, raised a side to play against both the masters and boys. Failing to ruffle Jardine with his aggressive bowling, a frustrated Evans resorted to something more intimidating, but the more intemperate he became, the further Jardine dispatched him.

In September 1914 Jardine entered Winchester. Founded in 1382 by William of Wykeham, the Bishop of Winchester, the college is one of the oldest and most prestigious of British public schools, its iconic medieval buildings adding to its mystique. In common with all boarding schools at that time, it provided a thorough grounding in leadership for the sons of the elite, espousing the values of militarism, imperialism and muscular Christianity. In a strictly hierarchical society, which gave unfettered power to the prefects, school life, especially for the junior men, as Wykehamists were known, was unremittingly

harsh as they were chivvied and harried from dawn to dusk. It wasn't simply the freezing dormitories, the cold showers, the unappetising food and the military parades that grated. Those like Jardine whose time at Winchester coincided with the First World War became inured to the greater restrictions, the depleted staff, the Wykehamist casualty lists – just over 500 died in the conflict – and the fatalism of the senior men as they prepared for life in the trenches.

Entering this monastic all-male environment, new boys were acquainted with the traditions, rituals and private vocabulary, known as Notions, that shaped the life of the school and defined their lives thereafter. A school predominantly for the professional middle class, Winchester differed from its rivals with the emphasis it placed on intellectual rigour, so that even during the austerity of the war years its cultural life abounded with vigorous activity. Many a Wykehamist gravitated to a life of eminence in the law, civil service and diplomatic corps, their intellectual self-confidence and strong sense of public service tempered by a certain priggishness. The playwright Ben Travers wrote: ‘Whenever you sit next to a stranger at a club or dinner party, who proves to be excellent company, but whose opinions are superior to yours and somebody tells you that he was at Winchester, your immediate reaction is, “Ah, that accounts for it”.’⁷⁸ Aside from the 70 scholars who were housed in College, Wykehamists were divided into ten boarding houses of about 40 where they ate, slept, and studied, their lack of privacy a constant bane to those who felt stifled by the communal ethos and rigid discipline. Alongside the severe beatings and fagging – the system whereby a junior man performed menial tasks for a prefect – there was periodic bullying directed primarily towards the weak

and vulnerable, as opposed to the physically mature and talented sportsmen who normally escaped such ordeals.

When Jardine arrived at Winchester, he was placed in Du Boulay's, named after its founder, the Rev. J.T.H. Du Boulay, whose daughter married Alfred Henry Evans, and informally known as Cook's after its second housemaster A.K. Cook. His housemaster Charles Little was an aloof academic who played little part in the day-to-day running of the house, but did perform a valuable role in helping to run the cricket during the war. 'The work of R.L.G. Irving and C.W. Little during these difficult years deserves grateful remembrance,' wrote Canon John Firth, who took all ten wickets against Eton in 1917. 'Little's death in 1922, while still in his prime, took from us one who "touched nothing" which he did not adorn.'

According to Hubert Ashton, a sporting prodigy several years his senior, Jardine's reputation as a cricketer preceded him. 'But in addition to this he had a somewhat unusual air about him. He was mature, tall and determined; clearly a new man that must be treated with respect.

'On first acquaintance it might be thought that he was a trifle austere and brusque; I must confess that on occasions he gave me that impression. However, as is so often the case, I have no doubt that this was due to shyness or a lack of self-confidence; perhaps the better and truer word is humility.'¹⁰

Although no scholar, he kept his end up academically while reserving his real energy for the sports field. Although the cult of athleticism was less important at Winchester than many such institutions, it still played a prominent part in school life. Organised sport – introduced originally in the 1850s as a form of social control to prevent unruly pupils from engaging in disreputable activities

such as blood sports – soon began to be perceived as a way of imparting moral virtues such as character and team spirit. The social historian Richard Holt wrote: ‘Gradually sport ceased to be a means to a disciplinary end and became an end in itself. The culture of athleticism steadily came to dominate the whole system of elite education.’¹¹ Games were soon made compulsory and were played with an evangelical fervour, especially prestigious fixtures against rival schools and inter-house competitions. Those that excelled at football and cricket – known as the bloods – not only won recognition through a series of colours – striped blazers, scarves and caps – they also assumed a heroic place in school folklore, which often proved the passport to advancement in later life.

