



LT. GLENN CUNNINGHAM
... doubts Hagg can do it.

By **EDDIE GRIFFITH**

Gunder Hagg the Swedish shadow who sped from farm boy to fireman to miracle man of motion in three swift laps, declares he will run the indoor mile at the Knights of Columbus games in Cleveland tomorrow night in 4.12 or less.

And Navy Lt. Glenn Cunningham, holder of the world's indoor mile record and now stationed at San Diego's 11th Naval District, counters with: "I doubt it!"

Cunningham, who in 1938 on the boards of the Dartmouth college track at Hanover, New Hampshire, ran the 11 laps in 4:04.4 for a world's record which has yet to be challenged, isn't casting doubt on Gunder's racing ability.

"It's just that I don't think Hagg is in condition for such an effort at this time," the Kansas tornado explained.

"In his three starts since arriving here, Hagg has appeared to be in very bad shape. If he was in fair condition when leaving Stockholm, I can't understand how he could have tailed off so badly even counting the time it took for the crossing. A few simple exercises on shipboard would have kept him toned up."

Cunningham, it should be explained, is a stickler for conditioning. Although desk-bound much of the time by his duties as assistant physical and welfare officer of the district, Glenn daily takes workouts which tend to keep him close to the peak of condition.

Switching the subject, we asked the "Miracle Man of the Mile" the difference between running indoor and outdoor miles—another factor which apparently has proved difficult for Hagg to understand.

"Indoor miles are run approximately two seconds slower than the same distance outdoors,"

he said. "This is due to the more numerous turns and shorter straightaways inside. There are 11 laps to the mile, which means that 22 turns must be made. This tends to slow speeds and a runner must be able to pace himself with great accuracy. The long stretch runs and wide sweeping turns of outdoor tracks make for better times."

Glenn digressed to deny that he was paced when setting the world's mark at Hanover.

"I was never paced in a race," he emphasized. "I always figured I knew more about my wind, timing and endurance than the pacer. At Hanover, I knew within one-tenth of a second where I was all the time."

This is indeed remarkable and helps explain the successes Cunningham scored as a distance runner.

The Hanover track had only 40-yard straightaways and 40-yard turns.

Asked about the possibility of a flat four-minute mile, Glenn promptly replied:

"It is more than a possibility. I would say it is a certainty. Times for the distance are steadily being whittled down. And I don't think it will be long before such a mark is made."

Cunningham admitted that Hagg might grab the honors for such a record, but still doubted the Shadow's ability to run in 4.12 or less tomorrow night.

"That time requires a man to be at peak condition. I think Gunder has yet to reach that type of physical well-being on this trip."