



Name: Gene Tunney
Career Record: [click](#)
Alias: The Fighting Marine
Birth Name: James Joseph Tunney
Nationality: US American
Birthplace: New York, NY, USA
Hometown: Greenwich, CT, USA
Born: 1897-05-25
Died: 1978-11-07
Age at Death: 81
Stance: Orthodox
Height: 6' 0
Reach: 196
Managers: [Billy Gibson](#), [Billy Jacobs](#)

Career Overview

Dethroning a legendary heavyweight champion sometimes is not all it is cracked up to be. **Gene Tunney**, one of the most skilled of all heavyweight champions, received little more than begrudged respect from sports fans after his two signature performances against [Jack Dempsey](#). Fast, powerful, resilient, intelligent, and virtually flawless in technique, Tunney had all the tools for greatness in the ring, but lacked the ferocious style and rugged charisma of the man from whom he wrested the championship. But even Gene's detractors couldn't deny that he was a first class fighter, one who had risen from middleweight to heavyweight and fought a generation of quality opponents on the way. Like Dempsey, he cast his own unique shadow over the sport as an accomplished student of the sweet science and one of the greatest athletes of his generation.

The Fighting Marine

Born James Tunney, the son of an Irish immigrant longshoreman, Tunney grew up in the mean New York street as a child, where he learned to fight in the streets. He became affectionately known in his family as 'Gene' because his baby sister had trouble pronouncing his given name. Forced to quit school as a teenager to go to work as a typist for a steamship company and help support his family, Gene also gravitated toward boxing in this period, venturing nightly to the Greenwich Village Athletic Club to train, spar, and make valuable connections with people involved in the sport. It soon became his ambition that he would compete professionally and in 1915, at age 18, he made his debut as a middleweight against [Bobby Dawson](#), who he stopped inside of six rounds.

During Tunney's career, official decisions in boxing were outlawed in New York and other states as a means to avoid corruptive influences in the sport. Fans relied upon newspaper reporters to give them accurate accounts as to who deserved to win the fights. Eighteen of Gene's fights would therefore officially result in "no-decisions." In his first dozen fights, however, held between 1915 and 1918, Gene managed to go undefeated before enlisting in the

WHEN THIS MARINE LANDS—GOOD-NIGHT!



United States Marine Corps on May 2, 1918. Though Gene never saw action during his tenure in the Marines, his enlistment would later serve as a source of patriotic pride for many fans and would become a successful promotional tool for his future career. During his service, he continued to box winning eight of his nine matches in France between July, 1918 and April, 1919. Also during this period he competed as a light heavyweight in an amateur tournament in France, defeating all of his twenty opponents. This led to a paid fight in Paris with Fighting [Bob Martin](#), the reigning heavyweight champion of the U.S. Expeditionary Forces. He later defeated three men in a tournament to determine the Expeditionary Forces light heavyweight champion.

With the end of World War I in 1919, Gene returned to civilian life. Between 1919 and 1920 he scored an impressive eleven consecutive knockouts, mostly in the New Jersey area, though most of his opposition was mediocre at best. Nonetheless, the success led to Tunney's appearance on the undercard of the highly anticipated 1921 heavyweight championship match between Jack Dempsey and [Georges Carpentier](#) in Jersey City before more than 80,000 fight fans. His opponent was [Soldier Jones](#), an overmatched light heavyweight whom Tunney dominated for seven rounds until the referee stopped the fight. Another six consecutive wins led to a fight with [Battling Levinsky](#), the reigning light heavyweight champion of America. The former world champion, Levinsky was a veteran of more than 200 bouts and known, like Tunney, for his defensive skills. On January 13, 1922, at [Madison Square Garden](#) in New York, Tunney won a



twelve round decision over his first internationally known opponent. The light heavyweight championship of America, which Tunney had now won, was considered at the time a major title and greatly increased his stature within the boxing community.

The Greb Fights

Gene's next big name opponent came on May 23, when he fought future hall-of-famer [Harry Greb](#), a rugged and relentless slugger from Pittsburgh known as the "Human Windmill" who would later win the middleweight championship of the world. The opening ten rounds of the fight between the ultimate slugger and the ultimate boxer proved closely fought, despite Greb's constant fouling. A head-butt in round one broke Gene's nose, understandably disrupting his concentration. Later in the round, a punch from Greb opened a gash above Tunney's left eye. In the third, a cut over the right eye opened. By the middle rounds, Tunney's face was a red mask, but he continued to

hold his own. As the fight entered the championship rounds, however, the effect of the punishment and blood loss on Tunney became obvious, prompting Greb to lay on even more pressure. Though Gene never went down and lasted the entire fifteen round distance, the judged awarded Greb the fight. Tunney, losing his American championship, had also suffered his first professional defeat. After the fight, he collapsed in his dressing room.

