

Jack Wilson

..... was first recorded playing rugby league for the St Patrick's under 18's rugby league team in 1937. He was a talented fullback and goal kicker.

The St. Patrick's College teams are as follow:

UNDER 18 SECTION
J. Wilson, R. McNamara, T. Poidevin, F. Cahill, T. McCormack, J. Bracken, M. Ryan, C. Frost, F. Carmody, M. Mooney, H. Leahy, O. Paton, L. Mason.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 8 July 1937

It was in 1938 that he was really noticed. He played rugby league for both St Patrick's College and Goulburn CYMS that year and was selected in the Goulburn representative teams that played against teams from the Sydney metropolitan area.

S.P.C.: J. Wilson, R. Croker, R. McNamara, T. McCormack, J. Ashcroft, T. Poidevin, C. Quinlivan, B. Quinn, M. Mooney, F. Carmody, O. Paton, T. Frazer, H. Gallagher, R. Orme, K. Slattery (captain).

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 21 June 1938

C.Y.M.S. will miss the services of full-back "Bub" Wilson. As St. Patrick's College has resumed, he is now unavailable for Saturday play. This lad should go a long way in the game.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 22 June 1938

Every man in the four teams gave a creditable display, but the most outstanding feature of the day's play was the performance of full-back play by the young St. Patrick's College star, J. Wilson, who gave a polished exhibition in the first game and then took the field with the representative team, where he gave an almost faultless exhibition.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 12 June 1938

In 1939 rugby union made a resurrection in the Goulburn district after not having been played for many years. Both Goulburn CYMS and St Patrick's College crossed over to rugby union. There was a strong competition in Canberra, and Goulburn had the opportunity to form a representative team to play against this stronger opposition. The Country Carnival was held at Canberra that year and Jack Wilson, while still playing for St Patrick's College, was selected in the Goulburn District team.

Strong representation from Orange, Bathurst, Goulburn and Bombala districts will be a feature of the Rugby Union Country Carnival to be held at Manuka and Telopea Park Ovals on Saturday when 90 players will be seen by the selectors.
This fixture will be one of the trials for the selection of the Australian team to tour Great Britain later in the year.

GOULBURN (to play A.C.T. at Telopea Park at 3.15 p.m.)—Full back, J. Wilson; threequarters, O. H. Shepherd, J. Jeffrey, R. Penfold (capt.), E. Cullen; five-eighths, T. Poidevin; half, J. Poyten; forwards, I. Kennedy, R. Hopman, W. Tozer, C. G. Elias (vice-captain), B. Sieler, W. Cumberland, T. A. Northcott, H. Deck. Reserves, E. Erenshaw, R. Balzer.

Canberra Times 18 May 1939

In June 1939, Jack captained the St Patrick's College team to a win against a Combined NSW Metropolitan team. Following his good performance at the Country Carnival, he followed up with another fine display causing some of the respected officials to consider him as a potential international.

What a grand exhibition of football those College lads from St. Pat's gave us! In meeting a combined N.S.W. metropolitan team, they were never in danger of defeat.

The captain, young Jack Wilson, is a potential international. This lad was judged No. 1 full-back at the Canberra carnival and those who saw his display in both games last Saturday will agree, with the comment of Alex Ross, Ex-International.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 16 June 1939

While playing in a Senior Schools rugby union match for St Patrick's College in August 1939, Jack scored three tries from the fullback position. This feat would not raise much attention in the modern era but it did create some excitement at the time with the Goulburn Evening Penny Post noting that this had never been achieved in a Sydney premiership game, the closest being two tries by a fullback attributed to Jim Sharman in 1933, who joined Wests the following year and later became Wests captain. The other player was L Bedford of Randwick.

SCHOOLBOY'S FEAT

Three Tries from Full-back

What is considered to be a record for any class of football, was registered by J. Wilson, captain and full-back of the St. Patrick's College (Goulburn) team in the Secondary Schools' senior grade Rugby Union competition yesterday.

Wilson scored three tries from the full-back position.

In the 40 years of the N.S.W. Union's first grade premiership, two tries from the full-back position in a single match have been recorded on only three occasions.

It is probable that Wilson's effort has not been equalled, and certainly never bettered.

Canberra Times 10 August 1939

FULL-BACK'S FEAT

J. Wilson, of St. Patrick's College, Goulburn, scored three tries from the full-back position yesterday in a Rugby Union match at Canberra against Canberra High School.

The Rugby Annual discloses no feat to equal it in first grade.

