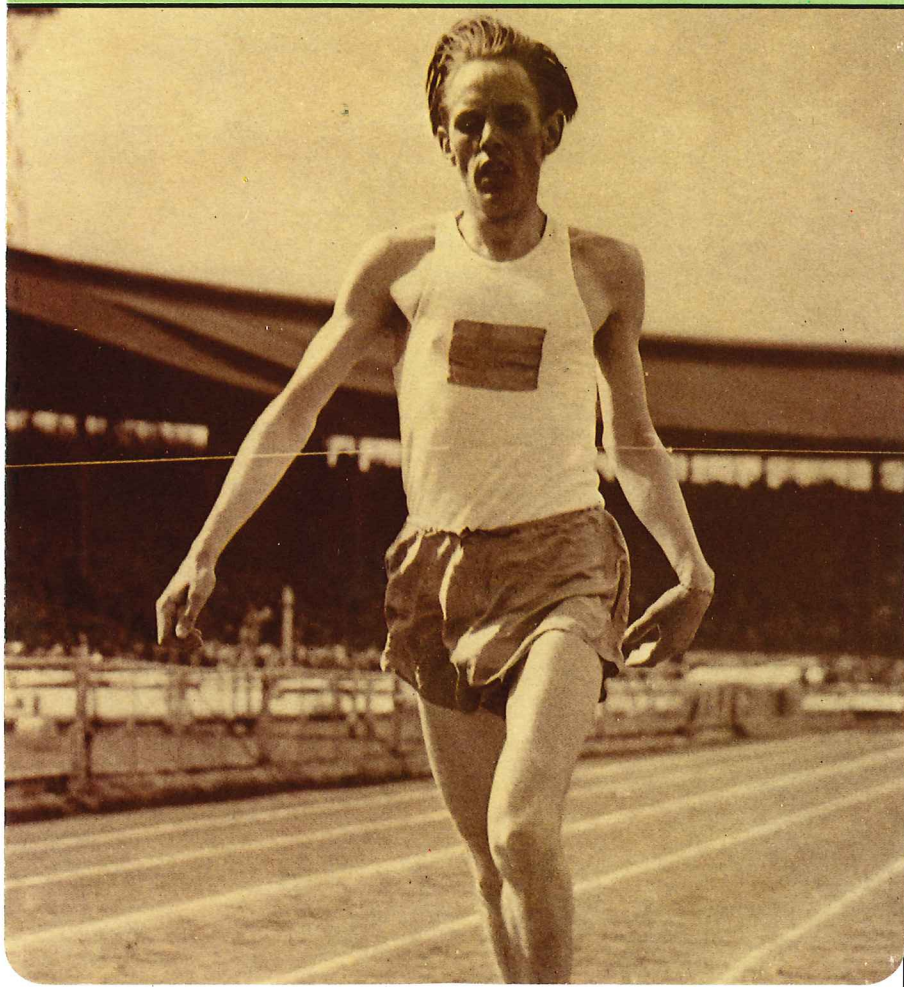


# Track and Field



*Gunder Haegg*



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## Gunder Haegg

### 10 World Records in 3 Months

Gunder Haegg was the sort of athlete one sees only once a decade. His phenomenal success coincided with the middle years of World War II. Shortly after his debut in international athletics, he was suspended by his national federation for non-amateur conduct. He had the book thrown at him again in 1945 when he was banned from amateur athletics for life, along with his fellow Swede, and rival, Arne Andersson. This is why Haegg never took part in the Olympics or in European championships. Nevertheless, in only four years of running he set 15 world records.

The first world record he improved upon was that set by Jack Lovelock of New Zealand in 1936. On 10 August 1941, Haegg ran the 1500 m in 3 min 47.6 sec, 0.2 sec faster than Lovelock. A few weeks later he was banned. On 1 July 1942, just 24 hours after the ban had been lifted, he made a triumphant comeback in Göteborg; some 21,000 spectators saw him break the world record for the mile with a time of 4 min 6.2 sec.

Between July 1 and September 30, 1942, Haegg competed in 30 races over dis-

tances between 800 and 5,000 m. He won all of them and in the process established 10 new world records: 1,500 m, 1 mile (twice), 2,000 m (twice), 3,000 m, 2 miles, 3 miles (twice) and 5,000 m.

#### GUNDER HAEGG

Born Dec. 31, 1918, in Sörbygdén, SWE

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

His 15 world records:

1500 m:

3 min 47.6 sec, Aug. 10, 1941, in Stockholm

3 min 45.8 sec, July 11, 1942, in Stockholm

3 min 43 sec, July 7, 1944, in Göteborg

Mile:

4 min 6.2 sec, July 1, 1942, in Göteborg

4 min 4.6 sec, Sept. 4, 1942, in Stockholm

4 min 1.3 sec, July 17, 1945 in Malmö (stood until 1954 when Roger Bannister of Great Britain ran the distance in 3 min 59.4 sec)

2,000 m:

5 min 16.4 sec, July 2, 1942, in Malmö

5 min 11.8 sec, Aug. 23, 1942, in Oestersund

3,000 m:

8 min 1.2 sec, Aug. 28, 1942, in Stockholm

2 miles:

8 min 47.7 sec, July 3, 1942, in Stockholm

8 min 46.4 sec, June 25, 1944, in Oestersund

8 min 42.2 sec, Aug. 4, 1944, in Stockholm

3 miles:

13 min 35.4 sec, Sept. 11, 1942, in Stockholm

13 min 32.4 sec, Sept. 20, 1942, in Göteborg

5,000 m:

13 min 58.2 sec, Sept. 20, 1942, in Göteborg

(stood until 1954, when Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia ran the distance in 13 min 57.2 sec)

*Few to challenge him, but many spectators*