Left to rebuild his record in order to secure a rematch with Greb, Tunney took on future hall of famer [Tommy Loughran](#) in Philadelphia on August 24, 1922. He put Tommy down with a right hand in the first round, but Loughran rose to fight on. A skilled fighter in his own right, Loughran rose to fight on and the fight went the twelve round scheduled distance. Though the fight was technically a no-decision, the New York Times awarded their decision to Tunney. Gene also made his debut at heavyweight in 1922, twice fighting contender [Charley Weinert](#). Their first match, on August 17, ended in a no-decision most felt Tunney deserved, but in the rematch on November 29, Tunney left no doubts with a fourth round knockout win. Then it was on to a rematch with Greb, held again at Madison Square Garden, on February 23, 1923. Before 15,000, Tunney utilized a punishing body attack to try and slow Greb down, but it remained a closely contested fight. Tunney received the fifteen round decision, though many felt that Greb deserved the verdict. A third match occurred on December 10, 1923, again at the Garden. The fight was more of the same, with Tunney going to the body and Greb brawling away. In the end, though, most recognized that Tunney had the better of the action and deserved the fifteen round decision in his favor. The pair fought twice more in the coming years, both fights ending officially as "no-decisions," with opinion differing as to who deserved to win in the first match and Tunney giving Greb "as thorough a beating as he ever received" in their final encounter.

The Road to Dempsey

By this time, Gene was increasingly venturing into heavyweight territory. On June 26, 1924 he knocked out fringe contender [Erminio Spalla](#) at [Yankee Stadium](#) and then dropped back down to light heavyweight to face aging former champion Georges Carpentier at the Polo Grounds in New York. Carpentier was an experienced, quick, skillful, tough, and hard-hitting opponent, but past his prime. Gene dominated the match, flooring the Frenchman three times in the tenth and once in the fourteenth. In the fifteenth round, the referee decided that Carpentier could take no more and stopped the contest. On June 5, 1925, Gene faced [Tommy Gibbons](#), who had never previously been knocked out. Gibbons had even gone a full fifteen rounds with the feared Dempsey just two years earlier. Though he was thought to be on the tale end of his career, he was still regarded as the first true test for Tunney in the heavyweight division. The Fighting Marine passed the test with flying colors, becoming the first to knock Gibbons out in twelve rounds. Wins over heavyweights [Jack Martin](#), [Bartley Madden](#), [Dan O'Dowd](#), and a no-decision against [Johnny Risko](#) followed.

With Gene now considered among the top contenders in the division, fans wanted to see him matched with African American [Harry Wills](#), the consensus top challenger for Jack Dempsey's championship. Tunney, however, refused to participate in an interracial prizefight (a stance that detracts from his legacy in the eyes of some historians). Because Dempsey's handlers also refused to put their man in with Wills, a Dempsey-Tunney fight became the next logical match-up.

The Dempsey Fights

The first of the two Dempsey and Tunney fights took place on September 23, 1926 at Sesquicentennial Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was Dempsey's first professional bout in three years. In preparation, Tunney used the then rare technique of studying the film available on Dempsey to determine the champion's strengths, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities. 120,557 people turned out, despite a vicious rain storm, to view the much anticipated bout. They were surprised to see the underdog challenger give the highly regarded champion a boxing lesson. For ten rounds Tunney boxed a clinic, never allowing Dempsey into the fight and walking away with a deserved unanimous decision, a victory [The Ring](#) magazine later dubbed the "Upset of the Decade," and the richest prize in sports.