L. Bedford (Randwick) and Sharman (Drummoyne) each scored two tries when playing full-back.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post 10 August 1939

It was decided to suitably recognise the performance of J. Wilson, St. Patrick's College full-back, who scored three tries from the full-back position in a recent match. The N.S.W. Union will be asked to inquire whether the performance was a record.

Canberra Times 16 August 1939

Jack Wilson was selected to represent and captain ACT Secondary Schools against a visiting Christian Brothers College (Waverley) in September 1939. There was great interest and commentary in the Canberra newspapers regarding the combined schools team and the prospect of matching it with one

of Sydney's top rugby union schools. The Sydney side took the win but the ACT team performed well with none better than Jack Wilson.

St. Patrick's were a strong team, advantaged by expert coaching and possessing some sterling players. Wilson, full-back, and captain, would rank with any G.P.S. player. Orme, leader of the forwards, McCormack on the wing and Collins in the centre did some fine things during the season.

Canberra Times 24 August 1939

J. Wilson, captain and full-back of St. Patrick's College (Goulburn), this year's premiers, will lead the side. During the recent competition he established a record by scoring three tries from the full back position in a single match.

Canberra Times 31 August 1939

A.C.T. SCHOOLS v. CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
 At Northbourne oval, 1.45 p.m. Referee: Mr. A. J. Porter.
 Full back: J. Wilson (St. Patrick's), capt.
 Three-quarters: D. Sharp (R.M.C.), P. Sheaffe (Canberra Grammar), C. West (R.M.C.), P. Ashton (C.G.S.).
 Five-eighth: R. Baker (Canberra High).
 Half-back: B. Bullock (R.M.C.).
 Forwards: T. Carmody (St. P.), E. Howard (R.M.C.), R. Sheaffe (C.G.S.), vice-capt., J. Duffy (C.H.S.), R. Laird (C.H.S.), A. Robertson (C.G.S.), J. Ryan (St.P.), S. Menzies (C.G.S.).

Canberra Times 31 August and 1 September 1939

J. Wilson gave a first-class showing. Baker was the best of the

Canberra Times 4 September 1939

St Patrick's College took all before it in 1939, winning the ACT Senior Secondary Schools rugby union competition. It was Jack Wilson's last year at school and his success in both the schools competition as well as at the representative level would potentially set him up for greater honors.

Bro. O'Connor praised the work of the secretary of the Secondary Schools Sports Association (Mr. J. E. Jenehan) in providing competitive sport. The contacts with Canberra schools had been happy and he was certain that next season St. Patrick's would have to play even better to defeat their opponents.
 Mr. Woodger handed to the captain (Mr. J. Wilson) the Nish Cup and Union pennant. He said that attitude was felt towards St. Patrick's for entering the competition. It had obviated a bye and had assisted in raising the standard in other schools.
 Wilson led the school in giving three cheers for the Rugby Union. The visitors inspected the spacious grounds and imposing oval, and later were the guests of Bro. O'Connor at lunch.

Canberra Times 16 November 1939

After leaving school, Jack turned to rugby league and joined the Goulburn Railway team in 1940. He played at five-eighth for Goulburn Railway but reverted to fullback in the minor representative games played that year. Jack's Railway team took out the Goulburn minor and major premierships in 1940.

Railway missed several opportunities early in the piece because of bad handling, but improvement came, and Murphy, the half, then had the backs moving nicely, besides making many effective breaks himself. Dawson had a field day. He shaped like a real winger in scoring four fine tries. Wilson, ex-Rugby Union full-back, was tried at five-eighth, and although at one stage he appeared to be given a little too much unwarranted attention by the opposition, he played exceedingly well, taking all that was handed out with a smile—the response of a true footballer.

Goulburn Evening Post 23 September 1940

In 1941 Jack was recognised by the Selectors and was chosen to play rugby league with the Goulburn District representative team. Cup football was proving a near impossibility due to the draw on players for the war effort. However, Goulburn found keen opponents from the nearby Army Camp, but this was problematic given that the soldiers were often transferred at short notice and they lacked proper playing gear. One newspaper report noted that the Army players were wearing sand shoes during the match.

A highlight of the 1941 season was a match at Goulburn between a Southern Districts representative team and Western Suburbs from Sydney. The Southern team included Jack Wilson from Goulburn and Ron Williams from Queanbeyan who would play one First Grade game for Wests in 1945. This match provided an obvious connection between Jack and Wests, but how he ended up at Wests in 1942 is a little more complicated.

a great battle from beginning to end. Goulburn's team played at its top last Sunday and, while it would be unfair to individualise, mention must be made of the fine play of Col Bowden and Jack Wilson in the backs and F. Godfrey in the forwards.

