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FRANCE MOURNS MARCEL GERDAN,

Marcel Cerdan - France's greatest sporting idol for 20 years - is no more. A world-champion boxer, Cerdan came home from America last June - his title lost because of a shoulder injury. Undismayed, Marcel went to Casablanca, there to prepare for a return fight for the world crown. He was the sports King of France.

Britons last saw Cerdan at Earls Court, London, where in a fight that'll always be remembered, the stocky Frenchman pitted his whirlwind hammer blows against Dick Turpinand knocked him out in the seventh round.

Marcel the Magnificent, his admiring countrymen called him. To them, he was a national hero. Now he's dead - killed in an air-crash on his way to America for the world title fight. As news of his death reaches Casablanca, the Moroccan town goes into mourning. All over France sportsfans are silenced. They join in a last tribute to a man whose name will always be revered - Marcel Cerdan!

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