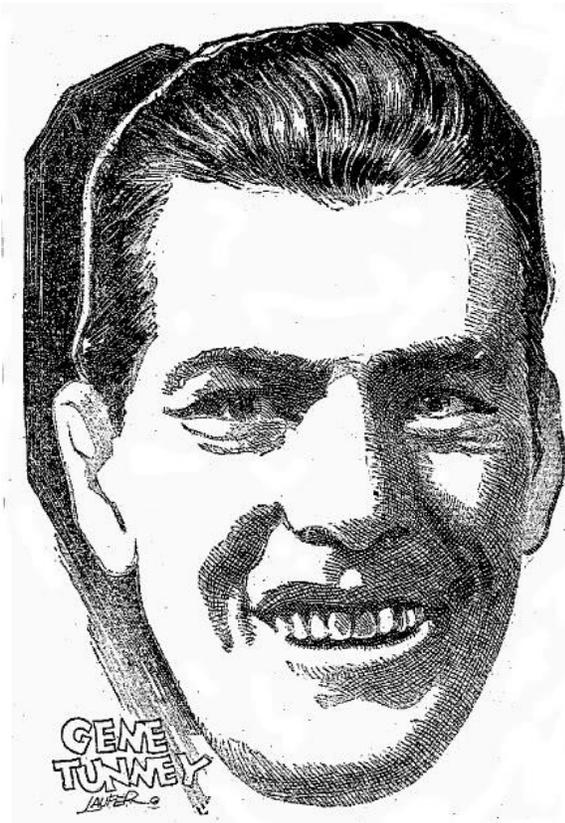
Gene stayed out of the ring for nearly a year after winning the championship. An intelligent, well-spoken and well-read man, Tunney established friendships among some of the day's top literary figures, including author George Bernard Shaw. But the public yearned for the days when the less bookish and more brutal Dempsey held the crown. Thus promoter Tex Rickard arranged a rematch. On September 22, 1927, almost a year to the day after their first match, Tunney did battle with Dempsey one more time at Soldiers Field in Chicago. Again Gene exhibited supreme technical skills and remarkable condition in continually circling his opponent, using his jab to keep Dempsey at bay, and taking an indisputable lead on the score cards. In the seventh however, the challenger charged forward with a furious flurry of left and right hooks that sent the champion sinking down to the canvas. Having suffered the first knockdown of his professional career, Tunney cleared his head remarkably quick but wisely remained seated on the

canvas awaiting the count of nine to give himself more rest. Meanwhile, Dempsey, ignoring a new Illinois rule whereby a fighter scoring a knockdown must remove himself to a neutral corner of the ring, distracted the referee. After the referee finally convinced Jack to move away, he returned to Tunney and began counting with “1” even though Tunney had been down at least four seconds by that time. Taking advantage of the precious extra time, Gene finally stood up at the count of “9,” fourteen seconds after the knockdown was scored. In the next round he got revenge with an excellent, short right hand that dropped Dempsey to one knee. The brave but battered challenger rose quickly and fought on, but Tunney had proven himself the better man and walked away with another unanimous decision victory.

Retirement

Tunney’s second defense came against [Tom Heeney](#) of New Zealand, who had shown himself to be a viable world class opponent through recent wins over [Jim Maloney](#), [Johnny Risko](#), and [Jack Delaney](#), as well as a draw with leading contender [Jack Sharkey](#). However world class Heeney might have been, he was no match for the Fighting Marine on July 26, 1928. Even the fact that Jack Dempsey himself worked in Heeney’s corner proved no help; he was outclassed from the start. In the eleventh round the referee decided that the challenger could take no more and stopped the fight.

Days after the Heeney fight the champion announced his retirement from boxing. Though they had never truly embraced Tunney, the public was nonetheless stunned; no heavyweight champion had permanently retired with the title. Undeclared as a heavyweight, with only one pro loss, Tunney cut his losses and walked away for good. Months later he wed a wealthy steel heiress and embarked upon an immensely fruitful career in business and real estate. A chairman or director of several companies and corporations, Gene made millions after leaving the sport. He passed away an enormously wealthy man at age 81 on November 7, 1978. In 1990 he was honored as one of the inaugural inductees into the [International Boxing Hall of Fame](#).



Dempsey v Tunney 23 September 1927

Gene Tunney began his second years turn as

heavy weight Champion of the world September on 23, 1927 but only after the backers of his opponent, Jack Dempsey, had vigorously Demanded a “recount” of the vital moments of the Spectacular battle at Soldier Fields. The marine had repeated his victory of the previous year ,and by the same verdict, a decision at the end of the 10th round.

However, on this occasion he had come within a second of being knocked out and of the throne when he was dumped, dazed and shaken to the floor in the seventh round for a count of nine which in the opinion of many ringside observers was from 12 to 15 seconds.

Tunney’s hand was raised in triumph, duly earned after A stirring rally through the last three rounds which Had Dempsey on the verge of a knockout himself In the final round.

The champion was still a champion and fought like one At the finish but to thousands it seemed that the gods of fortune were with him. Save for the break in the seventh round ,and the interpretation of the Illinois boxing commission knock down rules, he might have been shunted out and seen his million dollar crown pass back to the old wearer.

Instead of the count being started and continued Uninterrupted - as in the old prize ring rules – from the time Tunney Hit the floor, from the effects of a vicious right hand smash and a short left hook. The toll was delayed several seconds while the referee Waved Dempsey to a distant corner.

At the count of nine Tunney got up to back off and circle Until his faculties cleared. He had already had the benefit Of at least three and possibly five to six additional seconds to pull himself together. Dempsey’s handlers hotly asserted that he should Have been counted out and Dempsey had been robbed of a knockout Victory which would of made him the First ex champion to regain the title .Tunney’s handlers Declared their man the winner and was simply profiting From the rules, that he was ready to get up at “nine2 whenever that count was reached.