Goulburn Evening Post 25 July 1941

It was announced this morning that Jack Wilson (full-back), and Johnny Howard (rake), are two Goulburn players who are certain of selection in the Southern Districts team which is to oppose Western Suburbs (Sydney) in Sunday's cup-tie match at Rugby League Park.

Goulburn Evening Post 13 August 1941

Southern Districts: Full-back, J. Williams (Queanbeyan); three-quarters, T. Granville (Yass), R. Williams (Queanbeyan), W. Kinnane (Harden-Murrumburrah), K. Hinckman (Queanbeyan); five-eighth, R. Byrnes (Harden - Murrumburrah); half, E. Rowley (Queanbeyan); forwards, W. Tozer (Harden-Murrumburrah), G. Thompson (Queanbeyan), W. Edwards (Harden-Murrumburrah), A. Corcoran (Queanbeyan), T. Hawkins (Picton), K. Hackett (Canberra). Reserves: J. Wilson (Goulburn), A. Pooley (Queanbeyan), R. McInnes (Queanbeyan), S. McCauley (Queanbeyan).
Western Suburbs: Full-back, D. Rogers; three-quarters, R. Brown, N. Parkinson, J. Graham, J. Whitehurst; five-eighth, E. Bennett; half, A. McGuinness; forwards, F. Lucas, F. McKean, R. Campbell, J. Piper, K. Lock, J. Shumack. Reserves: W. Keato, C. Sherry.

Canberra Times 16 August 1941

Jack turned his hand to refereeing junior rugby league games in 1941, but in May he enlisted at Goulburn, NSW with the Citizens Military Forces and was accepted for service at the end of the football season. He was posted to the 2nd Ambulance Train.



Wounded being transferred into waiting ambulances at Rosehill Station

In June 1941 the New South Wales Government Railways converted two train sets for military use as hospital trains. They were handed over in February 1942 and were manned by units known as the 2nd and 3rd Australian Ambulance Train. The 2nd Ambulance Train generally worked on the Sydney to Albury main line and the Sydney to Bathurst line. Goulburn is on the main Sydney to Albury rail line so it is understandable as to why Jack Wilson was posted to this unit.

However by October 1941 he was transferred to the Wallgrove Army Camp in Western Sydney. The following month he was transferred to the 113th Australian General Hospital at Concord (Concord Repatriation Hospital) in the heart of Wests territory. A news report in the Daily Telegraph in March 1942 confirmed that Jack Wilson was working at the Concord Hospital.

Officials expect Jack Wilson, 19-year-old Goulburn full-back, to be the club's "find" of the season. Wilson impressed officials when he played against Wests in the Cup ties last season. He is now employed at the Concord Military Hospital.

Daily Telegraph 13 March 1942

The following transfers were granted: J. Wilson, Goulburn to Western Suburbs; J. S. Thorne, Scarborough to South Sydney.

Daily Telegraph 7 April 1942

Jack trialled with Wests at the start of 1942 and made an impact, with him being referred to as the “find of the season.” He did not play in the first two rounds of the 1942 competition, so that his debut with Wests was in round 3, and what a debut it was!

In round 3 of 1942, in his first appearance with Wests, Jack Wilson was selected as the fullback for the Third Grade team. Bill Keato pulled out of the First Grade team with injury and so Jack was plucked from Wests Thirds and played a full game in Reserve Grade. He came off the field and was then called up into the First Grade team making his debut in the top grade due to the unavailability of Brian Thompson. Brian Thompson had earlier replaced the injured Bill Keato.

Notes from that game are recorded as follows;

“Wests fielded a radically changed team, basically due to injuries, Jack Wilson was originally selected as Third Grade fullback, played in Reserves, and then backed up in Firsts and went well.”

