



Jack Cast Iron Casey 1908 - 1980

Born in September 1908, both parents came from the East End of Sunderland and they returned here after his birth and lived on Church Street. He had a hard start in life and first came to the limelight as an Echo boy in bare feet, selling papers at the corner of Burleigh Street and High Street East in the 1920s. It was at this time, at the age of 13 that he had his first fight in Holmeside Stadium. His first official fight was in July 1926 when he was only 18 years old. Jack had a total of 224 fights, of which he won 148; 82 were clear knock outs.

Affectionately known as ***The Assassin***, Jack was never knocked out throughout his career. On 12th December 1932 he fought for the British middleweight title at Newcastle, but lost on points. Jack could be seen around the east end filming local people and places; some of Jack's cine film of the east end still exists today and provides a rare glimpse of the area. Jack was the pride of the East End where he also lived for some time, and his packed funeral service was held in Sunderland Parish Church of Holy Trinity in Church Street East.