And that as a matter of fact he started to rise at the count of five But stayed down to get the benefit of the long count on advice from his corner.

So far as the rules are concerned they were subjected to various interpretation but the Boxing commissioner at ringside made it clear That no actual count was possible until Dempsey was in a corner well away from his fallen foe.

Champ Rallies

However, as close a call as it was and whatever ” break” he benefited by In the seventh round there was no question in the mind of observers that Tunney was the master. He out pointed Dempsey for the first half of the fight and After weathering the old warriors most furious bid For victory, out fought, and out boxed, Dempsey in the last three rounds.

Tunney had met and beaten a far different fighter from the More dangerous puncher and more flaming spirit than the Uncertain, floundering figure that was toppled from the fistic Thrown a year before.

Here They Are--Take Your Choice!



Round One

Dempsey left lunged falling into a clinch. Jack piled in again with two left hooks to the ribs. In the clinch that followed he clipped Gene four times with a right on the back of the head. They sparred cautiously, Dempsey preferring to feint for openings while Tunney lay back Gene snapped a left to Jack's chin and followed with a right smash to the chin. Jack fell into a clinch, taking another right to the head as he came in.. Jack dropped a left on Tunney's body. Jack backed away while the champion followed him across the ring with a volley of lefts and rights to the head close to the ropes. Gene missed an overhand right' as the bell rang

Round Two

Dempsey was fighting cautiously, apparently seeking to evade the disastrous first round spasm like that at Philadelphia last fall. They came out boxing again and. Gene shot a left and right to the chin. They were dancing, boxing high. Gene dropped an overhand right on Dempsey's chin after chasing him to a corner.

another right missed and Dempsey smashed a left to the body and three lefts to the chin before Tunney could tie him up. Hands high, Jack dodged away from a right. There was little action as they sparred carefully in the center. Tunney's left was short, but Dempsey merely fell into a clinch. Gene missed two more lefts while Jack clipped two short left hooks to the body. As Dempsey lunged low, Tunney missed again but managed to catch himself and fleck two soft lefts to the face as the round ended.

Round Three

Again they boxed carefully, slowly, in the center of the ring. Dempsey apparently was trying to tantalize Tunney into "leading and making an open fight of it, Tunney sneaked over a pretty left jab, but took a half dozen raps on the back of the neck. Gene took the offensive, driving Dempsey into the ropes, where Jack tied him tight. As they bobbed in the center of the ring, Tunney led. and fell into Dempsey's straight right smash to the body. Gene held while Jack clouted both hands to the mid-section. A right smash to the heart drove Tunney back. As they fiddled - about, Dempsey wove in close again to cuff the back of Tunney's head with his right and dig his left twice to the champion's ribs,

Round Four

Dempsey took the offensive, but Tunney's right cracked on his chin. While Dempsey rapped two lefts to the body Gene complained that the blows were foul and fought Jack desperately as they fell against the ropes. Gene missed with a right and took another left to the body. Jack was leading again, now, short lefts to the body, while Tunney counted just as lightly to the head. Tunney tried to nail -Jack coming in, missing with both hands, but saved himself by falling into a clinch. Two right smashes to the chin -stung Dempsey. Gene lifted two more left hooks to the head and nailed Dempsey in the ropes. A right sent Dempsey -reeling into the corner. A left hook nearly floored him. • As Dempsey lay against the ropes stunned, Tunney missed with both hands and the bell killed his opportunity.

Round five

Dempsey's handlers were working furiously on him during the intermission, while Tunney's handlers yelled that the stimulants were unfair. Tunney missed a right and they fell into a clinch. Jack fell in close, pounding to the body, when Tunney, overanxious, missed again. Jack, backed away now, falling into- the ropes as Tunney took to the attack. When Jack tied him up, they sparred out to the center of the ring. Dempsey bobbed out of three left jabs. He sent Tunney's head -back with a stiff straight left. A right high on the temple shook Dempsey badly. The champion backed away, however, content to jab and wait. In another clinch. Jack rapped again on the back of Tunney's neck. Gene dug two nice lefts into Dempsey's body at the bell.

Round Six

They boxed carefully several seconds before coming together, for a flurry -of body punches.' The crowd, bellowed as Dempsey's right hand, "old iron mike," smashed under Tunney's heart. But the champion came back, ripping both hands to the chin, Dempsey, tiring, fell into a clinch



after the blows. Jack turned the champion half way around with a right hook to the head. Tunney came back strong but two more left hooks and a straight right stung the champion. Missing a long left, Jack took a right under the heart as they fell again into a clinch.