THIRD GRADE: 12.45 p.m.	
WESTERN SUBURBS	BALMAIN
(Colors: Black and White)	(Colors: Black and Gold)
<i>Full-back:</i> 46—J. WILSON	<i>Full-back:</i> A. LEWIS—27
<i>Three-quarters:</i> 42—C. CARROLL 33—D. PEEL (Capt.) 45—D. ROBERTSON 30—J. BANNER	<i>Three-quarters:</i> A. MEANEY—28 J. BRADY—29 (Capt.) T. PEEL—30 J. BLISS—48 R. MIRANDA—16 C. O'BRIEN—17 (Two to be omitted)
<i>Halves:</i> 50—A. THOMAS 51—D. BANNON	<i>Halves:</i> J. FRASER—44 J. PARTON—33
<i>Forwards:</i> 38—A. HOSCHKE 39—T. CULKIN 44—J. PEAD 40—M. McCARTHY 4—T. GREW 41—L. CLANCY	<i>Forwards:</i> W. REES—34 F. TUFFY—35 L. QUIGLEY—36 J. WALFORD—37 F. HAYMAN—43 B. COFFEY—39
<i>Reserves:</i> M. McCullough, J. Beckett, F. Moran, A. Kimball, F. Morris, E. Smith, E. Williams, J. Walker	<i>Reserves:</i> J. Leo (40), S. Quigley (41), T. Keller (40), J. Lambert (45), P. Tafe (47)

Third Grade Round 3 1942

WESTERN SUBURBS v. BALMAIN	
Saturday, May 16, 1942 — Birchgrove Oval	
FIRST GRADE: 3.15 p.m.	
WESTERN SUBURBS	BALMAIN
(Colors: Black and White)	(Colors: Black and Gold)
<i>Full-back:</i> 13—W. KEATO	<i>Full-back:</i> D. DOBSON—1
<i>Three-quarters:</i> 12—B. BROWN 14—R. HILL 11—L. HOSCHKE 9—C. FEWTRELL	<i>Three-quarters:</i> J. HAMPSTEAD—5 J. O'DONNELL—4 J. WINCHESTER—42 F. DRIESE—15 T. BOURKE—3 A. PATTON—2 (Two to be omitted)
<i>Halves:</i> 21—R. McLAURIN 7—A. McGUINNESS (Capt.)	<i>Halves:</i> O. DUCKWORTH—19 (Capt.) J. QUEALEY—6
<i>Forwards:</i> 6—G. LUCAS 5—F. McKEAN 24—R. CAMPBELL 15—J. SCHUBACK 43—W. BROWN 22—J. PIPER	<i>Forwards:</i> A. SMITH—8 G. WATT—9 D. BUCKLEY—10 R. ROSS—11 F. de BELIN—12 F. SCHULTZ—24

First Grade Round 3 1942

Jack apparently impressed the Selectors in his first appearance in First Grade as he was once again selected to replace Bill Keato who remained out injured for the round 4 clash with North Sydney.

J. Wilson, a junior Rugby League player last year, played throughout the reserve and first-grade matches for Western Suburbs against Balmain yesterday at Birchgrove Oval. He was the star of both games, in which he played full-back. Wilson was selected for third grade yesterday, but when the reserve grade full-back, B. Thompson, was unavailable, he was promoted.

Daily Telegraph 17 May 1942

J. WILSON, who played full-back for the Reserves against Balmain, and was then called upon to “back up” for the Firsts, filled the position most capably, and with experience will develop into a first-class player.

RLN 23 May 1942

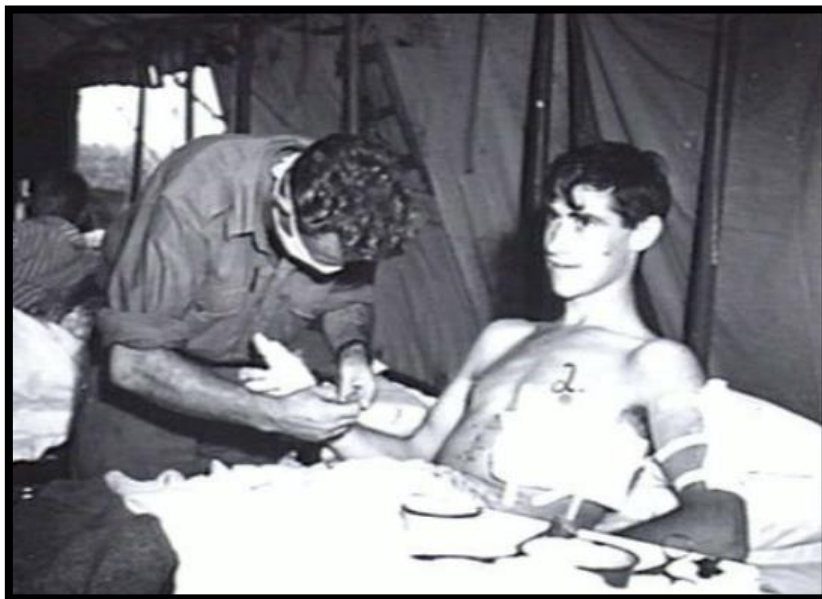
Jack played four more lower grade games with Wests and was selected to play fullback in Reserve Grade against Souths on 27 June but did not play. Jack had recently been appointed as an acting Special Group 3 Nursing Orderly and it is most likely that his increased responsibility at the Concord

Repatriation Hospital took precedence over football. While Jack Wilson had great potential as a player with Wests, he did not see out the season playing a total of two First Grade, three Reserve Grade and one Third Grade game in 1942.

