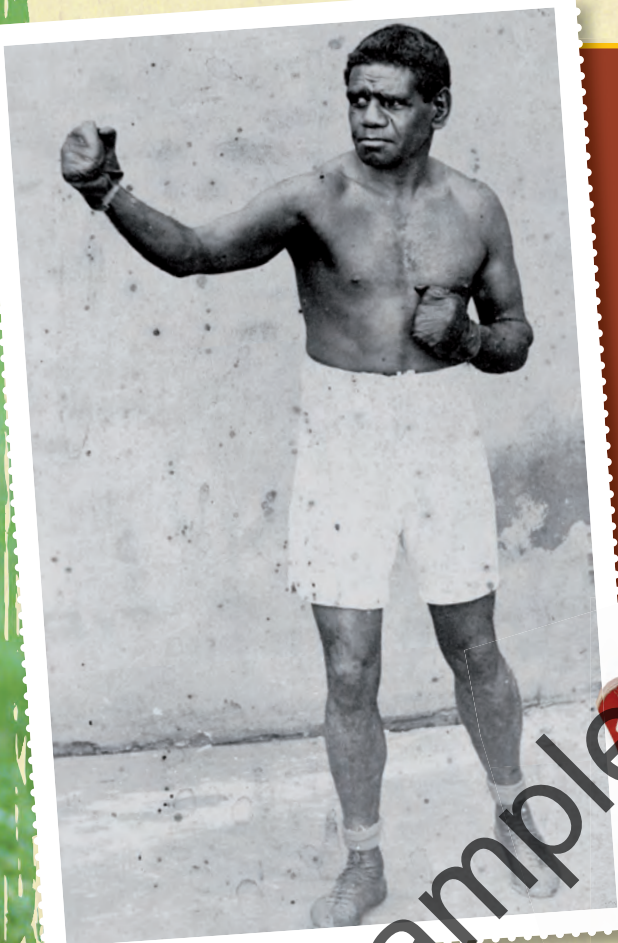


Jerry Jerome



Name: Jerry Jerome

Born: 1874, Jimbour Station near Dalby, Queensland

People: Yiman

Died: 1943, Cherbourg, Queensland

Selected achievements:

Australian boxing champion, 1912;
64 fights, won 40, 1908–1915.



Jerry Jerome was a popular boxer who was known as 'Jumpin' Jerry'. He thrilled crowds with his boxing skills and showmanship. Jerome threw extremely fast punches and he loved to 'dance' about the boxing ring.

In 1912, Jerome won the Australian **middleweight** title at the age of 38. He became the first Aboriginal man to win a national boxing title. Outside the boxing ring, Jerome was an excellent stockman, horse breaker and runner.

Jerome was granted an **Exemption Certificate** from the federal government. This freed him from the harsh restrictions of the **Aborigines Protection Act**, which controlled all parts of his people's lives, and took away their freedom and rights. The certificate meant that Jerome was given the right to travel freely and be paid for his work.

Jerome used his fame to speak out about the unfair treatment of his people. He also encouraged his people to stand up for their rights. The **Chief Protector of Aborigines** in Queensland thought that Jerome was a troublemaker. He did not want Aboriginal people to expect to be paid for their work. It was in the interest of the Chief Protector of Aborigines that Aboriginal people should not question the rules.

Jerome used his fame to try to make the lives of his people better. He is remembered as one of Australia's great boxing champions.

Chief Protector of Aborigines:
a person appointed to be a protector of Aboriginal people within an area. This person had the power to decide how and where Aboriginal people lived.