Round Seven

Dempsey's handlers pleaded with him to keep his chin down. As he came out bobbing, weaving under Tunney's right, Jack slapped a soft right to the ribs. A volley of right and left hooks to the head floored Tunney, for a count of nine. Dempsey, in close, was smashing a body attack. Wobbling and dazed, Tunney "only could jump and flounder backwards. Dempsey cornered him at the ropes and smashed a left and right to the body. Gene came back weakly, jabbing a left to the head, Dempsey laughed and urged Gene to come in and fight. Losing his temper Jack smashed

Tunney with left and right swings to the head. Gene! badly dazed, jabbed Dempsey with both hands and still was holding on fiercely at the bell.

Round Eight

Dempsey came out in a crouch. Apparently somewhat recovered, Gene stabbed with his left and clinched. As Tunney backed pedaled furiously, Dempsey made no effort to catch him, merely walking after him and taunting him to fight. Tunney did fight, whipping a left and right upper cut to Jack's chin. As they missed rights, Dempsey lifted his left to the jaw. In a clinch, Jack again cuffed Tunney's head. A smashing left to the body drove Tunney back and a right to the heart made him grab Jack. As Dempsey dodged a right he slipped to one knee for no count. Taking courage, Tunney flew at Dempsey, pumping both hands to the head. Again Tunney nailed Jack with both hands to the chin as the former-champion bounded out of the ropes. They were boxing cautiously, both tired, waiting for openings, as the round ended.

Round Nine

Tunney's retreating tactics drew boos from the crowd between rounds. Jack grabbed the champion and smashed him half a dozen times on the back of the neck. They both had slowed up from the fierce pace. Tunney, standing in the center of the ring, held Jack off for a few moments with three straight left jabs. But Jack bore right to close quarters. Coming In, Gene's

right opened a cut over Dempsey's right eye. The champion went after the wound fiercely. Snapping out both hands high to the head, Jack tried to bob, but two solid rights bounced-off-his Jaw.- Dempsey was wobbly, but as he cocked his right Gene ran away. The champion came back and rocked Jack again with swinging smashes to the head, Dempsey came into his corner a bit wobbly as-the gong sounded.

Round Ten

They shook hands in the center of the Ring. Jack floored Tunney again with a left and right to the chin. Gene was up before the timer could start counting. Jack's right smashed into Gene's head again- and the water from Jack's hair splashed over the ringside writers. Jack, the tiger again, whaled in with both hands, but Tunney tied him up in a clinch.They pause*, and as Dempsey dropped his hands, Tunney whipped a left and. right -hook into the Manassa Mauler's face. Gene came. In to the attack, ripping both hands' to the head. While Dempsey. appeared to tire, Gene laid him on the ropes, but the champion's two-handed attack was a bit wild. Dempsey drove several rights to the body. . Gene countered with a left. Badly staggered, Dempsey wobbled about the ring as the bell sounded. The former champion, still groggy, sparred dizzily after the gong

The Warren Tribune

27 July 1928

Tunney Easily Retains His Crown Pummels Heeney To Win By Technical Knockout In 11th Round Of Championship Bout

Gene Tunney is secure in his niche today among the great fighters of history.

A rebuilt Tunney, a Tunney with a punch,sledged his way to victory last night over Tom Heeney, as stout hearted a boxer as ever waged a hopeless fight.

Referee Eddie Forbes stopped the bout after two minutes and 52 seconds of the eleventh round. Heeney was limp against the ropes and Tunney was measuring him up for a knockout. It would have been the first time in his career that the count of ten had been tolled over the challenger.

Heeney said he would carry the fight to Tunney and he did. Always he was lunging forward, flailing with his pudgy arms and taking two blows to land one. Heeney had only one punch, a lopping right to the head. Invariably he telegraphed it five seconds before it came across, by jockeying his legs into position and dropping his shoulder. When the punch finally arrived Tunney was not there.

The champion apparently tossed the first round away deliberately to sound out his man. He was the Tunney of Philadelphia and Chicago, a faultless boxer who drove in a blow at long range and retreated before his opponent could recover.

Tunney Shows Punch

The change came in the third round. They were in a clinch when Tunney rested his head on Heeney's shoulder for a second and smiled wistfully as his eyes roamed across the vacant seats. When the bell rang for the fourth round Tunney had become a puncher.

Heeney came charging out of his corner, his granite jaw stuck out to invite a right cross. Tunney aimed for the jaw and swung, Heeney ducked and the blow caught him on the nose. Blood trickled out, and for the first time the challenger stood still instead of lunging forward. Then in he came and his slow right slipped harmlessly off Tunney's shoulder.

From then on Tunney never ran away. He stood still as Heeney came at him, mixing his rights to the head with murderous jabs to the body. All through the fourth and fifth rounds the champion was driving his right into Heeney's heart.