By September of 1942, Jack Wilson had enlisted for service with the AIF (Regular Army) and by November that year he had been transferred to the 2/14 Australian General Hospital at Townsville, Queensland. The Hospital was initially established near the Quarantine Station at Cape Pallarenda and was primarily comprised of tents with a 200 bed capacity. This was increased to 400 beds as during 1943 casualties began to come in regularly from hospital ships and aircraft bringing casualties from New Guinea and the islands.

A cyclone hit Townsville in March 1944, demolishing the Hospital and scattering stores and equipment. Some patients were rushed to the railway station and put on Ambulance Trains, while others were rushed to the American Naval Hospital. The hospital was rebuilt at Mundingburra, a suburb of Townsville, on the banks of the Ross River.

As the allied troops were moving northward by early 1945, so followed the support services including medical and hospital units. In March 1945 Jack Wilson embarked for Morotai and then Balikpapan in Borneo with the 2/3 Casualty Clearing Station.



Nurse Orderly (2/3 Casualty Clearing Station) changing bandages on a wounded Digger, Balikpapan, Borneo - August 1945
Source: AWM

Jack remained at Balikpapan until October 1945 when he transferred to the 20th Field Ambulance. The 20th Field Ambulance returned to Morotai awaiting transfer to Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force. They arrived at Kure, Japan in March 1946 and were headquartered at nearby Kaitaichi. This locality is the port facility for the city of Hiroshima which was destroyed by the dropping of a nuclear bomb in August 1945.

Life in Japan was not all work for Jack Wilson. For recreation the serviceman played football and within a month of his arrival, Jack suffered a football injury. He sustained a sprained right ankle and a chip off the tip of the right medial malleolus (ankle bone), He spent a few days in hospital recovering.



20th Field Ambulance (Kaitaichi, Japan) October 1946 – The two tents are used as the Hospital (Source: AWM)

Jack remained in Japan until January 1947, arriving back in Sydney on 8 February. He was discharged from the Army on 17 February 1947.

Jack returned to Goulburn but there was little opportunity for a Nurse Orderly in that town in 1947. He was recorded playing with Goulburn Railway in the pre-season but it was evident that he was unemployed. A news report in April noted that his future remained uncertain but it was likely that he would remain in Goulburn if a position could be found for him as a shop assistant. This was a job that he had prior to enlisting.

Railway's team will be selected from: R. Clarke, F. Smith, K. Ross, A. Cox, J. Wilson, R. Sloan, G. Byrnes, R. Rippon, W. Warner, S. Weeks, K. Roebuck, H. McDonald, B. Chalker, N. Cambridge, G. Morton, R. Clancy, E. McNamara, C. McDermott.

Goulburn Evening Post 21 March 1947

RUGBY LEAGUE
The following players will try out with Railway A Grade on Sunday, play commencing at 1.10 p.m.: R. Clarke, H. Smith, F. Smith, K. Ross, A. Cox, J. Wilson, L. Sloane, H. McLaughlin, G. Byrnes, B. Chalker, S. Weeks, B. Grant, F. McNamara, H. McDonald, K. Roebuck, W. Warner, C. Blanch.

Goulburn Evening Post 27 March 1947

The future of Jack Wilson is uncertain, but his services will be retained if a position can be found for him, as a shop assistant.

Goulburn Evening Post 8 April 1947

However by this time Jack was determining his own destiny and had been graded with the Canterbury Bankstown Club in late March 1947. He was selected to play on the wing with the Canterbury Bankstown Third Grade team in the opening round of the competition.

