

# ROBINSON'S DEFEAT STUNS BOXING WORLD

# Ray To Get Return With

By BEN PHLEGAR

Associated Press Sports Writer

LONDON, July 11 — Sugar Ray Robinson, once considered boxing's invincible fighting machine, was stripped of his world middleweight crown today after absorbing a terrific beating by Randolph Turpin, a comparative newcomer to fist fighting's big time.

Turpin, 23-year-old Negro almost unknown outside of his British homeland, astounded the boxing world by soundly whipping the New York titleholder in 15 rounds last night as a capacity crowd of 18,000 in Earl's Court arena cheered in disbelief.

The 31-year-old Robinson's fist world collapsed around his battered features, but he'll get a chance on his home grounds to get his title back next September.

Immediately after the fight, Robinson's manager, George Gainford, said a return bout would be held Sept. 26 in New York.

Ten stitches were required to patch up a deep cut over Robinson's left eye. The physician who attended Sugar Ray said the ex-champion would be unable to do any gym work "for six or seven weeks" but would be completely recovered in time to train for the September return bout.

"He was better than I was," Robinson said without offering any alibi. "I lost," he said simply.

Un-awed by the champion's dazzling reputation, young Turpin bored in from the start to outpunch, outbox and outsmart the overwhelming favorite who has been hailed in recent years as the greatest fighter—pound

for pound—anywhere in the world.

"I thought I was winning all the way," Turpin declared as he ran into his dressing room. "He never hurt me once." Randy was quite right.

Turpin finished without a scratch, while Robinson just barely escaped in the 14th round and ended up with a deep cut on his left eyebrow and another gash high on his left cheekbone. The eyebrow cut apparently came from a crash of heads in the ninth round.

The Associated Press scorecard gave Robinson, who had lost only one other fight in 133 bouts covering 11 years, just four rounds. Turpin got nine, with two even.

Men who watched Sugar Ray storm through Europe recently, toppling nine foes in two months, tried to tell him he looked the shadow of his usual self.

"I felt good," Robinson insisted. "Turpin is a real good boy." Turpin's first stop after leaving the ring was Robinson's dressing room where he told Sugar "you were a real champion just like they told me."

"You were real good, just like they said you were," Sugar replied.

"I hope I am able to keep this for you for a long time."

Robinson, the world welterweight champion when he took the middleweight title from Jake La Motta in Chicago, held the 160-pound crown only five months. He beat La Motta last Feb. 14, and the National Boxing Association and the New York Athletic Commission relieved him of his welterweight title.

It was the greatest moment in the career of Turpin, whose father was a negro rifleman

## 'KNOCKS LUMPS OFF SUGAR,' SAYS LONDON PAPER OF TURPIN'S WIN

LONDON, July 11 —(P)— British newspapers ignored the newsprint famine today and went to town with page one news and pictures of Randy Turpin's victory over Sugar Ray Robinson.

Few morning papers sported less than three columns of pictures of the fight at London's Earls Court arena and sports writers used adjectives profusely.

"Randolph knocks lumps off Sugar," was the headline of the Communist Daily Worker while the ultra conservative Daily Graphic topped page one with "Tiger Turpin shakes world."

Sugar Ray, said the Daily Mirror, was up against "a bit of old England that did not care for Cadillacs, dwarfs, professional barbers, golf professionals and what have you."

Robinson's entourage on his European tour included his personal barber, masseur, and golf pro. He also took along his lavender-colored automobile.

The Daily Mirror's boxing writer said Turpin will take Sugar Ray in a return match.

The Telegraph's sports writer, Lainson Wood, observed "Robinson should have had thrashed home to him that charity fights and the gay life of the continent are not the best of preparations for defense of a world championship."

from British Guiana. He married a British girl on settling in England after the first World War, and died shortly after Randy was born in Leamington, June 7, 1928.

Randy was paid \$28,000, more money than a British middleweight ever has received. He brought the 160-pound title back to the British isles for the first time since Bob Fitzsimmons' reign 60 years ago. He beat the man who had lost only to La

Motta, who outpointed Robinson in 10 rounds at Detroit in 1943.