Eye Closed In Eighth

By the eighth round Heeney's left eye was closed and his face was smeared with blood. But he kept coming in, a gory Cyclops looking for the two-eyed man who was pecking away at his eye and his heart.

The climax came in the tenth round. They met in the center of the ring where Tunney found the wobbling Heeney an easy mark for a lightning one-two punch that drove the challenger to the ropes. Tom slumped down into a half crouch, his arms crossed over his chest. His chin sagged. Then the scholar got the better of the fighter. For three seconds he stood there with his arms at his side, gazing at Heeney with a perplexed look on his face. A Dempsey would have been swarming over his man and driving in blows. But to Tunney the polishing off of Heeney was an unpleasant job. Someone at the ringside shouted.

"Get in there, Gene."

Tunney came to life, spun Heeney into an upright position with a left to the chest and stepped in with his right fist ready. Coolly, almost mathematically, he marked his target and sent the blow across like a rocket. That punch travelled three feet, but it knocked Heeney three yards. The challenger bounced on the canvas and rolled over once to land propped out on his back. His eyes were glassy and he was gulping for breath. Tunney stepped toward a neutral corner only to be stopped by the bell.

As Heeney came out of his corner for the next round, he automatically started that ceaseless lunging forward. He had only a vague idea where Tunney was, and his sole thought was to keep plodding ahead until he found him. Heeney does not carry a reverse gear.

Referee Stops Bout

His first knowledge of where Tunney was came when he felt a familiar jolt at his heart, followed



instantly by a sledge-hammer blow against his jaw. Heeney probably will never now how he managed to last out the last round. His arms were loose at his side and he was taking it on the chin, head and body when the referee stopped the bout.

The only trouble with Heeney last night was that he was outclassed. He met a faster, harder-hitting and craftier man, and the only thing he had to offer in return was his great, stout eart and a will to win. Tunney was never in danger.

Round One

Heeney came over to the champions corner to take a hard right on the chin Heeney landed a stiff right. The challenger rushed Tunney into a corner and landed two blows to the ody. Tnnney opened up with both fists to the head, but Heeney kept boring in. Tunney locked Heeney's arms in a clinch. The champion shot over a right to the jaw. Heeney landed right and they clinched. Standing toe to toe the men traded blows to the head on even terms. Tunney landed a left to the body and a right to the jaw. The challenger hooked left to jaw, Tunney landed left to body but took four punches to the head in return. The champion shot a straight to the jaw, jarring Heeney Tunney met Heeney coming in with straight left. Heeney landed both fists to the head, making the champion dance away They were sparring in mid-ring at the bell. Round even.

ROUND TWO

The champion came out slowly and led with a light left. They exchanged rights and clinched. With his back to the ropes Tunney sent Heeney back on his heels with lefts and rights to the head. Heeney kept moving forward but was taking a lot of punches to the head. They clinched. Tunney landed a stiff light to the jaw. They exchanged punches to the head. As Heeney moved in Tunney shot over a left to the head. A right to the mouth opened a slight cut on the challenger's upper lip. Tunney brought up a terrific left uppercut but did not stop the game challenger who returned blow for blow. Tunney's round.

Round Three

Tunney landed a left and right to the jaw and they clinched. Heeney landed a light left. Tunney put a hard right to the jaw. In a clinch Tunney shot his left like a trip-hammer to the body. Heeney jarred Tunney with a right to the face and the champion backed away. Tunney landed light left to face. Tunney began to rely on his left jab. He backed away from Heeney almost to the ropes. Heeney landed still left uppercut. Heeney almost floored Tunney with a left to jaw. Ripping both fists to head Tunney had to dance away. Heeney again rocked Tunney with a right to jaw. Tunney started the blood flowing from Heeney's nose with left jabs. Heeney put terrific left to body. They were punching each other about the head at the bell and Gene said something as he went to his corner. Heeney's round.

ROUND FOUR

They came out cautiously and Tunney backed away when Tom feinted with his right. Heeney landed a right and left to the face and took a left to the body in return. Tunney put left to the face and opened a small cut under the challenger's chin. Tunney shook Heeney with a left hook. Heeney drove a one-two punch to Gene's head. Tunney landed hard right to jaw and made the challenger clinch. Tunney put left to body and they clinched. Heeney landed two lefts to the head. Gene scored with hard right to body. Tunney landed hard left to body. Heeney rushed the champion and made Gene back away. Challenger was bleeding from nose and a cut under the chin but was fighting viciously. Heeney drove the champion to the ropes with a flurry of body punches and was outfighting Gene at the bell. Heeney's face was covered in blood as he went to his corner. Tunney's round.