THIRD GRADE:		SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND April 12, 1947 — 12.45 p.m.	
BALMAIN		CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN	
Full-back: 27—N. O'BRIEN		Full-back: 32—N. HICKEY	
Three-quarters: 28—M. WALLACE 29—G. JONES		Three-quarters: 33—J. WILSON 34—J. STEWART 35—E. RYAN	
S. FURLONG—30 M. LEO—31		L. CLARKE—36 F. COMERFORD	
Halves: 32—D. BRYAN J. CLARE (C.)—33		Halves: 37—J. VINSON R. CAMERON (C.)—38	
Forwards: 36—D. BUCKLEY 35—A. KILMURRAY 34—J. BRANNIGAN		Forwards: 39—F. STEWART 40—G. GLASCOCK 41—P. WHITE	
L. QUIGLEY—37 E. SHORE—38 E. KEALY—39		J. COLGAN—42 R. BAXTER—43 L. CAMPBELL—44	
Reserves: J. Campbell, R. Robinson, J. Parton, J. Davis, A. Moulding, G. Johnston.		Reserves: J. O'Connor, W. Lombo, E. Kennedy, K. Hems- worth, R. Maree, P. McCarroll, W. Erdman, R. McCallum, T. Lyall.	

Round 1 1947

Jack played in the Canterbury, Third and Reserve Grade teams throughout 1947 and was a member of Canterbury's Third Grade Grand Final team that were runners up to Easts. Jack Wilson scored two tries for Canterbury in the 8-12 Grand Final loss.

— EASTERN SUBURBS —			
(Red, White and Blue)			
Full-back: 59—F. CONLON			
Three-quarters: 19—H. RYAN 15—D. MURPHY 45—A. BINKINS		A. GAUCI—18 J. BURGESS—16	
Five-eighths: 58—B. PAULIN 60—K. CLARKE		Half: D. WATTS—57	
Forwards: 47—W. SULLIVAN 29—C. SMITH			
N. SPEECHLEY—44 E. MOFFITT—32			
Reserves: L. Bolton 33, K. Dobbs 30, E. Berrell 39, H. O'Brien 38.			
Referee: C. BROWN		Touch Judges: S. Carey and A. Collins	
Forwards: 27—J. COLGAN 42—K. BURKE 37—J. VINSON 35—N. HICKEY 33—J. WILSON			
43—P. McCARROLL 39—F. STEWART		L. CAMPBELL—44 P. WHITE—41 E. KENNEDY—38 J. GARTNER—34 H. FITZPATRICK—36	
Full-back: 45—K. HEMSWORTH			
Reserves: A. Crumpton, R. Cameron, N. Charlton, R. McCallum, (Blue and White)			
— CANTERBURY —			

Third Grade Final 13 September 1947

Conlon was there to send the ball dead, but, instead of making sure of it, he casually attempted to bowl it over the dead-ball line with one hand, and Wilson, who had come through fast, jumped on the ball for a try, which Colgan converted with a good kick. A penalty in front of the posts enabled Conlon to kick his third goal to give Easts a 12-5 lead, and nearing full-time, Wilson scored his second try, when he dashed over in the corner after a fine movement, started on the other side of the field by Kennedy. Mainstay of the Eastern Suburbs team was the full-back, Conlon, even allowing for his lapse, which gave Wilson his first try. Eastern Suburbs 12 (B. Paulin, L. Bolton tries, F. Conlon 3 goals) beat Canterbury-Bankstown 8 (J. Wilson 2 tries, J. Colgan goal), at the Sports Ground.

The Sun 13 September 1947

Jack remained with Canterbury Bankstown in 1948 and played the first three rounds of the competition in First Grade. Test winger Edgar Newham returned from injury in round 4 and Jack returned to Reserve Grade.

NORMAN YOUNG, one of the best centres in the code, has been changed over to the wing, and last year's third grade winger Jack Wilson has been promoted to the other wing.

Daily Mirror 7 April 1948



Jack Wilson (with ball) eluding Balmain's Bob Lulham - Daily Telegraph 8 April 1948

Jack was once again a regular in Canterbury's Third Grade team by the end of the season. The Thirds made the semi finals but went down to Wests 4-7. That was Jack Wilson's last game in Sydney premiership rugby league.