"It went the way we had expected," said Randy's oldest brother, Dick, former British middleweight champ, and now his trainer.

"We had taken Sugar Ray to pieces watching films of him in action. We knew he was good when he was coming forward, but not so hot when he was going back — we worked on that."

Robinson, who got \$84,000 —

largest purse ever paid a fighter here — was a 1 to 4 favorite. Odds against Turpin winning on points were as high as 20 to 1.

Turpin forced the action for the first eight rounds. He slowed down during the next three — partially explained by the fact he never before had fought more than eight — and then found a tremendous finishing surge that left Robinson completely whipped.

Robinson never gave Turpin the opportunity to land the knockout punch for which he has built up a high-powered local reputation. He won the British title last Oct. 17 by knocking out Albert Finch in the fifth round. Finch had taken the title from Randy's brother, Dick.

However, Robinson had a close call in the 14th round. Randy caught him flush on the jaw with a straight left, hooked to his body with another left, and cornered Sugar with a left uppercut that jerked Robinson's head back against the ropes.

Turpin had his right cocked for the kill, but Robinson slipped off the ropes and ducked out of range.



## TOPICS OF THE TROPICS

# Guy Butler

Sports Editor

### - Was It Such A Huge Surprise?

Ray Robinson is bereft of his middleweight championship which came as a surprise, all right, as 23-year-old Randy Turpin, a British Negro, gave him an unquestionable lacing in 15 rounds.

It was a surprise because Sugar Ray was regarded as the most gifted of all the reigning monarchs of the ring. He is a boxer and a fighter, a shrewd ring general, and over his 11 years of campaigning has had practically all his contests his own way.

A great percentage of them was won by knockout.

The only marks against him were a defeat by Jake LaMotta — one out of five meetings — and a draw with Jose Basora, who fought in Miami Monday night, losing to Billy Kilgore. They were in 1943 and 1945, respectively.

Actually, how long could Robinson keep going without losing a fight? How long can any man keep it up without suffering defeat? For 11 years he has fought professionally and kept quite busy. For two years prior to that he was an amateur, winning the Golden Gloves featherweight title in 1939 and lightweight title in 1940.



Thus, he has been a ringman for 13 years. And he's 31 years old, according to the record book.

I think it was in the cards that the Harlem veteran would soon meet his match or better. Randy Turpin had a really fine record, 44 victories in 47 outings, and impressive triumphs over several of the better men he has battled.

Sugar Ray's gallivanting about Paris and the other capitals of Europe didn't help. So confident was he of his ability to hurdle any obstacle — years of winning naturally made him think he was unbeatable, likewise a lot of his followers—that he probably not only didn't train with proper seriousness, but night-clubbing and hurraing and being the hero of French femininity certainly didn't permit him much relaxation nor sleep.

So, lack of conditioning, his 31 years, and Turpin's rather surprising show of skill combined brought about the downfall of the "unconquerable" American Negro.

### The Handwriting On The Wall

If you had observed closely you might have seen in his 10 round match with Holly Mims here last winter that Ray wasn't the fighter of his hey-day. Mims stayed the ten and looked very good against the then welterweight champion. In his better days Robinson would have kayoed Mims in all likelihood.

Then the LaMotta match at Chicago last February, which I saw. For eight or nine rounds the Italian, just a hollow shell himself from long years of ring activity, gave the nifty Robinson a lesson in the art of "hit and get away." He had the fight won off to himself. Then suddenly he ran out of gas. Robinson came on. Jake didn't have a single punch left and in that condition he was a prime target for a man such as Robinson. Or anybody who could box a lick.

So, you might say the Harlemit won the middleweight crown by default, lack of the semblance of opposition in the last four rounds. Ray was no world-beater that night.

Analyze all those things and you discover it wasn't such a shock after all that a fellow named Turpin lifted his five-months-old 160-pound title right off his dome.