Yet behind the ethos of chivalry and good sportsmanship, glamorised in verse and song, there lay a more ruthless streak to the games cult that reflected the intense one-upmanship of the Victorian public school. Consequently, not every blood absorbed the amateur code in its entirety, as Jardine’s career was to demonstrate. ‘When I was at school, there were two benches inscribed with mottoes,’ he told the boys of Melbourne High School in Australia in 1932/33. ‘One of these was “Play up, play up, and play the game” and the other, “Love the game beyond the prize”. I think they are two splendid mottoes for cricketers to follow.’ Arguably, he followed the second rather more avidly than the first.

Owing to the shortage of senior men because of the war, Jardine found himself playing in the Senior House football and cricket competitions, both of which were keenly contested, from his second year. With his quick reflexes, his safe pair of hands and boundless courage, he proved a most competent goalkeeper for Cook’s, before making that position his own for two years in

the school 1st XI. With Claude Ashton, a future captain of the England football team, devastating in attack, this was a golden era for Winchester football and their dominance against all-comers kept Jardine relatively underemployed. When called on to perform, he proved himself a reliable last line of defence, his only error coming against Charterhouse in his final year when throwing the ball out he lost control and threw it straight to one of their forwards.

Although no natural athlete, Jardine took to Winchester's other main winter sport, their own code of football, commonly known as Winkies. It is an arcane game, similar to rugby, except there is no picking up the ball or passing, just plenty of punting and kicking. Played in a long narrow pitch with roughly ten-foot-high nets down each side and two waist-high ropes strung between posts the length of the pitch, a yard inside each net, the object was to get the ball into 'worms' – over the opponents' back line, by kicking it in open play and/or manoeuvring down the ropes. Played with teams of either 15 or six players, the game relies more on brute strength than natural skill, especially to those like Jardine who played in the scrum, known as the 'hot'.

In addition to the inter-house competitions, the annual games of Fifteens and Sixes between College, Old Tutors' Houses (OTH) and Commoners (the other half of the school houses) were major school occasions, when Wykehamists thronged the touchline to cheer on their heroes. Representing OTH in Fifteens, Jardine was forced to miss the defeat against Commoners, but made his presence felt in his side's 9-4 win against College by scoring twice.

In the Sixes, a more open game requiring speed and stamina, he scored twice against College in OTH's convincing 21-3 win

and although dropped for the match against Commoners, he still was on the Roll, meaning he was awarded his colours.

Jardine also excelled at rackets, a ball game played singles or doubles in an enclosed court with four walls and a ceiling. First pair for two years and captain in his final year, he and his partner, Richard Hill, beat Eton, Harrow and Charterhouse and reached the semi-final of the Public Schools Doubles Championship at Queen’s Club. There they lost 4-3 to Marlborough in a thrilling game in which Jardine’s play in the rallies attracted particular commendation from *The Times*. ‘He returned the ball well and steadily, got up the service consistently and did something with it, and finished the easy ball with some certainty.’¹² To those of a cricketing bent, Winchester provided a perfect setting for playing the game in New Field with its picturesque water meadows down by the River Itchen. The school could boast a proud cricketing tradition. From 1825 there had been an inter-school week at Lord’s in which Eton, Harrow and Winchester played each other, and although Winchester stopped playing there in 1854, to this day the first XI is still called Lord’s. The war years produced five of the best cricketers the school had seen: J.C. Clay, a future captain of Glamorgan who played one Test for England, the three Ashton brothers and Jardine. The latter was later to write that Winchester was fortunate to have such an array of coaching talent at one time. The cricket master was the much-loved Rockley Wilson, a gifted all-rounder for Cambridge and Yorkshire. Years away during the war in no way diminished his class. After a rich haul of wickets in the summer of 1920, aged 41, he was given leave by Winchester to tour Australia with MCC. There he played in his sole Test and ruffled feathers for filing reports back to the *Daily Express*. A renowned wit, an

astute judge of character and a supreme tactician, not least in placing the field, he hated slackness and conceit, but despite his Yorkshire will to win, he maintained a great reverence for the finer traditions of the game. Finding a ready disciple in Jardine, he exerted a substantial influence over him in his final year when his batting scaled new heights, not least the cultivation of his classic on-side play.