FIRST GRADE:		SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND April 10, 1948 — 3.15 p.m.	
— CANTERBURY —			
(Blue and White)			
Full-back:		13—B. COURTNEY	
Three-quarters:		J. WILSON—12	
9—N. YOUNG	10—E. TRACEY		H. EMPTAGE—11
*Five-eighth:		Half:	
8—R. HASSON	6—L. HOLMES		B. HOPKINS—7
Forwards:		A. CLARKE—5	
4—K. CHARLTON	2—R. KIRKALDY		E. BURNS—1
3—H. PORTER (Capt.)			
Referee: J. O'BRIEN		Touch Judges: G. Hallwood and W. Cohen	
Forwards:			
8—J. SPENCER	9—A. KILMURRAY	J. THOMSON—10	
11—F. DE BELIN		S. RYAN—12	
13—J. HAMPSTEAD			
Five-eighth:		Half:	
6—G. WILLIAMS	S. PONCHARD—7		
Three-quarters:		T. BOURKE (Capt.)—4	
3—J. JORGENSEN	A. PATTON—5		
2—R. LULHAM			
Full-back:		1—D. PARKINSON	
(Black and Gold)			
— BALMAIN —			

Jack Wilson's First Grade debut with Canterbury - 10 April 1948

— WESTERN SUBURBS —	
(Black and White)	
Full-back: 31—W. TEBBUTT 7	
Three-quarters:	
33—C. COOPER	R. McGUINNESS—56
57—A. MINES	G. VAUGHAN—36
Five-eighth: 55—G. BAIN 22	
Half: J. NICHOLLS—51	
Reserves:	
52—S. CRUISE	39—P. LONG
54—G. LOVELL	43—R. BEAVER
R. WATSON—41	
J. KNIGHT—50	
Reserves: J. Green, B. Begar, B. Keating, K. Fawtrel, D. Worne, J. Walsh, H. Chapman.	
Referee: D. LAWLER	
Touch Judges: T. Bellew and E. Tsaffe	
Forwards:	
50—R. CHARLES	42—J. COLGAN
36—P. WHITE	P. McCARROLL—40
39—R. McCALLUM	
W. ANSLOW—44	
Five-eighth: 22—J. VINSON	
Half: W. GAYNON—23	
Three-quarters:	
47—F. O'SULLIVAN—2	J. JOHNSTON—35
30—A. CRUMPTON	J. WILSON—12
Full-back: 17—K. HEMSWORTH	
Reserve: L. Levett.	
(Blue and White)	
— CANTERBURY —	

Third Grade Semi Final 4 September 1948

In 1949 Jack Wilson returned to Goulburn and reconnected with the Goulburn Railway Club and was once again selected in the Goulburn District representative team. Although there was some speculation that he was going to retire at the end of the 1950 season, he played representative rugby league with Goulburn until 1952, and then had a final year with the Railway Club in 1953.

J. Wilson will receive a trial as full-back and Bob Cunningham will play on the wing. L. Glover is the other winger.

Goulburn Evening Post 24 May 1949

THE PLAYERS
Jack Wilson, full-back, has displayed good form in all matches. He is one of the mainstays of the team. Good handling and intelligent kicking make Wilson the outstanding full-back of the group.

Goulburn Evening Post 4 August 1949

Half-back will be Teddy Hunter while Jack Wilson who played so consistently last season will again be full-back.

Goulburn Evening Post 30 March 1950

Present indications are that Goulburn Rugby League selectors will be looking for players to fill next year's representative side. Several of last season's stalwarts have announced their intention of retiring from the game. They are Kevin McPherson, Jack Wilson, and "Big" Jack Crammond. It is unlikely

Goulburn Evening Post 4 December 1950

Ken Fogarty held a kick-through on the twenty-five. Dummieing and swerving, he ran to half-way. As he was tackled, Fogarty flashed a well-timed pass to Wilson. Like a man propelled by some unseen force, Wilson dashed on to cross near the posts. He converted his own try—30-0.

Goulburn Evening Post 23 July 1951

Jack Wilson took over from K. Fogarty, and landed a nice snaky goal to reduce the deficit.

Canberra Times 1 October 1951 - Final Goulburn v Queanbeyan

Selectors have moved Goulburn's player-coach, George Neader up to five-eighth position for this game and have replaced him with Jack Wilson, who played in that position with the team last season.

Goulburn Evening Post 10 April 1952

The shock selection of this combination is full-back Jack Wilson who replaces L. McLaughlin, a Marulan player, for the position.
Wilson was a member of the representative team in some of the trial games played in the early part of the season, but during this year's competition he was not considered for the team, probably because he would have replaced the former coach George Neader.
However, League members who saw Wilson play for Rovers Greens against Marulan on Sunday, consider he outplayed McLaughlin, the opposing full-back.