Round Five

Blood streamed from the challenger's nose as they came out. Tunney landed two light lefts to the head. Always moving forward, Heeney landed half a dozen punches to the head and body. Gene shot hard light to the stomach. The champion missed a right to the head and they clinched. Tunney put left to the face. Heeney missed with both hands. Gene landed left to body. They clinched and came out of it very slowly. Tunney staggered Tom with hard right to body. Heeney put left to body, Heeney landed long left to ear as Gene danced away. Tunney missed with both hands as the challenger landed a right to the chin. Tunney half-floored Heeney with left and right to body but Tom was up without a count. The challenger appeared to be in a bad way but continued to fight viciously. Heeney landed a right at the bell. Tunney's round.

ROUND SIX

Heeney grazed the champion's body with a right. The champion landed a right under the heart. Heeney put a right to head. They exchanged blows to the head and clinched Heeney landed hard left to body and the champion backed off. Gene landed left and rights to the body. Heeney backed the champion to the ropes and took a left to body and right to head for his efforts. Gene was jabbing away at the head with both fists and cutting the challenger up badly. They clinched, Heeney landed a right to body and they fell into clinch. The challenger appeared to be a bit groggy as he missed a left to the chin. Gene shook Tom with hard left to jaw. The champion was fighting a superb battle and wearing the challenger down. They were in a light scrimmage in Heeney's corner at the bell. Tunney's round.

ROUND SEVEN

They sparred for an opening and Tunney landed right to body. Tunney shot over two left jabs to head. The champion dug his right glove deep into the challenger's body. Heeney landed sharp left to head. Tunney had the better of an exchange at close quarters. Tom missed left hook to head as Gene danced away. Heeney landed left to body and fell into clinch. The champion put a right to body. In a furious exchange the challenger landed two blows to Gene's one and made Tunney go into retreat. Heeney missed a left hook. The champion put his left to the face. The crowd cheered as Heeney landed a hard left to the face. They were sparring at the bell. Heeney's round

Round Eight

They came out slowly, Gene feinting with his left and backing away. Gene met Tom with right to body as the challenger bored in. The champion put two light lefts to the jaw. Heeney was linking his left eye and backing away from the champion who refused to hit him. Heeney wiped his eye with his glove. But was unable to clear it. Heeney could not see out of his eye until the champion did not hit him Heeney was backing away for the first time. The champion landed a left jab to the face. Gene walked in cautiously and jarred Tom with a two-isted attack. Still unable to see out of his left eye, Heeney was standing toe to toe swapping punches. The champion drove both fists to the head and had Heeney groggy at the bell. Tunney's round.

Round Nine

The challenger blinked his left eye as he came out. Gene put both fists to the body. Gene scored with a one-two punch to the head. The champion landed a straight left to the face. Heeney continued to bleed from the nose. Sending both hands, to the body, Tunney sent Heeney back on his heels. Heeney missed a left to the head and they clinched. They exchanged punches to the head at long range. The champion opened a deep gash over Heeney's left eye and blood poured down the challengers' face. Heeney's face was covered with blood but he refused to stop pouring in. Tunney jarred the challenger with left and right to head, Heeney sent over a terrific right as he came out of a clinch. Gene scored with a straight left. In a clinch the champion sent both fists to the body. Tunney's round.

ROUND TEN

Gene landed a light left to the face then put a right to the body. They clinched. Gene scored with two lights to the head and then sent over three rights to the face. Heeney's face was gory mass and his left eye was almost closed. Tom put hard left to body. Heeney was spitting blood but never took a backward step. Heeney missed a left and the champion cored with three left jabs. Heeney put left to jaw. Heeney rested his head on the champions shoulder and landed lightly to the body. Gene drove a hard right to the stomach and sent over a series of hard lefts and rights to the head. Heeney was taking a battering now but he refused to back up. Tunney floored Heeney with right to the jaw as the bell rang. The

challenger's seconds picked him up and half carried him to his corner. The bell saved Heeney. His second worked over him bringing him to. Tunney's round.

ROUND ELEVEN

Heeney came out groggy and Gene staggered him with lefts and rights to the head. Hee ey was in a bad way and was almost ready to topple over The referee stopped the bout giving Tunney a technical knockout.

Tunney-v-Greb

Bridgeport Telegram

24 Feb 1923

Tunney Regains Light Heavyweight Title Crowd booes Decision; Greb landed three blows to Gene's one But Fails to hold title

Tunney, idol of Greenwich Village, regained the American light heavyweight championship tonight when he gained the judges' -decision over Harry Greb. of Pittsburgh, the title holder, in a fifteen round contest at Madison Square Garden tonight.

Decision Boood.

The decision met with mingled booes and applause, despite Tunney's popularity among the great majority of fans and came as a surprise to those at the ringside who had given Greb a wide margin on points in most of the rounds.

