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"Tampa" Tommy Gomez

BOXING’S HARDEST PUNCHER’

Career Ends
With Loss to
Satterfield

(Editor’s Note: In the boxing world, the name of Tampa’s Tommy Gomez will long be remembered. His career was reviewed by Angelo Prospero in a column in the February 1989 issue of RING THE BIBLE OF BOXING, reprinted here).

"TAMPA" TOMMY GOMEZ was one of the hardest punchers ever in the heavyweight division. He fought from 1939 when he kayoed Jack Wallace until 1950 when he lost a 10-round decision to Bob Satterfield.

Gomez had 87 fights, winning 76 with 64 KOs, a knockout percentage of .735. Twenty-eight of his starch jobs came in either the first or second round with another 21 coming in Round Three.

Undefeated in his first 33 contests, 26 by knockout, his streak was stopped by veteran Buddy Scott, the self-proclaimed heavyweight champion of the South. Gomez started another streak, avenging the loss to Scott.

Gomez enlisted in the Army in 1942, but still managed to work in five bouts while in service, knocking out Tony Musto and Buddy Knox and losing only to Johnny Flynn in Madison Square Garden.

Sent overseas in 1944, Gomez was a highly decorated infantryman who was severely

TOMMY GOMEZ
…Cigars His Hobby Now

-Photo from HAMPTON DUNN COLLECTION
wounded as the Yanks were crossing the Ruhr River, suffering 16 bullet and shrapnel wounds.

Upon discharge he returned to the fistic wars, reeling off six consecutive knockouts and garnering an elimination title bout with the resurrected Jersey Joe Walcott, the number one contender.

The fight was strictly no contest as the cagey Walcott made the lunging Gomez miss with his haymakers and then countered with smashing blows stopping him in three rounds. After a following loss to Joe Matisi, Gomez announced his retirement November 4, 1946.

However, the following March, he made a comeback and scored 10 straight knockouts. Included among his victims were former conquerors Buddy Scott, Johnny Flynn, and Joe Matisi. Lee Oma put a halt to his winning ways, but Gomez won 11 with nine kayos, drew one and lost one in his next 13 bouts.

However, he lost a slugfest to hardpunching Bob Satterfield and called it a career. Gomez went on to the securities and investment business after boxing and recently retired. The proud father of four girls, he spends time these days with his new hobby, making cigars.