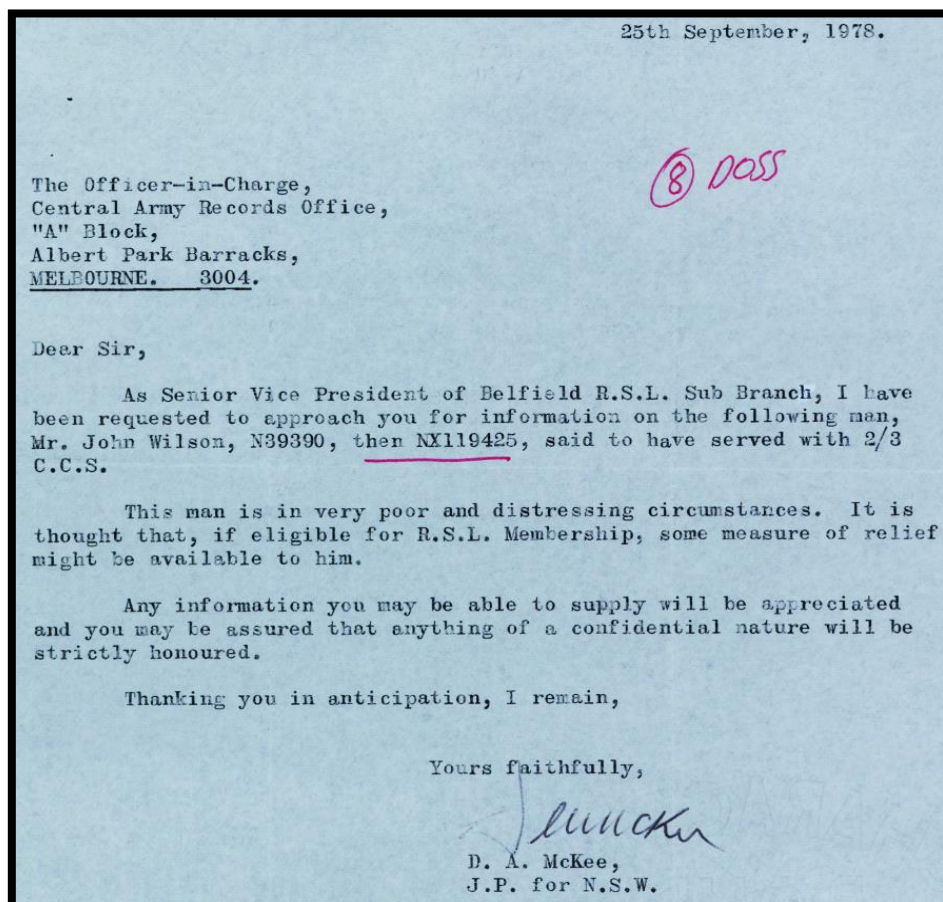
Goulburn Evening Post 22 July 1952

RAILWAY TEAM
Railway football team to play Rovers at League Park, Sunday, at 1.30 p.m.: J. Wilson, B. Dorsett, P. Fagan, L. Tapper, P. Parker, R. Forbes, T. Kevan, R. Watling, K. White, V. White, N. Neilsen, W. Wass, L. Edwards, C. Halliday, V. McDonald, L. Ross, E. Seivright, E. Hunter.

Goulburn Evening Post 1 May 1953

Jack Wilson lived in Goulburn until at least 1954 and probably well into the 1960's. However sometime prior to 1973, he moved to Sydney and was living at Platt St Belmore. This would have been an area familiar to him when he was playing with Canterbury Bankstown.

He remained in the area until at least 1978 but Jack was not travelling well by then. By that time he was in contact with the local Returned Servicemen's League (RSL) as there was great concern for his welfare. The Senior Vice President of the Belfield RSL wrote to the Army Records Office in September 1978 to confirm his service history, so that the RSL might assist him with some measure of relief.



There is no further information as to what happened to assist Jack or whether he ever recovered from his difficulties. It is not known if he ever married or what happened to him beyond 1978. A search of death records indicates that there were a number of men by the name of John Wilson that died in NSW in the 1970's and 1980's but none give any hint of being connected to this John Wilson.

These days there are support groups for former rugby league players such as Pratten Park Magpies and the Family of League to undertake welfare checks and support former team mates who have fallen on hard times. That wasn't the case in the 1970's.

Jack Wilson was a very talented rugby league player that could have achieved higher honors in the game but he put those ambitions aside to serve his country in the Second World War, providing aid and comfort to the sick and wounded in his role as a Nursing Orderly.

It has been a tragedy that for so long there has been confusion about his identity with various records referring to his name as either Jack or Joe Wilson. This has now been corrected. There is no known memorial for John "Jack" Wilson but perhaps this story will be his epitaph.