Wilson was assisted by Harry Altham, captain of the great Repton XI of 1908, a double Oxford Blue and a county cricketer during the school holidays. Joining Winchester in 1913 as a classicist, he fought with distinction on the Western Front during the war and returned to the school in 1919, inspiring generations of Wykehamists with his enthusiasm and kindness, as well as his cricketing expertise.

The coach was Schofield Haigh, a medium-paced bowler good enough to win 11 England caps and a highly valued member of the great Yorkshire sides at the turn of the century. Appointed to Winchester in 1913, his cheerfulness and geniality made him a universally popular figure, widely mourned on his premature death in 1921.

After a slow start to the 1916 season, which might have cost him a place in the XI, Jardine excelled in the Junior House competition and, along with W.M. Leggatt, he was Cook's inspiration in their innings victory against Kenny's in the Toye Cup Final. Not only did he captain the team and score a valuable 36 batting at No.6, he bowled unchanged in both innings to finish with match figures of 10-53. He also took plenty of wickets in the Turner Cup, the Senior House competition, that year and the two subsequent years, but he was never more than a useful change bowler in the XI with his round-arm leg breaks.

Jardine began 1917 with an impressive performance in the senior cricket trial, known as the Two Guinea Match. He was picked for the XI and cemented his position with 65 against the Royal Garrison Artillery. Being wartime, the fixture list against opposing schools was severely restricted and the traditional two-day games against Eton and Harrow were reduced to one-day. Opening the batting, Jardine made 27 against Charterhouse and 28 against Harrow, putting on 60 for the first wicket as Winchester strolled to an eight-wicket victory. According to *The Times*, he looked a player of promise.

He once again looked the part against Eton with some really fine strokes, but despite his 30 Winchester could only manage 90 all out, and Eton won by one wicket.

The following summer he continued to score freely for his house, but disappointed for the XI. In five school matches he made little impact aside from a sedate 33 against Harrow and 13 innings yielded only one fifty, against a local RAF side. ‘Not so successful with the bat as was expected,’ reported *The Wykehamist*, the school magazine. ‘Has not yet developed enough driving power. Plays beautiful strokes on the on-side, and is a very sound back player. ... Good fielder in any position.’¹³

In his last half (term), Jardine added to his scroll of honour, which included his position as a school prefect, with his appointment as captain of Lord’s. On one level he seemed the obvious choice, but his dissenting views had upset the two previous captains and his predecessor John Firth, concerned about his ability to unify the team, advised against his appointment. The fact that he was made captain might have owed something to his housemaster, Charles Little, who had overseen the cricket in Rockley Wilson’s absence, as well as the recommendation

of Schofield Haigh, with whom he'd established an excellent rapport. Although Winchester's record over the previous several years had fluctuated somewhat, their prospects for 1919 seemed highly encouraging. Seven of the side – Jardine, Claude Ashton, William Baldock, Richard Hill, Jack Frazer, Tom Raikes and Mark Patten – went on to play first-class cricket, the first five playing in the County Championship.

Forming a productive opening partnership with his rackets partner Hill, Jardine struck form immediately, hitting 93 against New College, 63 and 140 against the Old Wykehamists and 77 against the Free Foresters. A rare failure came against Charterhouse – a school against which he never scored runs – when he was dismissed for the second year in succession by Raymond Robertson-Glasgow, later a team-mate at Oxford and a lifelong friend.

With wins against Cheltenham, Marlborough and Wellington, and having much the better of the draw against Charterhouse, Winchester travelled to Eton for the restored two-day match unbeaten, but Jardine wasn't taking anything for granted. Conscious of their defeats in the two previous years, he insisted that the whole team go and pray in the Eton chapel the evening before the match.

