

# Champion Jack

Strawbs

My hero was a boxer  
He used to fight southpaw  
These who fought against him  
Said he had an iron jaw

He took a million punches  
But never felt a thing  
He never was defeated  
In any boxing ring

Champion Jack was cautious  
With decisions that he made  
He signed on for the Army  
To learn himself a trade  
War broke out in '39  
They sent him overseas  
Shipped out to the Far East  
To fight the Japanese

The Champion was on the ropes  
At the fall of Singapore  
Jack laid down his rifle  
A prisoner of war

Jack's days were spent in agony  
His nights were spent in pain  
He never did complaining  
It went against the grain

Three years on Death Railway  
The physical neglect  
He suffered degradation  
But kept his self-respect

At last the war was over  
Redemption took its course

In his dreams Jack took revenge  
He didn't show remorse

Jack was flown from prison camp  
To San Francisco Bay  
He sent a picture postcard  
I keep it to this day  
Welcome home in England  
Jack found himself a wife  
Raised himself a family  
And led a simple life

Jack kept his dallier secrets  
From those who shared his love  
You never saw the velvet fist  
Inside his iron glove

The bell rang for the final round  
Of the Champion's last fight  
Jack's blood count had been falling

He countered with his right

Toe to toe they traded blows  
Sweat dripped from every pore  
The referee stepped in  
As the judges scored a draw

Champion Jack still strides the land  
With dignity and pride  
Erich day I stand beside him  
I feel his strength inside