Tunney was baffled by Greb's whirlwind style of attack throughout the early part, of the bout. He

finished the last two rounds, however, with the only effective aggressiveness he had shown, dazing the champion once with a hard right smash to the jaw. This closing rally of the challenger, plus consideration, probably given to alleged foul holding tactics employed by Greb in several rounds, was believed to have swayed the judges verdict however, unsatisfactory it was to a large portion of the crowd.

While Greb landed at least three blows to one of his rival, few of them did much damage. Tunney's 'body attack especially in the 14th round, at times checked Greb's rushes, but the Pittsburgher blocked most of the New Yorker's blows. Tactics used, by Greb which his opponents handlers claimed were unfair -were the subject of a lengthy parley at the start of the bout. Referee Patsy Haley was vigorous in warning Greb for holding in several rounds, going- to the Pittsburgher's corner at the' end of the 12th round to emphasize his -warning.

Won Only One Round.

The only round which Tunney earned decisively in the opinion of ringside critics was the 14th. He showed aggressiveness in the fourth, tenth and fifteenth, but except In these two or three rounds of the early part of the bout which were classed as even Greb's forcing tactics gave him a substantial margin on points, in the remaining rounds.

Tunney's victory' restored to him the crown he lost to Greb in a 15 round bout at the Garden last May.

ROUND ONE

The opening round was preceded by a prolonged conference over Greb's ring tactics, claimed by Tunney's supporters as unfair The champion took the aggressive at the tap of the gong and cut loose with a flurry of rights and lens to Tunney's head. They both mixed willingly but landed Few telling blows.

Tunney Bewildered.

ROUND TWO

Greb bewildered the challenger with his whirlwind attack. He rocked Tunney's head from side to side with a succession of rights and lefts The challenger missed most of his attempts to land on his shifty opponent.

ROUND THREE

Greb was cautioned by the referee for holding. He shot over several left Jabs to the jaw and cuffed Tunney about the head as he danced in and out of the challenger's reach.

ROUND FOUR

They mixed at a furious pace. Greb landing three blows to one but Tunney twice shot in jolting: lefts to the face. The challenger forced the fighting for the first time and drove Greb to a corner with a body attack. Greb's mouth was slightly cut, and blood trickled from a scratch over Tunney's eye as a result of the mix-up.

ROUND FIVE

The champion bounded about in characteristic fashion Swinging both fists like flails but Tunney seized an opening to Shoot home stiff right the ribs. They were mixing at a fast pace as the bell closed the round.

ROUND SIX

Greb forced Tunney to miss repeatedly and landed a hard right to the jaw without drawing a reply. Tunney jabbed lightly and absorbed a stiff punch to the ribs.

ROUND SEVEN

Greb set the pace with a rushing attack to Tunney's and body. He opened a slight cut over the challengers right eye and shook him with a series rights and lefts to the jaw. Tunney seemed baffled by his rival's –shifting antics.

Tunney Good Catcher.

ROUND EIGHT

Greb snapped the challenger's head back With several right swings. He cut loose with a flail like attack that drove Tunney to the ropes but was booed by the crowd in the belief that he was holding.

NINTH ROUND

Greb shot in a terrific bow to the body sending Tunney back on his heels, but was again cautioned for holding. Tunney run into a flurry of blows as he tried to fight back and was severely punished by the champion as they mixed at close quarters. A fresh cut was opened under Tunney's right eye during the melee.

TENTH ROUND

Tunney upset the champion for a moment with one of the few sustained attacks he had shown. The Pittsburgher came right back, however and traded stiff blows to the body. Greb pummeled his rival about the head as the round closed.

ROUND ELEVEN

Tunney appeared to lose confidence under the rain of blows let loose by Greb and offered little resistance to the champions aggressiveness. Greb peppered his opponent about the head and body, occasionally shooting in damaging rights to the chin and ribs.

ROUND TWELVE

Tunney was admonished in emphatic terms for failing to break from a clinch. He blocked Tunney's drives for the body and punished the Challenger with hard swings to the head. The referee went to Greb's corner as the round ended to repeat his warnings against the champions tactics.

Greb Forces Fighting

ROUND THIRTEEN

Greb continued to forced he fighting, driving Tunney About the ring with rights and lefts that landed with damaging effect. Tunney's attempts to retaliate were futile and in exchanges at close quarters the champion landed twice as often as the challenger.

ROUND FOURTEEN

Tunney sent the champion to the ropes with a right that landed flush on the jaw. He followed this shot with an aggressive attack that apparently weakened the champion. Greb was on the defensive for the first time in the bout but succeeding in blocking most of Tunney s punches.

ROUND FIFTEEN

Greb crime back strong as the final round opened and hooked Tunney with a succession of right uppercuts us they mixed at a speedy pace. Tunney punished the champion about the body but was jolted by several smashes to the head in return.