On an easy-paced wicket, Winchester batted first and made steady progress through Jardine and Claude Ashton before the former was out for 35, prompting a collapse. They were all out for 135 but with Eton making only 109 in reply, Jardine and Hill began their second innings at 3.50pm with a lead of 26. They batted carefully against steady bowling, most notably against rival captain Clem Gibson, later a double Cambridge Blue, putting on 72 for the first wicket; then, in the final hour, Jardine began to

play shots of the highest calibre. He ended the day 89 not out and his side on 170/2. Although he failed to add to his score the next day, he always looked back on this innings as the one that gave him the most satisfaction. Winchester went on to make 295 and win by 69 runs, their first victory against Eton – excluding the war years – since 1907. Their triumph earned them a rapturous reception at Winchester station on their return home. Locals joined Wykehamists in the celebrations and Jardine was carried shoulder-high through the city streets to the College gates. ‘Jardine captained the side excellently and placed the field well,’ wrote *The Wykehamist*. ‘Of his batting it would be difficult to speak too highly. He never looked like getting out, and always seemed to master the bowling. Owing to lack of driving power, he is not an attractive batsman on the eye, but his defence is very strong, and he seldom missed any chance of scoring on the on side.’¹⁴

He gave further notice of his potential with an undefeated 135 against Harrow, but while rain brought proceedings to a premature end, it enabled the XI to finish the season unbeaten, emulating his achievement when captain of Horris Hill. *The Wykehamist* congratulated Jardine ‘on his extraordinary consistency with the bat this season, and in success in keeping his team together and in good heart, due to his patience, coolness and sound knowledge of the game’.¹⁵ According to Harry Altham, he was the best schoolboy captain he ever knew – a master of field tactics and a fine psychologist – while in the opinion of Gerry Dicker, an opponent of Jardine’s in house matches, he had a confidence and self-sufficiency beyond his years.

As a sporting colossus and leader of men, Jardine gained a cult following at Winchester. Douglas Jay, a future Labour cabinet minister, who arrived at Cook’s a full year after Jardine

left, recalled the adulation that he still commanded within the house. Yet such an autocratic and uncompromising personality wasn't without his critics. Determined to win the Inter-House competition, he took umbrage against anyone whose commitment didn't match his own by subjecting them to additional fielding practices, a sanction that prompted some bitter memories. E.T.R. Herdman, a contemporary of Jardine's in Cook's, alluded to his style of leadership in his memoir *Winchester 1916-1921*: 'But he really expected so much of the team and was so scathing if they made any mistakes that he had them all in a twitter of nerves. One poor man missed a catch early on in the final [sic] and the man he missed went on to score a century [C.T. Ashton, 107]. For the rest of his career, he never heard the end of it, how he lost us the cup.'¹⁶ In posting the results of one house match, Jardine named only himself and another player, consigning the rest to oblivion on the grounds that they had barely featured. His action caused outrage and he later apologized.

'I have never known anyone who could put on such charm when he felt like it, or such withering sarcasm to anyone he disliked,' declared Winchester contemporary and friend Guy Turner.¹⁷ A former team-mate, Cecil Verity, recollected that 'Jardine's captaincy soured us and I for one took up rowing at Cambridge as I no longer wanted to see cricket in any form.'¹⁸ A.O. Elmhirst had been put down for school nets every week by Jardine when he was asked by the Officer Training Corps to go to Bisley to shoot for the Ashburton Shield, which they won. 'But Jardine rightly assumed that I had ignored his selection of me for school nets; consequently, on his end-of-term round when he awarded cricket distinctions, he said to me, "Elmhirst, if you hadn't gone bloody shooting, I'd have given you your 2XI cap,

but as it is, you’ll only get Senior Club.” [the name given to 1st and 2nd XI middle practice games].¹⁹

In 1983 a profile of Jardine in *The Cricketers’ Who’s Who*, edited by Iain Sproat MP, an Old Wykehamist, claimed that the result of the final of the 1920 Turner Cup between Cook’s, captained by Jardine, and College remained in dispute, with the College scorer declaring that College had won by one run and the Cook scorer maintaining it was a tie. Jardine, acting in his capacity as captain of Lord’s, sent for both scorers, found a mistake, beat both scorers and announced that Cook’s had won by one run. The allegation, based on information from fellow Wykehamist Jay, who admitted that he couldn’t vouch for it, and made public in the national press in May 1983, prompted a fierce backlash from Wykehamists who resented a slur on Jardine and a calumny on the school. The truth was that Jardine had left the year before and during his whole time in the school his house neither reached the Turner Cup Final, nor did they play College in any round in his year as captain of Lord’s. According to Tony Pawson of *The Observer*, himself a former captain of Winchester, Jardine could only beat his own man with the permission of his housemaster, and it would have been unthinkable for him to beat a member of another house. ‘I can’t of course say what his reputation was within his own House,’ recollected Dicker. ‘Outside he was highly respected. To me he was a man who was never “young”. He was always mature beyond his years – a real leader in every sense. Jardine was also a very determined and fearless man; quite ready to back his own judgement and follow his own high principles. Cricket masters then at Winchester were of the calibre of Rockley Wilson – and Harry Altham – and Douglas was never afraid to argue the toss with them and to do what he felt to be right.’²⁰

Mark Patten, who played for two years in the XI with Jardine, said, 'We had every possible respect for him at Winchester. He was very determined, obstinate at times, and somewhat reserved. But he was an extremely honest and upright man. And with his quiet sense of humour he was a charming companion for those of us who were his friends.'²¹

He was also fiercely loyal to those he respected. On Schofield Haigh's death in 1921, he organised a collection for his widow and on his first appearance for Surrey away to Yorkshire at Sheffield, he sought her out to offer a sympathetic word. It was a hard game and Jardine hadn't received the most enthusiastic of receptions from the crowd, but during the tea interval he made his way through the popular enclosure to where he thought Haigh's widow would be sitting. When they encountered each other, he was surprised to hear that she had been looking for him. He told her he was deeply touched by her determination to seek him out. 'Oh, Mr Jardine,' she replied. 'Schofield would never have forgiven me if I hadn't tried to have a word with you.'

Despite Jardine's astounding success at Winchester, he remained in the main an elusive figure, rarely able to relax in company. 'Poor old Douglas,' recalled Guy Turner. 'I have never known anyone so reserved as he was, and out of all his hundreds of friends I cannot think of one with whom he was really intimate.'²² His daughter Fianach Lawry, reflecting on his life many years later, thought that he was to an abnormal degree the product of his boyhood. Already something of a loner, Winchester made him a complex, introvert character who concealed his hurt and vulnerability. 'I think a lot went on underneath the surface that didn't necessarily come out, for this is the way Winchester worked in those days. The silences and the things he didn't say perhaps made

people think he was a hard man. The idea was not to let anyone see that you were hurt or upset. He was bad at communicating in today’s terms, but there again we’re back to Winchester.²³

Endnotes:

- 1 *The Guardian*, 29 May 2015
- 2 *The Fettesian* 1888, p147
- 3 H.F. MacDonald (ed), *One Hundred Years of Fettes*, p68
- 4 *The Times of India* , 5 December 1916
- 5 Philip Derriman, *Bodyline*, p18
- 6 *Summer Fields School Magazine* 1914
- 7 Quoted in Allen and Jardine. *Summer Fields and Horris Hill* 1914, pdf
- 8 Ben Travers, *94 Not Out*, p64
- 9 John Firth, *Winchester College*, p121
- 10 Quoted in Christopher Douglas, *Douglas Jardine: Spartan Cricketer*, p211
- 11 Richard Holt, *Sport and the British*, p81
- 12 *The Times*, 25 April 1919
- 13 *The Wykehamist*, 13 August 1918, p263
- 14 *Ibid*, 9 July 1919, p355
- 15 *Ibid*, 28 July 1919, p380
- 16 Quoted in Douglas, *Douglas Jardine: Spartan Cricketer*, p16
- 17 *Ibid*, Preface to the 2002 edition, xiii
- 18 *Ibid*, xiv
- 19 A.I. Elmhirst to James Sabben-Clare, 16 January 1987, Winchester College Archives
- 20 *The Cricketer*, July 1983, p19
- 21 *Ibid*
- 22 Douglas, *Douglas Jardine: Spartan Cricketer*, preface to the 2002 edition xiv
- 23 Derriman, *Bodyline*, p21